

LOVE IN ACTION



CARE OF CREATION



“ The book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman entrusting them with the task of filling the earth and subduing it, which does not mean exploiting it, but nurturing and protecting it, caring for it through their work.”

Pope Francis, Feast of St Joseph the Worker, 2013



The earth and all it contains has been created by God. It is a gift, given to all for the good of all. The resources of the earth are not infinite. They have been given to us and to future generations. How we have treated and continue to treat the earth has profound impacts on people now and in the future. Too often we have destroyed elements of the earth for a quick gain.

As stewards, or custodians, of creation we have a special role to play. How we care for the earth is another sign of how we are Christians, how we show God's love in the world, how we live out love in action.

We are called to renew our commitment to the planet, how we treat it as individuals, and how we hold to account how governments and industries treat the world whilst producing our energy and goods we consume.

Parishioners at St Patrick's, Ware, turned a piece of derelict ground next to their church into a kitchen garden and have been cultivating it ever since. Even with limited gardening experience, they've connected more to creation; grown veg to eat; and raised money for others by selling the produce after Mass each week and donating the money to charity. It's brought the community together, cared for the earth, and supported communities living in poverty around the globe, too.

Each leaf, each petal,
each grain, each person,
sings your praises,
Creator God.

Each creature on the earth,
all the mountains and great seas
show your glory,
Spirit of love.

And yet the hand of greed has
patented and plundered your splendour,
has taken and not shared your gift,
has lived as owner of the earth,
not guest.

God our Father, show us
how to step gently,
how to live simply,
how to walk lightly
with respect and love
for all that you have made.

Amen.

Linda Jones/CAFOD

REFLECTION



Using the model from Cardinal Cardijn, reflect on where solidarity and promoting peace is not being upheld locally and globally, what our faith calls us to do about it, and what actions we may be able to take to enable all people to flourish.



Experience the beauty of creation - in a flower outside your window, or walk in the park.

SEE

In what way are we failing to be "stewards of creation" ourselves?

JUDGE

Care for creation.

ACT



Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.

Pope Francis



As stewards of creation, the principle of the Care of Creation is how we must respect the earth, and ensure its well being for future generations. Our actions have an immediate and a long term impact which we cannot ignore.

For more background visit : catholicsocialteaching.org.uk



Plant something today – whether in your garden, or windowsill, a plant or some mustard seeds.

Over the coming days and weeks, watch them grow.

See their potential. Care for them. Reflect on the processes which go into creation.

Be a steward of the gift we have been given.



GET INVOLVED!

Operation Noah works with church communities to raise awareness and encourage action on climate change.

operationnoah.org

Work towards the [livesimply award](http://livesimplyaward.org.uk) for your parish. A national prize for Catholic parishes, putting their faith into action. The award recognises ways that a parish makes a difference in its community and the world, especially in eco-issues.

livesimplyaward.org.uk

Consider how to use your parish grounds to create a vegetable garden to be used for the benefit of the parish, and those in need. Or a quiet garden where we can appreciate the gifts of God's creation.

PARISH PLAN

Think about gathering a few times to look together at how we can respond to the needs of our local community in the light of what we're learning in Love in Action.

Resources and ideas are available to help identify the needs of the community and plan how to respond.

Photos © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk

