Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology

VISION 2030

An Ecological Vision for the Archdiocese of Bombay



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BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST
ख्रिस्तशरीराच्या पोषणासाठी
ARCHBISHOP JOHN RODRIGUES

ARCHDIOCESE
OF BOMBAY

MESSAGE

The year 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home. We look back with gratitude at the profound impact this document has had on the Church and the world at large. We also draw from it renewed inspiration and reaffirm our commitment to the Church's mission of caring for creation.

In *Laudato Si'*, the Holy Father entreats us to hear both "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." He also urges us to listen to the 'Gospel of Creation' wherein every creature manifests the goodness and grandeur of the Creator.

Responding to this invitation, the Archdiocese of Bombay intensified its commitment to ecological action. Through his Official of 15th August, 2018, Cardinal Oswald Gracias launched the 'Green Diocese' initiative, asking us to wholeheartedly embrace this mission. Cardinal Oswald appointed Bishop Allwyn D'Silva as his delegate and the Archdiocesan Office for Environment as the nodal point for this ministry. I hereby confirm this mandate given to Bishop Allwyn and to the Office for Environment, now the Commission for Ecology, following the 2026 streamlining of diocesan bodies.

Over these years, our diocese has taken up this invitation with generosity, showing a discernible increase in activities and in the number of persons involved. I thank each of these persons for their time, energy and witness. They have had to face not just the challenges of restoring a degraded environment, but also the disappointments that come with any pioneering efforts. Their labour has not been in vain. Such efforts offer hope for the future and demonstrate that integral ecology is not just a theoretical concept but a lived expression of our Christian faith.

Much work still remains to be done. We are reminded that 'our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience' (*Laudato Si'* 217). All of us need an ecological conversion, a process that involves recognition of our failures, a desire to change, and firm actions to express that change.

It is heartening to note that the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology has worked out a detailed Action Plan for the Archdiocese. This plan covers different aspects of integral ecology and proposes concrete actions. I earnestly invite every parish, school, institution, religious house and family to discern what goals and actions of this plan can be fruitfully implemented over the next five years. In this way, we can all move forward along this journey of becoming a 'Laudato Si' Diocese'.

May the Spirit of God, who hovered over the waters of creation, inspire us anew in this sacred work.

+John R

✠ **John Rodrigues**
Archbishop of Bombay

October 16, 2026

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VISION 2030

An Ecological Vision for the Archdiocese of Bombay

Building on the Green Diocese initiative, the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology will be implementing several actions till December 2030.

Our *VISION 2030* document includes our dream for the Commission, and our hope for the Archdiocese of Bombay. It outlines how the Archdiocese of Bombay will become a leading Laudato Si' Diocese by accompanying Parishes and Institutions in the journey towards integral ecology.

Vision, Mission and Actions for the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology

Vision

To enable parishes, institutions, and individuals of the Archdiocese of Bombay to become Stewards of our Common Home through sustainable living and goal-oriented action, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Mission

Our Mission is to animate all stakeholders in the Archdiocese, especially Green Cells in parishes, to implement self-defined goals for the next five years, within the framework of the Laudato Si' Goals.

We will thus accompany parishes and institutions in identifying goals that focus on educating, enhancing engagement and promoting sustainable lifestyles. Standing for each other's success, goals will be periodically reviewed in order to course correct, while remaining true to the targeted outcomes. Through this process, the AOE will emerge as a catalyst of transformative change, and the Archdiocese of Bombay as a model of ecological stewardship and sustainable living.

Actions for the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology 2026-2030

1. Active engagement with Green Cells of Parishes. Promoting 'model parishes' in each Deanery with the intent of networking green cells across the Archdiocese. Create a database of Parish Green Cells and activities
2. Facilitate the formation of Deanery-level coordinating committees
3. Skilling of at least 200 individuals into Eco Ambassadors by 2030
4. Organise at least two in-person events per year and two webinars per year
5. Prepare a database of experts and resource persons from the Archdiocese and beyond
6. Prepare a database of green vendors and NGOs that provide environmental services
7. Contribute articles to *The Examiner* and other publications featuring eco-events, ecological justice issues or inspiring stories on conservation / sustainable living
8. Compile a list of Green Guidelines for parishes
9. Recognise good practices in institutions including honouring of green champions and indigenous leaders
10. Disseminate prayer resources to all parishes and Green Cell groups for use during liturgy and devotional practices
11. Explore avenues of resource generation
12. Collaborate with Archdiocesan Commissions and Cells

Action Plan to Transform into Laudato Si' Parishes, Institutions and Religious Houses

To achieve our Mission, the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology has defined **priority actions** and **suggested actions** for each of the seven Laudato Si' Goals (as defined by the Laudato Si' Action Platform) to be taken up by Parishes, Institutions and Religious houses.

