



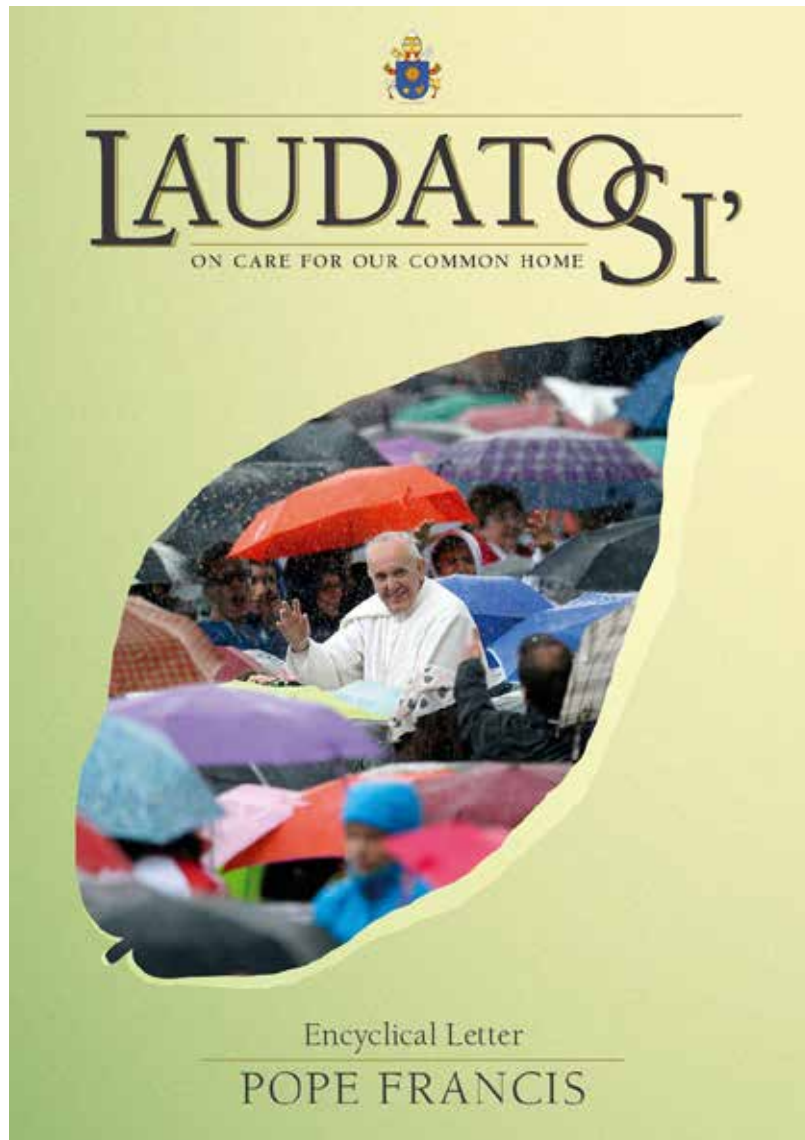
All about Pope Francis!

For Catholic Schools Week 2017 we are focusing on **Catholic Schools: Learning with Pope Francis to Care for Our Common Home**.

It is hoped that this theme will help schools to gain an understanding of Pope Francis's encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*. This is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. Its title means 'Praise be to You' and it has the subtitle *On Care for Our Common Home*.

While there are activities for each day of the week based on this theme, it may also be useful to take an opportunity during the week or in subsequent weeks to learn about Pope Francis himself as well as the role of the pope in the Catholic Church.

Below are some simple activities for use throughout primary schools. All classes can engage with these activities at different levels. Choose an activity to suit your class.





Pope Francis



Did You Know? Pope Francis ...



1. Was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 17 December 1936.
2. Was baptised on Christmas Day 1936.
3. Has two brothers and two sisters.
4. Made his First Communion on 8 October 1944.
5. Studied chemistry at the University of Buenos Aires.
6. First thought about becoming a priest on 21 September (Feast of St Matthew) after going to confession.
7. Likes to pray the psalms.
8. Chose the name Francis to honour St Francis of Assisi for his life of simplicity and service to the poor.
9. Can speak three languages: Spanish, Italian and German.
10. Loves soccer! His favourite team is San Lorenzo from Argentina.

