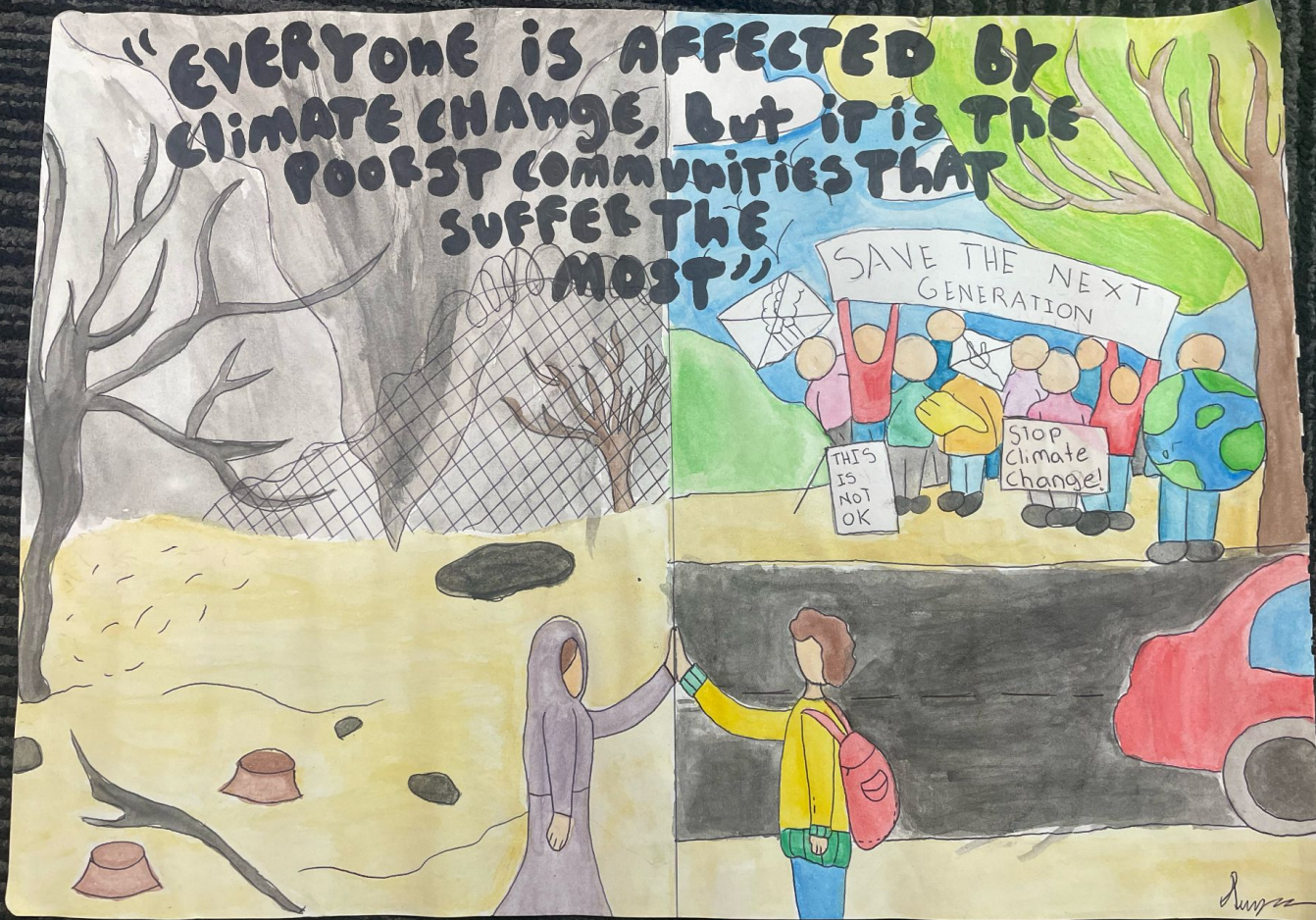


Abbysha Jesuthasan Part B

Competition entry

**"EVERYONE IS AFFECTED BY
CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT IT IS THE
POOREST COMMUNITIES THAT
SUFFER THE
MOST"**



"Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms..."- Laudato Si

I created this artwork to show how the poorest communities are the ones most affected by climate change, while wealthier groups often ignore the reality or hide the damage. One side of my artwork represents poverty and suffering, while the other side shows a "normal" life that appears untouched. I used watercolours and pencil to make the contrast vivid and eye-catching. This connects to *Laudato Si'* because Pope Francis highlights how those with power often conceal the real issues instead of addressing them. My artwork is a call to action, showing that young people are standing up, refusing to stay silent, and demanding change. It also shows the power of being empathic and that taking time to help and understand others makes a huge difference. It reminds us that ignoring suffering is not an option and we are called to respond with truth, compassion, and justice.

STCC Theme of hope

Caring for creation reflects the 2025 St Columba's College theme of *Hope* because it shows our belief in a better future for both people and the planet. When we act as good stewards of God's creation, protecting the environment, reducing waste, and valuing every living thing, we demonstrate hope that our efforts today can bring positive change for tomorrow. Stewardship reminds us that even small actions, like conserving resources or protecting wildlife, carry the promise of a healthier, more just world for future generations.

Hope is about trusting that our choices can make a difference. In the face of climate change and environmental destruction, it is easy to feel powerless or despairing. Yet, by caring for creation, we live out our faith that renewal and healing are possible. Each sustainable action is a sign of hope: hope that humanity can work together, hope that our environment can be restored, and hope that God's plan for creation continues through us.

At St Columba's College, caring for creation connects directly to our community values. It encourages us to see ourselves not only as learners but also as protectors of the world entrusted to us. Through stewardship, we embody the theme of *Hope* by recognising that the future is not fixed, we have the power and responsibility to shape it for the common good.