

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

Miss Joan Harte
Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School
Wade's Place
Poplar
London
E14 0DE

23 June 2015

Dear Miss Harte

I write to thank you, and everybody in the school of our Lady and St Joseph's, very much indeed for all that you did for us last Thursday for the launching of Pope Francis' Encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*.

I was very proud to be able to invite journalists and television stations to see what a Catholic school achieves. So my first point of thanks is for all the witness that you, your staff and children, gave to the high quality of Catholic Education. From the very manner in which the children entered the hall it was clear that it was a school at which they are at ease, purposeful and happy. The simple assembly presented by the children also showed how you have in the school an excellent learning environment.

I would like to thank you and your staff for the trouble that you went to in providing everything we needed for the roof top Press Conference and subsequent interviews. As special word of thanks to your caretakers and maintenance men for the way in which they responded to every request. And of course, I do not forget the excellent catering staff who provided us, surprisingly, with such an excellent lunch and refreshments. One or two of the ladies in that department told me how much they loved their jobs.

I think there were some brief snippets on the main news channels of the event, but of course there are full recordings available on the website of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, should you want to have a look.

Even though this way of launching the Encyclical involved extra effort on the part of everyone, I think it was entirely appropriate and enhancing of the desire of the Holy

rather to draw everyone's attention to the importance of thinking through the moral values that lie behind, not only the generation of wealth and the use of energy, but also the part we all play in the economy and the well-being of the planet. And of course the Holy Father's fundamental question about what are we going to leave for future generations became so much more real and sharp in the context of your school and the delightful children.

Thank you very much indeed.

I hope that you will be able to pass on my thanks to all concerned and assure them of my prayers and very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Vincent Nichols". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster