

Stewards of the earth

Genesis 2: 4-5, 8-10 15-6

“At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.

Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed.

The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.”

Laudato Si’ #67

“We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us. This allows us to respond to the charge that Judaeo-Christian thinking, on the basis of the Genesis account which grants man “dominion” over the earth (cf. Gen 1:28), has encouraged the unbridled exploitation of nature by painting him as domineering and destructive by nature. This is not a correct interpretation of the Bible as understood by the Church. Although it is true that we Christians have at times incorrectly interpreted the Scriptures, nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God’s image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. The biblical texts are to be read in their context, with an appropriate hermeneutic, recognizing that they tell us to “till and keep” the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15). “Tilling” refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while “keeping” means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. ”

CAFOD

The [*livesimply award*](#) is an opportunity for parishes to work together to respond to Laudato Si’ and explore how they can live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. To obtain the award a parish needs to plan activities in the 3 different areas living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. These can include a variety of activities from recycling to reducing the use of plastic to collecting for the local food bank. It can also include activities that the parish already undertakes for example CAFOD Lent fast day collection, walk to church Sunday, or selling fairtrade. In the diocese we have 5 parishes who have achieved the award and 3 more working towards it.

Action

How can we be responsible and caring consumers?

Personal

What is the impact on the world of the goods that I buy? Co2 emissions, air miles travelled, decent wage for farmers. Could I buy more Fairtrade and locally produced products?

Family

As a family do we say grace before meals? Do we waste food? Could we recycle more?

Parish

Is our parish Fairtrade registered? Do we use fairtrade tea/ coffee? Do we use environmentally friendly products e.g. cleaning materials? Become a *livesimply* parish!