



CLIMATE

One WORLD

## 1: Creation

**We must protect creation for it is a gift which the Lord has given us, it is God's present to us; we are the guardians of creation. When we exploit creation, we destroy that sign of God's love.**

*Pope Francis, General audience, 21 May 2014*

♥ Think about a precious gift you've been given. Why is it important to you?

♥ Where do you personally see the sign of God's love present in creation today?

♥ What do you think it means to be "guardians of creation"? How can we treat the earth as God wishes us to treat it?

♥ Pope Benedict XVI expressed a need for us to rediscover the covenant between humans and the environment. How do you think we

can rediscover this covenant and build closer relationships with God, with each other and with creation?

*Creator God, open our eyes to see your love throughout creation. Inspire us to treat creation and each other as you would, with respect and compassion. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, Amen.*

For additional notes, videos to accompany these cards and tips to use them with a group, see **[cafod.org.uk/climatereflections](http://cafod.org.uk/climatereflections)**

♥ To order additional sets of these free *One Climate, One World* postcard reflections to use for personal reflection or as part of a group, go to **[shop.cafod.org.uk](http://shop.cafod.org.uk)** or call **0300 011 5680**

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## 2: Faith and climate change

“The commitment of believers to a healthy environment for everyone stems directly from their belief in God the Creator... Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation which is called to join [humanity] in praising God.”

*Pope John Paul II, Message for World Day of Peace, 1990*

♥ How would you describe a healthy environment?

♥ Why do you think a belief in God the Creator leads us to commit to a healthy environment for all?

♥ How do you think concern about the environment and the impact of climate

change link with a respect for life and the dignity of the human person?

♥ How can we reflect our faith and our commitment to a healthy environment in our actions? (See [cafod.org.uk/playyourpart](https://cafod.org.uk/playyourpart) for ideas)

*Creator God, we thank you for all that you have given us. Inspire us with your love to respect this wondrous gift and to play our part in caring for all that you have made. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Go deeper: Watch Bishop Sánchez Sorondo as he explains why as Catholics we are called to care for creation.  
See [cafod.org.uk/climatereflections](https://cafod.org.uk/climatereflections)

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### 3: The common good

“Earth at its beginning was for all in common, it was meant for rich and poor alike; what right have you to monopolise the soil? Nature knows nothing of the rich; all are poor when she brings them forth.”

*St Ambrose of Milan*

♥ Can you think of a recent news story about extreme weather or changes in climate? What have been the impacts? Who has suffered as a result?

♥ Climate change is the single biggest threat to reducing poverty and we know that the poorest communities are the most vulnerable to its effects, despite having done the least to cause the damage. (For more information see our *Pushing People over the Edge* report at:

[cafod.org.uk/climateandpoverty](http://cafod.org.uk/climateandpoverty))

What do you think this means for our common inheritance?

♥ How can we encourage political leaders to work for the common good and ensure that all people have what they need now and in generations to come? (For ideas, see [cafod.org.uk/campaign](http://cafod.org.uk/campaign))

*God of life, help us to see your gifts are meant to be shared by all, not just exploited by a few. Lead us to take action to make a change not just for ourselves, but for all creation. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

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## 4: Who is my neighbour?

**“But a Samaritan traveller who came on him was moved with compassion when he saw him.”** *Luke 10:33*

♥ The question at the start of the parable of the Good Samaritan is, “Who is my neighbour?” How would you answer this question?

♥ Are we moved with compassion when we see someone “wounded by the roadside”? Why is this? Who do you see as the people “wounded by the roadside” today?

♥ At the end of the parable Jesus challenges the lawyer to “Go and do the same yourself”. How can we behave as a good neighbour to others?

♥ Can we see the earth as a kind of neighbour? Is the earth also “wounded by the

roadside”? What is our responsibility towards the earth as neighbour, as compared with the person who lives next door? And compared to those we will never meet – our global neighbours, people throughout the world?

*Loving God, fill our hearts with compassion for the earth and all its peoples. Lead us to be good neighbours to all who are in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

**Go deeper:** Watch Fr Augusto Zampini, member of CAFOD’s Theological Reference Group, as he discusses this parable and the lessons we can take from it today.

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## 5: The earth as neighbour

**“Our very contact with nature has a deep restorative power; contemplation of its magnificence imparts peace and serenity ... Even cities can have a beauty all their own, one that ought to motivate people to care for their surroundings”**

*Pope John Paul II, Message for World Day of Peace, 1990*

♥ Think about a time when contemplating nature has had a powerful impact on you. In what ways could contemplating creation, including the beauty of our towns and cities, motivate us to care for our surroundings?

♥ If contemplating nature has a restorative power, what do you think happens when we become detached from nature?

♥ How would you describe our relationship with the earth – personally, as a community, as a Church, as a global society?

♥ How could you make some time now or in the coming week to appreciate the beauty of the world that surrounds you? Paint a picture, write a poem or use another creative way to express your response to God's creation.

*God of wonder, open our eyes to see you in all that you have created. Through the contemplation of your goodness, move us to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and with the earth that we share. Amen.*

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**It was not for its own purposes that creation had frustration imposed upon it, but for the purposes of him who imposed it – with the intention that the whole creation itself might be freed from its slavery to corruption and brought into the same glorious freedom of the children of God.** ”” *Romans 8:20*

♥ What do you think St Paul is suggesting here? What does this passage mean to you?

♥ Jesus died on the cross not just to redeem humanity, but to redeem the whole of creation. What does it mean to you to be a creature, created by a loving God? What does this mean for our relationship to other creatures?

♥ What actions can we take to express our love for creatures and creation, which is redeemed by Christ? See some of the things that people love which will be affected by climate change and add your own at [cafod.org.uk/fortheloveof](https://cafod.org.uk/fortheloveof)

*God of all, you so loved the world that you sent your only Son to redeem all creation. Grant that we may follow Christ's example of compassion and never forget the impact of all that we do on the earth and one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Redeemer of all, Amen.*

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