

Parish Fact Sheet

International Mother Earth Day 22nd April 2019

Theme: Protect Our Species “In nature, nothing exists alone.” Rachael Carson



On our planet there are the millions of species that we know and love and many remain to be discovered. Humans have irrevocably upset the balance of nature and as a result, the world is facing a rapid extinction of species. All living things have an intrinsic value and each plays a unique role in the complex web of life. Learn more on <https://www.un.org/en/events/motherearthday/> and <https://www.earthday.org/>

Pope Francis Laudato Si

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us living creatures are dependent on one another. (par#42)

Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plants and species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they will be lost forever. The greatest majority become extinct for reasons of human activity. Because of us thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, or convey their message to us. We have no such right. (par#33)

If we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. (par#11)

What can you do in the spirit of this Day?

Follow Pope Francis' example by listening to the cry of the Earth and taking the appropriate actions. Continue to develop a sense of wonder and develop an enquiring mind.

Explore the world of insects. Take steps to prevent the continued loss of Australian Insects. Australian Bees are under threat. They are vital pollinators. Be their friends by planting a bee friendly garden? Explore how to provide a friendly habitat for the bees in your garden. Pesticides are having a deadly effect on native bees. Avoid using pesticide. Spread the word.

Let Us Pray

Pope Francis invites us to pray “All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest creatures. Teach us to discover the work of each creature, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature.”

Link to Laudato Si here: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

What is the next action that you and your parish can step up too?