In line with subsidiarity and synodality, the fulfilment of these goals relies on discernment, contextualisation and implementation at the local level. Considering the diverse conditions that exist across the Archdiocese, the Commission has not specified timelines for these actions. Each Parish / Institution is encouraged to set specific targets for itself, in a graded manner, leading up to December 2030. The Commission will provide accompaniment throughout this process.

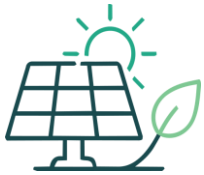
It is recommended that every Parish in the Diocese have a Green Cell with a Priest or Religious as the Spiritual Director, and at least two certified Eco Ambassadors per Parish.

1

Response to the Cry of the Earth

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the well-being of all living creatures as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability

PRIORITY ACTIONS



1. **Promote Renewable Energy**
   Energy / Carbon Footprint Audit to be undertaken
   Move towards full utilisation of renewable energy



2. **Water Conservation**
   Seek ways to recharge ground water
   Taps in common places to be fitted with aerators for water conservation



3. **Green Funerals**
   Encourage shroud burial as a regular practice
   Move towards ‘green funerals’ by discontinuing wreaths and flower bouquets

Suggested Actions

- **Encourage biodiversity**
  Bird feeders, bird baths, butterfly gardens and apiary (if space permits)
  Reduce concretised surface and increase green cover
  Priority to native species and medicinal plants
- **Energy-saving appliances**
  Install LED lights, energy efficient cooling system (e.g., HVLS fans)
- **Improve soil health**
  Composting of organic waste to be encouraged
  Practise vermiculture
  Avoid chemical fertilisers, pesticides

2

Response to the Cry of the Poor

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth

PRIORITY ACTIONS



1. **Human Rights**
   Hold workshops on human rights
   Organise a meeting with vulnerable groups such as migrants – Offer Parish spaces for such programmes



2. **WASH Services**
   Conduct session on best practices in hygiene
   Support local leaders in setting up WASH (**Wa**ter, **S**anitation and **H**ygiene) facilities



3. **Observe Dedicated Days**
   Identify three to four social or ecological action days – Collaborate with civic and social organisations to celebrate these days

Suggested Actions

- **Basic needs**
  Develop at least one programme to address needs such as food, sanitation, employment, housing with a special focus on economically backward women in the Parish
- **Promote local leaders**
  Identify indigenous leaders and publicly recognise their contribution
  Offer Parish spaces for local programmes

3

Ecological Economics

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere – our common home

PRIORITY ACTIONS



1. **Create a Database of Green Vendors**
   Collaborate with the AOE in preparing a list of green vendors, products and caterers



2. **Encourage Re-use of Items**
   Hold a *white elephant / thrift store* event every six months (for conservation of resources and reduction in waste)

Suggested Actions

- **Income-generating schemes**
  Encourage and assist low-income groups in setting up a small business
  Create a data base to promote such endeavours
- **Uphold the value of 'care labour'**
  Organise a session to highlight the importance and value of care labour with a focus on women workforce

4

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy

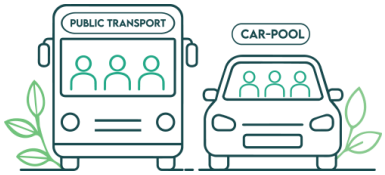
PRIORITY ACTIONS



1. **Waste-free Events**
   Eliminate single-use Plastic and switch to reusable items for Parish events in a phased manner, aiming to be 100% waste-free



2. **Waste Management**
   Segregation of waste – Dry waste to be picked up by recycler agency. Wet waste to be composted on location. Thus, “near to zero” waste to be sent to municipal dumping sites



3. **Transport**
   Encourage use of public transport
   Initiate car-pooling campaigns for Parish events

Suggested Actions

- **Promote eco-friendly eating habits**
  Encourage plant-based food for Parish events
- **Eliminate flowers**
  Aim to use potted plants at the Altar for most Masses
- **Minimise food wastage for all Parish events**

