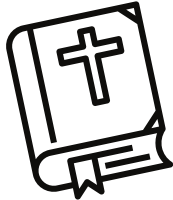


# ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## Stewardship of Creation



### Word of the Week

Genesis 2: 4- 9, 15




This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.


Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.



**"Do all you can to preach  
the gospel and if  
necessary use words!"**

St Francis of Assisi



**"Start by doing what's  
necessary; then do what's  
possible; and suddenly you  
are doing the impossible."**

St Francis of Assisi

What do you think St Francis means when he speaks these words? How might they link to our call to care for creation?



### Prayer for the Week

Dear St Francis,  
You loved all of God's creatures, big and tall, near and far. I ask for your prayers to help me to be like you, to be kind to animals and people too. Teach me to be joyful, and to see the beauty in all things. Thank you for showing us how to love and for reminding us to care for our Earth.  
Amen.

St Francis of Assisi...Pray for us!





# YouTube

**CST 101: Care for Creation**

**(WATCH HERE)**

**How are you called to be a steward of creation?**



**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

St Francis of Assisi was born in 1181 in Italy. He initially lived a life of luxury but underwent a profound spiritual transformation, embracing a life of simplicity and service to others. He founded the Franciscan Order, promoting love for all living beings and harmony with nature. Francis preached to both humans and animals, emphasizing compassion and kindness. His radical approach to Christianity inspired many to live more authentically and compassionately. Despite facing challenges and criticism, his devotion to God and his vision of peace and love continue to inspire people of all ages to this day.



## STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

This principle of Catholic Social Teaching means that God gave us the earth, animals, plants and everything in nature to take care of. We should protect the world and use its gifts wisely so that everyone, including future generations, can enjoy them. St Francis of Assisi loved all of God's creations- he called the sun, moon, animals and plants his brothers and sisters! He showed us how to care for nature with love and respect.

- How does caring for the environment reflect your values as a Christian?
- St Francis saw all creation as connected. How does this idea challenge the way we treat nature and animals today?
- Why do you think it's important to balance using the earth's resources with caring for them responsibly?
- How does appreciating nature help you grow in your relationship with God?
- St Francis lived simply and respected the earth. How can simplicity in your life help reduce your impact on the environment?

St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of Creation is a prayer that praises God for all parts of creation, like the sun, moon, wind, water and animals. In it, St Francis refers to these elements as "brothers and "sisters", showing his deep love and respect for nature. The Canticle expresses gratitude for God's creation and reminds us that everything in the world is connected and should be cared for with love.

Read the Canticle below together as your prayer this morning, reflecting on what it teaches us about how we are called to care for creation.

## The Canticle of Creation by St Francis of Assisi

**O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,  
to you belong praise, glory,  
honour and all blessing.**

**Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation  
and especially for our Brother Sun,  
who brings us the day and the light;  
he is strong and shines magnificently.**

**O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.**

**Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars  
which you have set shining and lovely  
in the heavens.**

**Be praised, my Lord,  
for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather  
by which you, Lord,  
uphold life in all your creatures.**

**Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,  
who is very useful to us,  
and humble and precious and pure.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the darkness:  
he is bright and lively and strong.**

**Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth  
fruits and vegetables of many kinds  
and flowers of many colours.**

**Be praised, my Lord,  
for those who forgive for love of you;  
and for those  
who bear sickness and weakness  
in peace and patience  
- you will grant them a crown.**

**Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,  
whom we must all face.**

**I praise and bless you, Lord,  
and I give thanks to you,  
and I will serve you in all humility.**



A Prayer For Those Who Protect God's Creation | CAFOD

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