

## Reflection for Catholic Parishes for World Environment Day 2018



Pope Francis asks in his letter

*Care for our Common Home:*

‘What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?’ (160)

He invites us to change direction by caring for our common home which ‘is like a . . . beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace.’ (1)

‘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.’ (13)

### What can we do for a more Sustainable World?

**1 Celebrate nature:** Be inspired by her beauty. Visit a local park, beach or volcano – try a new path or cycle way or rejoice at the changing nature of your garden.

**2 Educate ourselves to love the earth:** Remind yourself where your food comes from – can you grow some or buy seasonally and locally?

**3 Protect nature:** We need to use land sustainably, plant more trees, prevent polluting our waterways, protect animals and fish responsibly.

**4 Buy green:** Your purchasing decisions are powerful. Choose re-useable products and give preference to ethical companies whose products are certified to provide some protection for people and the environment.

**5 Live simply:** Consider the choices you make around the way you move, shop, eat and talk about the choices you make – start a conversation to encourage others or learn from them what is important about sustaining a great future.

**6 Conduct business ethically:** Companies should make fair profits, pay fair wages and pay fair tax. Economic growth is only possible in a finite world if it is environmentally sustainable.

**7 Use energy with consideration:** Switch off power when not required. For simple ways to save money on energy bills and make your home warmer and healthier see [energywise.govt.nz/at-home/simple-ways-to-lower-energy-bills](http://energywise.govt.nz/at-home/simple-ways-to-lower-energy-bills). Support fossil fuels divestment.

**8 Travel wisely:** plan car trips, make sure your tyres are at the right pressure, carpool when you can (download the [Auckland.smarttravel.org.nz](http://Auckland.smarttravel.org.nz) app to find travel buddies near you), walk, cycle or take a bus, ferry or a train rather than drive. Think of buying a smaller car (to reduce emissions) or an electric one. If you fly choose the “offset your flights” option.

**9 Watch your waste:** Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle and compost all waste you can. Planning and storage help to reduce food waste and save you money.

**10 Tread gently on the earth:** Treasure the resources we have – water, natural minerals, fossil fuels and plants all add to the beauty and balance of our environment. For more ideas see [www.livelightly.nz](http://www.livelightly.nz).

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## Pope Francis urges us to believe that we can make a difference:



**We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.”**



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## A PRAYER for our EARTH

Father, foster in us a love for your creation:

animals small and tall; the soil, trees, plants of every hue;  
water, mountains, deserts too.

The wisdom to care for our earth and to  
nurture our young to do the same.

The sense to use only what we need without  
excess; to share more, covet less.

The understanding that ‘being’ is more  
important than ‘having.’

And the grace to live in harmony, with one  
another, with nature, with You.

Amen



Source: S Lincoln