In the beginning was the earth, and the earth was beautiful. But the people living on the earth said, 'Let us build skyscrapers and expressways. So they paved the earth with concrete and said, 'It is good!'

On the second day, the people looked at the rivers and said, 'Let us dump our sewage into the waters. So they filled the waters with sludge and said, 'It is good!'

On the third day, the people looked at the forest and said, 'Let us cut down the trees and build things.' So they levelled the forests and said, 'It is good!'

On the fourth day, the people saw the animals and said, 'Let us kill them for sport and money. So they destroyed the animals and said, 'It is good!'

On the fifth day, the people felt the cool breeze and said, 'Let us burn our garbage and let the breeze blow it away. So they filled the air with carbon and said, 'It is good!'

On the sixth day, the people saw other nations on earth and said, 'Let us build missiles in case misunderstandings arise.' So they filled the land with missile sites and said, 'It is good!'

On the seventh day, the earth was quiet and deathly silent, for the people were no more. And it was good!

De-creation

What message might the author of this poem be trying to get across?
- What is your opinion? Do you agree?
Bishop John has written to all parishes and schools ahead of the Season of Lent to challenge us all to take action on Climate Change and to start to Think Global, Act Local.

In a pastoral letter to be read in parishes this weekend Bishop John asked us all to look beyond our personal lives this Lent, to our role within our wider communities and our world.
What is climate change?

Climate change (or global warming), is the process of our planet heating up. The changing climate will actually make our weather more extreme and unpredictable.
What's the one thing affecting the environment that concerns you the most?

Extinction of animals?
Pollution?
Carbon Footprint?
Depletion of non-renewable resources?
Deforestation?
Climate change?
Watch the clip:
How does it make you feel?
How valuable is our planet?

We can not put a price on its value as it is our home that we share with millions of other species. The planet provides and sustains life. Christians regard the world as a priceless gift from God.
The Facts:

1. **Climate change could be irreversible by 2030** - Without change, the world’s coral reefs could be completely eradicated, and we could see an increase in widespread flooding, extreme heat, drought and poverty.

2. **More than 1 million species face extinction** - While the expected rate of species extinction is usually around 5 species a year, we’re currently losing up to 10,000 times the normal rate – this means that dozens of species go extinct every single day.

3. **We use more of the earth's resources than it can renew** – The UK uses more than double the amount of resources they’re able to produce. If we carry on using the earth’s resources at our current rate of consumption, we’d need 1.7 planets to support the demand on the earth’s ecosystems.

4. **Climate change is creating a refugee crisis** - As global temperatures increase, millions of people are fleeing their homes to avoid the impacts of droughts and extreme storms.

5. **Our oceans are dying** - the UN has warned that marine life faces irreparable damage from the millions of tonnes of plastic waste that ends up in the oceans every year. Over 1 million seabirds and 100,000 sea mammals are killed by pollution every year.
What can people do to stop the abuse of the environment?

https://vimeo.com/268542080
1. REDUCE

Meat:
- Eat less meat but make it a real celebration when you do.
- Eat a few more vegetarian meals every week.

Shipping of food:
- Buy locally grown vegetables or grow your own, even if it is just in a window box.
- Check where your food comes from.
- Try eating seasonally.
- Do not waste food, learn to cook with leftovers.

Travel:
- Don't fly. Take the train or bus on holiday instead.
- Use video conferencing for meetings.
- Use public transport, a bike or walk.
- Share a journey.

Energy use:
- Switch to a green energy provider.
- Draft proof your house.
- Spend less time on the internet.
- Do not leave electrical goods on standby when not in use.
- Turn the central heating down a few degrees and maybe wear a pullover at home.

Stuff:
- Buy less stuff. The extraction of raw materials needed to make our stuff is often extremely harmful to workers and their environment.
- Buy less clothes.
- Buy fewer gadgets.
- If you need to buy something vote with your wallet. Our purchases have ethical implications, whether we realise it or not.
- When buying something consider how was it made. Will it last? What happens to it at the end of its life?

Water:
- Do not leave the water running while you clean your teeth.
- Do not leave the shower running while you wash.

2. REUSE

Fixing:
- Could I fix any electronic devices, clothes, cars or household appliances rather than buying new?
- Could I help others with my fixing skills?

Sharing:
- Could I share my belongings, tools, books, clothes with others in my community?
- Instead of throwing things away see if anyone has use for them.
- Consider using a sharing app.

3. RECYCLE

Prevention:
- Could you prevent waste in the first place by avoiding buying overly packaged or single use goods.
- Be prepared and carry a reusable cup and pack a homemade lunch.

Compost:
- Could you make compost with waste food and paper to grow more food?

Recycling:
- Make sure you know what can and cannot be recycled.
- Could your council improve their service? Let them know.
- Make sure your recycling is clean.

RE WILD

Whilst not one of the main three rules, rewilding is an incredibly effective and essential instrument in healing our world. If you have a garden you have a share of God’s good earth. So leave a corner (the larger the better) undisturbed for insects, birds, amphibians and small mammals and pray to God they thrive. Also make sure there are gaps in garden walls to act as wildlife corridors from one garden to another. Put a bell on the cat.
A great deal of difference can be made through a number of small actions in our personal lives. To name a few: We can shop more carefully, particularly choosing local produce, so saving the expensive transportation costs and use of fuel. We can cut the temperature on our central heating. We can walk more and use less petrol, using public transport more regularly. We can turn lights off in unused rooms, hang washing out to dry rather than using energy-expensive drying machines. We can reduce the waste we make and re-cycle more.
Encyclical Letter from Pope Francis
Laudato Si - On the care of our common home.

On 18 June 2015 Pope Francis wrote a letter to all people around the world, asking that we take better care of the environment which is not only home for people but for all living creatures.

Pope Francis asks us: “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
Genesis 2:15

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
Genesis 1:28
Write a pledge explaining what you aim to do during Lent to take action against climate change.
It's from St Francis, the patron or protector of the environment, that we have learned to call the sun and wind our brothers, the moon and water our sisters; St Francis is remembered too for his great love of animals and plants; we often bless our pets on his feast day, as a way of celebrating the joy we find in being friends with other species.