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World Day of Prayer For The Care of Creation

Prayer Card for September 1



Australia's Great Barrier Reef, pictured on this prayer card, is the world's largest coral reef. It stretches 2,300 kilometres along the Queensland coast and supports a rich diversity of life, including many vulnerable and endangered species. Parts of the reef are protected by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, however much of the reef is threatened by climate change, catchment pollution, coastal development and fishing. Responding to these issues with a sense of humility requires for many of us a candid examination of lifestyle choices, a realisation that creation is sacred and endangered, and a radical change of heart - an 'ecological conversion'.

For more information see: <http://catholicearthcare.org.au/?p=2397>.



Laudato Si' - A Prayer

Praise be to You, Father Creator God. Working through immense time your universal energies rejoiced to shape our lands and seas; we thank you for our island continent home, Australia. Our indigenous people have long celebrated the movement of spirit in our land and skies and waters. Our settlers also brought traditions that honoured all that you have made, we still can wonder at the natural world, and have studied its secrets so that we can draw on its powers to enhance human life. But we also have tenacious practices of exploiting and destroying the natural world.

And now Pope Francis has called us to recognise that we have pressed nature too far, so if we do not change, we will rubbish the land beyond repair, empty the seas, and pollute the heavens. We are challenged as individuals, families, communities and a nation to protect our Common Home from further harm and repair the damage we have inflicted.

Send your Spirit upon us to deepen our sense that we are not wanton possessors of this home of ours but its stewards, for future generations and for your glory.

May your Spirit join us with Francis of Assisi whose intimate fellowship with all creation – with Brother Fire, Sister Water – led him to praise You all the more as Father Creator God.

May your Spirit fire in our minds and hearts how to care for our own land, the seas that surround us and the skies that overarch us, and how to avail ourselves wisely of their gifts. Help us likewise to treasure the myriad creatures of the reefs, the deep-bedded minerals, the unique vegetation and animals of this land; may our respect for them enhance us as a people and help us live properly with our neighbours in other lands. Help us to treasure the small creatures that have no use for us but are just themselves. Help us maintain the tissue of delicate connections that hold Your creation in its immense and gentle power.

We believe, like Pope Francis, that the time has come to act – with a deepened sense of responsibility, with understanding and courage and wisdom – in the details of our daily lives, the habits of our local communities and the policies of our nation. We pray that we do not act too late; we pray that we act effectively.

We ask this so that we can be joined now and in the future in our canticle of praise for Your creation by our fellow creatures, great and small, and by the cycle of the seasons, the great currents of the oceans and the tiniest of creatures even our science has not discovered.

By Father Andrew Bullen SJ