

8. The challenge of technology

We live in a world of constant change, of pioneering technologies which have the capacity to both enhance our lives and to distract us from the everyday. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis warns us about the increasing power of technology. He argues that technology severs our biological connectedness with nature and creates the illusion that the world simply exists for us to use.

There is a growing awareness that scientific and technological progress cannot be equated with the progress of humanity and history, a growing sense that the way to a better future lies elsewhere. This is not to reject the possibilities which technology continues to offer us. But humanity has changed profoundly, and the accumulation of constant novelties exalts a superficiality which pulls us in one direction. It becomes difficult to pause and recover depth in life. [§113]



Our air-conditioned, plugged-in level of material comfort estranges us from the earth and even from the sense of what is natural. And it insulates us from the high cost of this intensely self-centred way of living, leaving that to be borne out of sight by other people, other species, the earth as a whole. We live at maximum distance from the fact that we are here only temporarily, that we will age and die. Not only do we not respect our host and acknowledge the bounty and beauty earth pours out for us, we comprehensively distract ourselves from that by any means available. (Murphy, 2016, p.115)

*How has technology changed your life in the past 10 years?
How has our ministry changed?*

*Do not say,
“What do I need, and
what further benefit can be
mine?” Do not say, “I have
enough, and what harm can
come to me now?” In the day of
prosperity, adversity is forgotten,
and in the day of adversity,
prosperity is not
remembered.
Sirach 11: 23-25*

Let's place our words and ideas around our changing world before our God

God of gentleness and compassion
Help us to seek serenity in the busyness of life.
May we value relationships in an era of online connection.
May we embrace the power of technology with balances in place.
May we treasure the moments of human connection which sustain our communities.
Amen.