

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

***Focus of the day: Environmental Stewardship***

This week's theme focuses on environmental stewardship. Christians believe in stewardship, a duty to protect and take care of God's earth on his behalf. Our actions have consequences for the rights of others and for the resources of the earth. The goods of the earth and the beauties of nature are to be enjoyed and celebrated. We must consider the welfare of future generations in our planning for and utilisation of the earth's resources.

***Prayer: Blessed are you, God, Creator of the universe, who has made all things good and has placed the earth in our care. May we share with all in need and be good stewards of God's earth and its abundance. Grant that we may always use created things gratefully and share your gift with those in need, out of love for you. Amen.***

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

***Focus of the day: Global Warming***

Continuing our theme of environmental stewardship, Christians can try and reduce their carbon footprint on the planet. They can do this by recycling, reusing and using renewable energy in their places of worship. They can walk / cycle or use public transport where possible. In addition they can ask for God's help through prayer.

***Prayer: Grant us a spirit of concern for the future of our environment; Bring an end to the exploitation of the earth's scarce resources; Encourage us to be responsible stewards of your creation. Amen.***



Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

## **Focus of the day: Deforestation**

Pope Francis has called for more respect of nature. In July 2014 he spoke out against the destruction of the rainforest and asked his fellow Catholics to respect God's Creation. Francis decried the destruction of South America's rainforests such as the Amazon, which contains an estimated 390 billion individual trees but had the highest deforestation rate in the world as of 2005.

***Prayer: In the rainforests of the earth you reveal the diversity of your creation. Help us, in wonder, to care for your forests, and in so doing to protect and strengthen the lungs of the earth. Bless native peoples and forest dwellers, and help us with them to learn the lesson of our shared belonging and interdependence. Amen.***

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**Focus of the day: Climate change and the impact on the poor**

Defending against climate change is a social interest, the poorest people are the ones most affected. In 2013 Pope Francis said: 'There are other weak and defenceless beings who are frequently at the mercy of economic interests and indiscriminate exploitation...Let us not leave in our wake a swath of destruction and death which will affect our own lives and those of future generations'.

***Prayer: We pray for people who are struggling to grow their crops, who are hungry or thirsty, who cannot meet their needs because of droughts, floods or other extreme weather: that God may strengthen and support them and that they may have reason to look with hope to the future. Lord, in your mercy...***