

MOTHER EARTH DAY 22 APRIL



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.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* n13

This UN observance day recognizes our planet as humanity's common home and the urgent need to protect her to enhance people's livelihoods, health and wellbeing, counteract climate change and stop the collapse of biodiversity. There is a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of the present and future generations of humanity.

Humans depend on Mother Earth, why would we not protect her?

The 2022 theme is "Invest in our Planet". It is going to take all of us; businesses, governments, you to act boldly, innovate broadly and implement equitably to restore nature for future generations.



Did you know?

More than 1 billion people in 192 countries now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the biggest civic observance in the world!

[Source](#)

We need to act individually and together. How will you play your part?

Be a good steward of resources; Reduce, Recycle, Re purpose and Refuse.

Walk, bike or scoot instead of using a car when you can.

Plants absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen for us to breathe – plant native and indigenous plants.

Listen and learn from our Indigenous brothers and sisters on how to care for country.

Use fresh water carefully; install a water tank or a grey water system.



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Earth Day Activities for Schools

- Learn about Laudato Si' and what Pope Francis would like us all to do.
- Find out who your local First Nations group is; invite an Elder from this group to talk to your students about how to care for the land, water and sky at your school.
- Use student voice to protect biodiversity, fight climate change etc. Create posters to display around the school, talk at assemblies, raise awareness in your social media, newsletter and website, write to politicians etc.
- Research the indigenous plants "pre European settlement" in your schools' region; plant these species of plants in your school garden.
- Build possum boxes and insect hotels, provide a water source and indigenous plants to provide food and shelter for our native animals.
- Investigate and talk to your leadership team about installing a water tank, a grey water system, sensor lights, dual flush toilets, solar panels, a recycling project, creating a native garden, lizard lounge, frog bog, bee garden, productive garden etc.
- Read books about protecting and preserving our planet.
- Find out which Sustainable Development Goals relate to Mother Earth Day.



Blue gum branch with seed pod.
Photo: Gwen Michener

Resources

Primary

[Caring for Creation – Primary](#); a series of "See, Judge, Act" lessons on the environment.

Caritas Australia Catholic Social Teaching Toolkit: [Care for our Common Home](#)

[Earth Day Activities](#)

Use the resources on coolaustralia.org

[Mother Earth Day activities](#)

Secondary

[Caring for Creation – Secondary](#); a series of "See, Judge, Act" lessons on the environment.

Caritas Australia Catholic Social Teaching Toolkit: [Care for our Common Home](#)

Use the resources on coolaustralia.org

Ask your students to take an [Earthcare Lesson](#) on various sustainability topics – great for a homework task!