

Stewardship: How can I be a steward of creation?

The Creation Story is a beautiful poem which tells us the truth about the goodness and creative power of God. It also helps us to understand the harmony and interrelatedness of all creation. This is called the **integrity of creation**.

Genesis 1:1-25



St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) cared greatly about **God's creation** and **God's people**.



St. Francis is the patron saint of **Ecology and Animals**. He wrote a song praising the wonderful creation that is the world around us. It is called the Canticle of the Sun.

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:9-10

Cyclones, floods and droughts have always happened and are more common in some areas of the world. The issue, however, is that as a result of **climate change** these extreme weather events are happening more frequently, more intensely and less predictably. **CAFOD** works in partnership and listens to the needs of local communities in order to plan, prepare and maximise their adaptive capacity to future extremes in climate.

CAFOD
Just for the world

The task of stewardship: preventing damage to God's creation



KEY VOCABULARY

sustainable stewards sustainable climate
preserve ecology harmony

Noah's Ark – teaches us that no animal is more important than another. God instructed Noah to be a steward of the animals and take care of them during this great flood. We should continue Noah's work and care for animals in their time of need.

'All things bright and beautiful' - Hymn

Treat others as you want to be treated is a **Catholic belief** – this extends to animals also

Isaiah 1:17 - 'Learn to do good; see that justice is done, help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights and defend widows.'

Based on Genesis 1:26 - Then God said: "Let us make people to be like ourselves."



Do not be afraid, for your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom. Sell all your belongings and give the money to the poor. Provide for yourselves purses that don't wear out, and save your riches in heaven, where they will never decrease, because no thief can get to them, and no moth can destroy them. For your heart will always be where your riches are.

Luke 12:32-34

REFLECTION

Creator God, in your hands you hold the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains, for all creation belongs to you. Grant us grace to cherish your world and wisdom to nurture its resources. Save us from the desire to control what is not ours and the impulse to possess what is not ours and the impulse to possess what is there to share.

Amen.

The Pope asks us all to be stewards of creation and protect our common home in whatever way we can. It is all of our **responsibility**. We should all actively try to reduce our carbon footprint, reduce ocean pollution, protect endangered species because **God entrusted us with His creation**, and for too long, humans have been destroying it.