Find three more pieces of information about Pope Francis:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



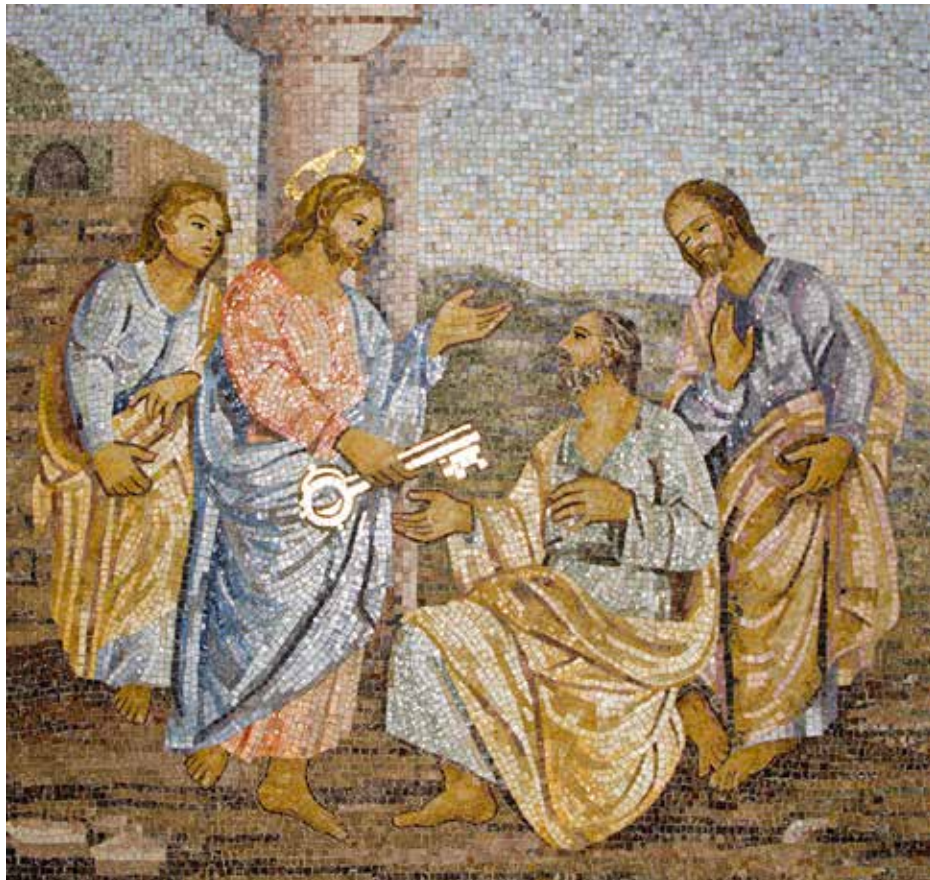
All about the Role of Pope!

The word 'pope' comes from Latin word *pater* and means 'father'. This is why we call the pope Holy Father. The pope's task is to be the Vicar of Christ on earth, Supreme Pontiff, Bishop of Rome and Holy Father. This means to lead and build the Catholic Church, to defend our faith and to teach us and guide us in our faith.

The pope lives and works in the Vatican in Rome, Italy. On most Sundays he gives a special message and blessing to pilgrims who gather on St Peter's Square, and to people throughout the world.

Ever since the time of Jesus, there has been a pope. In fact, Pope Francis is the 226th pope. At Mass, we as Christians 'profess our faith' or say that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

The first person to say this was one of Jesus' apostles, Simon Peter. When Simon Peter said this to Jesus, Jesus gave him the new name of Peter and said to him, 'You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church.' So Jesus put Peter in charge of the Church on earth. Peter was the first pope and all popes since continue his work of building the Church.





Question Time!

1. Where does the word 'pope' come from?

2. Name two other titles the pope has?

3. Where does the pope live?

4. What number pope is Pope Francis?

5. Name the apostle of Jesus who became the first pope?

6. Do you know the names of the other apostles of Jesus (there are twelve)?

7. What were the names of the two popes who came before Pope Francis?