5

Ecological Education

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action

PRIORITY ACTIONS



1. **Learning About Local Ecology**
   Tie up with NGOs and experts to conduct biodiversity walks (at least one a year)



2. **Awareness Sessions**
   Organise talks on climate change, biodiversity loss, Laudato Si' Goals, etc. – Where possible, do this at the Deanery level



3. **Sunday School**
   Sessions on Ecospirituality in the Sunday School and Confirmation classes

Suggested Actions

- **Eco Ambassadors**
  Parish should aim to have at least five certified Eco Ambassadors
- **Media awareness**
  Contribute ecology articles to the Parish newsletter (twice a year) and create awareness through Parish social media
- **Schools**
  Explore how to take eco-awareness sessions in schools
  Encourage Nature clubs in schools

6

Ecological Spirituality

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities

PRIORITY ACTIONS



1. **Season of Creation**
   Celebrate the Season of Creation each year with participation from as many parishioners as possible



2. **Public Prayer**
   Incorporate environmental themes in public prayer – Holy Hour, Rosary, Prayer services, etc. Priests to include these themes in Homilies and Prayers of the Faithful



3. **Recollection**
   Organise one Eco Recollection or Retreat per year

Suggested Actions

- **Ecological sin**
  Promote the understanding of Ecological Sin
- **Gather with neighbouring religions**
  Organise one Inter-Religious gathering to pray together and discuss civic issues of concern
- **Pray in nature**
  Host an outdoor prayer service encouraging meditation in nature
- **Lenten eco observances**
  Promote an eco-friendly lifestyle as part of our Lenten observance (carbon fast)

7

Community Resilience and Empowerment

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels

PRIORITY ACTIONS



1. **Media**
   Build up an active media presence to disseminate information and promote campaigns around the environment



2. **Community Campaigns**
   Participate in community campaigns (beach clean-up, cleanliness drive, etc.) with other groups
   Work towards elimination of single-use plastic in the area



3. **Public Events**
   Organise public events on social issues – Invite civic officials and elected representatives

Suggested Actions

- **Emergency response plans**
  Prepare an emergency-response plan to deal with disasters (flood, drought, fire, etc.)
  Conduct training for a disaster response team, build up a roster of volunteers, prepare a list of ‘go-to’ persons for emergencies
- **Resilience-building**
  Explore ways to build up resilience among groups affected by climate change

May the Lord of Creation who has called and inspired us to care for creation also give us adequate grace and strength to take forward this noble task

The Commission's *VISION 2030* Journey

VISION 2030 is both a beginning and a culmination.

As a process, it is the beginning of a focused approach offered for the Archdiocese of Bombay to become a *Laudato Si' Diocese*.
The Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology (formerly Archdiocesan Office for Environment – AOE) commits to accompany the *VISION 2030* process for a Parish, Institution or Religious House. We will facilitate on request, presenting to the Parish Pastoral Council or decision-making body, conducting training sessions and follow-up as needed. Not only the Commission's members but also our Ministry Team are available for facilitation. Ministry Team members are trained, committed and passionate volunteers who are part of decision-making and animate our mission. They have a vital role in linking the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology with individual green cells across the Archdiocese.

As a document, *VISION 2030* is the culmination of a two-stage strategic discernment of how the Laudato Si' Goals can be actualised in our Archdiocese.
In 2021, the AOE consulted with several stakeholders to identify the way forward, with an outcome document published online in 2022.
In December 2024, the Ministry Team felt the need to further refine the path ahead. A draft version was presented for consultation at a very successful event in July 2025 in the presence of Archbishop John Rodrigues, and was disseminated widely across the Archdiocese of Bombay. A refined version was published in the *Code Green* special ecology issue of *The Examiner* in August 2025. After further review and to have this published with our status as a Commission, this final version has been released in November 2026. The Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology is extremely grateful to Mr Andrew Williams, Ms Jasmine Nair, and Ms Pramila Lewis for their time, effort and extensive inputs to *VISION 2030*. Mr Brinston Carvalho and Mr Terry D'Souza of the Archdiocese of Mumbai Charitable Fund – Catholic Communication Centre provided the icons used for the Priority Actions.

We hope that Parishes, Institutions and Religious Houses whole-heartedly commit to *VISION 2030*.

Bishop Allwyn D'Silva (Vice President)
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