

Year of St Francis Prayer Trail: Care for Creation.



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Encourage pupils to find a comfortable position to sit in. Explain we will be thinking about the beauty all around God's world and how to care for it. Listen to the sounds of creation all around you, contemplate on what you can see, what you can feel in your hands and what you can hear.

St Francis encouraged people to find beauty in the world. He wrote a famous poem called Canticle of the Sun. We will listen to one of the verses now:

***Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth,
who sustains us and directs us
bringing forth all kinds of fruits and coloured flowers and herbs.***

Repeat the last line. Give a few seconds of silence for everyone to think about the words. There is so much splendour in creation, so much abundance. It is our job to protect all of these favourite fruits and favourite flowers we have just been thinking about so everyone can enjoy them in the future as well. Use the symbolic action or reflection:

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| * Hold a stone in your hand. | * Think about your favourite fruit. |
| * Think about one way in which you can care for the fruit and flowers in our world. | * Hold it in your mind. Thank God for it. |
| * When you have thought of an action, place the stone at the prayer focus. | * Think of your favourite flower. |
| | * Hold the image in your mind. Thank God for it. |

Let us now be still and listen to the sounds around us once more.

1. I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. *Where did I feel God's presence in creation this week?*

2. I ask for the blessing to see creation as God does – in all its glory. *Where did I see the beauty of creation this week?*

3. I ask for the blessing to look closely to see how my choices impact creation. *When did I show care for creation today? Did I follow the paths, avoid stepping on plants? Throw my litter in the bin?*

4. I ask for the blessing of caring for creation. *Where have I fallen short in caring for creation today? How can I do better this afternoon or tomorrow?*

Lord, send down your blessings on all those that are in need.

Help us to care for creation in the way that shows how much we love the gift you gave us.

Amen.

Stay with us Lord on our journey. St Francis of Assisi. **Pray for us**

Send: Try do one small act for creation: water some plants, feed the birds, leave a patch of grass to grow, turn off the classroom light when you are not using it.

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CAFOD:

[Novena to St Francis](#)

Full prayer:

The Canticle of the Sun

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessings.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.
Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures;
especially Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
and bears a likeness to You, Most High One.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night;
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks,
and serve Him with great humility.
Amen.