

October 2020

## Caring for the world we live in

During September, there were 2 TV programmes hosted by David Attenborough. The first was a celebration of the wonder and diversity of animal life on our planet; the film sequences were set to music and the total effect was something almost like a hymn of praise. The second programme, in contrast, warned that we could be facing another mass extinction because of our disregard for the consequences of our choices and actions.

In Genesis, we learn that God entrusted His creation to our care, and it is through us that creation can fulfil its purpose of giving praise and glory to God. Our very survival depends on the natural world and if we abuse it, if we destroy it for future generations, then we sin by choosing our own selfish advantage rather than the loving generosity of God our Father.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis gives us this message of hope:

*"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home."*



### Hymn of praise from the Book of Daniel

O let the earth bless the Lord.  
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord.  
And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord.  
And you fountains and springs, O bless the Lord.  
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord.  
And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord.  
And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord.  
And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord.  
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

And you, children of men, O bless the Lord.  
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.

Help the Mother Kangaroo find her Baby!

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## A Fast Day like no other — October 8 - 11th

Coronavirus has affected us all. But this Family Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to stand alongside communities across the world and help the poorest and most vulnerable to **SURVIVE, REBUILD AND HEAL**.

*Let's hold them in love and prayer.*

Please pray for all those affected. And if you are able to make a donation, then you can do so:

- Online at [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give)
- By picking up one of the envelopes at the back of church and returning it via the parish collection basket
- By text — text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10 (texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message, and you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085)
- By phone on 0303 303 3030



### Online events you can share:

- Thursday 8th Oct. 9.30 a.m. Harvest Assembly for schools
- Friday 9th Oct. 11 a.m. Live talk about the latest on CAFOD's response to Coronavirus
- Saturday 10th Oct. Midday. Join the CAFOD global food event
- 7 p.m. Have fun by taking part in the "Harvest like no other" quiz
- Sunday 11th Oct. 10 a.m. Children's Liturgy

Find out more and take part in any of these events at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

### Our Prayer Intention this autumn

Pray for the work of CAFOD

*We have been given an opportunity to slow down, to pause and look around, to admire the beauty of creation.*

### Gifts of peace

Seeking relief from thoughts of the pandemic? Nature, even in a single flower or a window box, offers a gift of peace in exchange for a few moments of our close attention. Recently I spent time looking - *really* looking - at a pot of flowers I'd planted months ago, arranging little green plug plants around a small scarlet geranium. A new world had developed: the geranium was a mass of blossoms of electric brightness and the lobelias formed banks of tiny flowers of violet, deep blue and maroon, bushing out thickly around the contours of the round pot like a sumptuous crinoline. Half in the shade, they leant a little, towards the light. No bees on the geraniums - red not the bees' favourite colour! - but the lobelias were alive with tinier pollinators, clinging on in a stiff breeze. It was a refreshment, there for the asking.

