The following overview of Pope Francis’ new encyclical *Laudato Si’* is provided by Fr Chris Hughes

In his new encyclical *Laudato Si’,* Pope Francis perceives the environment as our common home, a mother and sister with whom we all share. Pope Francis is concerned that this common home is protected. For this to happen he calls on the whole human family to come together to enable a sustainable and integral development.

Pope Francis makes clear that this encyclical adds to the body of the Church’s Social Teaching, and builds on papal teaching since Pope Leo XIII. In the encyclical, Pope Francis:

* Gives a brief review of the current ecological crisis, and the need to take impact seriously;
* Outlines key principles from the Judaeo-Christian tradition to bring about coherent commitment to the environment;
* Explores the roots of the current crisis so the we are dealing with the causes and not just the symptoms of the present crisis;
* Outlines an approach to ecology which acknowledges humanity’s unique position and its relationship to its surroundings;
* Proposes dialogue and action from an individual to an international level;
* Offers guidelines for human development from the riches of the Christian tradition, which will inform our awareness and motivation in protecting our common home.

The following link also offers an excellent overview of Laudato Si’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYLc_4>