

# LOVE IN ACTION



## CARE OF CREATION



“ Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded. I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.”

Pope Francis, On the Care for our Common Home, 13-14



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 yet too often we squander them, not thinking of 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 we are called to love creation, as well as love God and love our neighbours. How we care for the earth is a sign of how we live as 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 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.

## REFLECTION

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom you give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of you, Most High.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful. Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong



St Francis of Assisi



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.

[www.stepforwardinlove.org](http://www.stepforwardinlove.org)



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, think about your consumption, use of plastic and carbon footprint.

## ACT



The ecological crisis shows the urgency of a solidarity which embraces time and space ... A greater sense of intergenerational solidarity is urgently needed. Future generations cannot be saddled with the cost of our use of common environmental resources."

Pope Benedict XVI, World Peace Day 2010



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](http://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](http://operationnoah.org)

Work towards the [livesimply award](http://livesimply.org) 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.

[cafod.org.uk/Campaign/How-to-Campaign/Livesimply-award](http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/How-to-Campaign/Livesimply-award)

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.

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