

## International Ignatian Ecospiritual Conference (IIEC2022)

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In this Ignatian year where the Society of Jesus is celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conversion of St Ignatius of Loyola, the Australian Jesuit Province is hosting the International Ignatian Ecospiritual Conference (IIEC2022). The conference will be online from 25-30 April. It will be opened by the Fr Arturo Sosa SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

Dr Peter Saunders, one of the keynote speakers, spoke about the conference,

“The aim of the conference is to invite participants into a greater experience of God’s presence in all Creation that leads to ecological conversion and a deeper desire to commit to caring for our common home. We have created a short introductory video for all those interested in the conference: [Welcome to IIEC 2022](#)

“In 2015 Pope Francis published his landmark encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home*. For Pope Francis, ‘*The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dew drop, in a poor person’s face*’ (LS, n233). Pope Francis is encouraging us to undertake an *ecological conversion*, whereby we come to appreciate that ‘*Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.*’ (LS, n.92) This is what we are hoping all participants will come to appreciate more deeply at the conference.”

“In 2019 the Society of Jesus published four Universal Apostolic Preferences [UAP], priorities for the next 10 years. One of these UAP’S was: *To Collaborate to Care for Our Common Home*. The Society of Jesus has established the Ecojesuit ministry to pursue this collaboration in the world. The Australian Jesuit Province has made a strong commitment to Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si* Action Platform created in 2021. The conference will encourage participants to consider how they will help to care for our common home.”

“At the conference, as well as listening to a variety of speakers, we will invite participants from all over the world to spend some time each day in nature, becoming more aware of what they experience. Then in small group hubs they will have the opportunity to share their experience each day. We have created another short video to explain how the conference will work: [IIEC2022 - What is it?](#)

“For more information and registration visit our website: [www.iiec.org.au](http://www.iiec.org.au). We also have a facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/iiec.org.au](https://www.facebook.com/iiec.org.au).”

