

Stewardship

The liturgical colour is **White**
We are in Easter.



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Mission Statement

With the Lord's help, we are united in faith,
we strive for success and excellence, we are
determined to be the best that we can be.

Faith ~ Excellence ~ Determination



St. Bede's Catholic School &
Byron Sixth Form College

Let us pray together as a school family.

Good Jesus,
by your loving kindness,
enable me to come to you,
the fountain of wisdom,
and to stand forever before your face,
Amen

St Bede: Pray for us

Gather

Today we gather as a community to think the meaning of the word Stewardship and what this means for us.

When we look at the world around us, it's clear that there's a great need for God's mercy and love. We can feel overwhelmed by news of terrible violence, unfairness, suffering.

The Church encourages us not to turn away in despair, but to look at how things could be. To ask ourselves: What kind of world do I want to be a part of? Then to consider: What can we offer, individually and as a community, to build it?

Pope Francis has spoken to young people directly about how, through their desire to make the world a better place, they have the potential to be great missionaries of God's love.

The quotation on screen is one of many in which he encourages young people to make a difference.

'With you the world can be different.

Unless you offer the best of yourselves, the world will never be different' - Pope Francis.

To know how best to do this, the Holy Father and the Catholic Church encourage us to turn to the Scriptures. In the Scriptures we learn how God desires us to live.



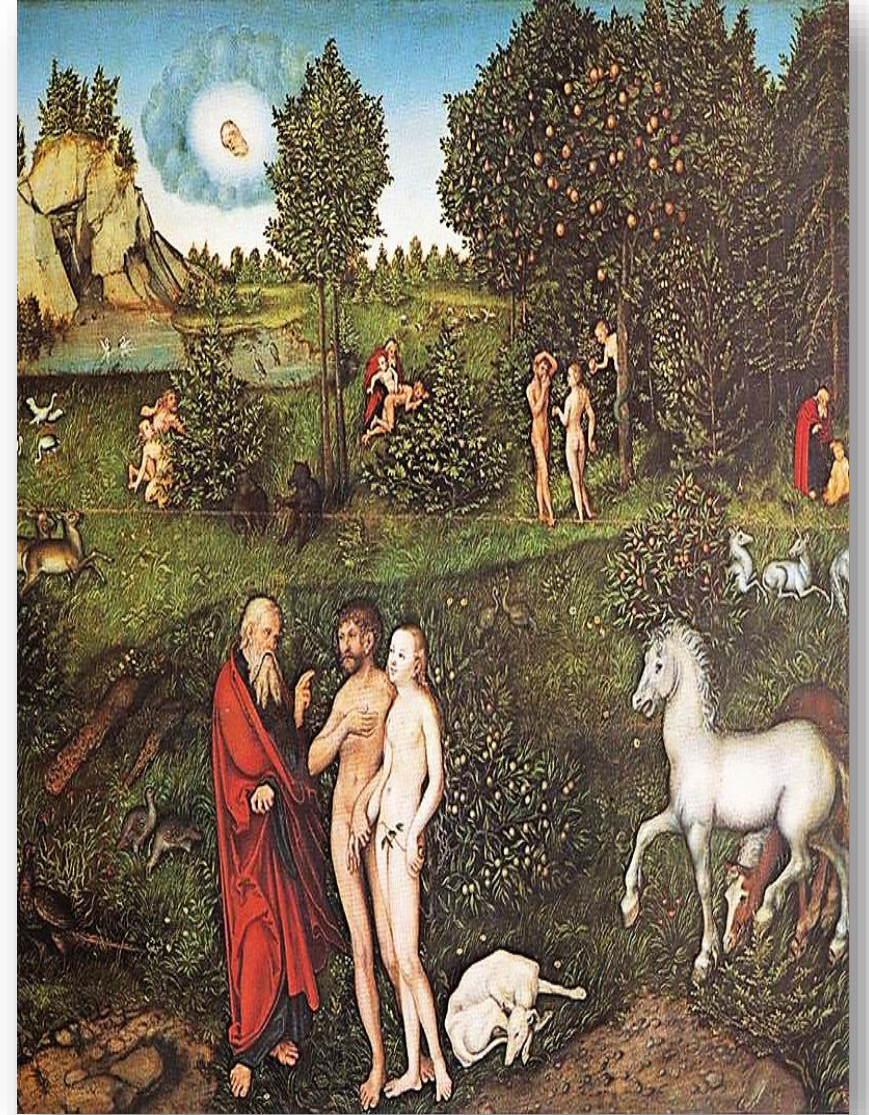
'With you the world can be different.
Unless you offer the best of yourselves,
the world will never be different.'

Pope Francis

Let us listen to a scripture reading from the Book of Genesis. Let us think about the lessons that we can find in passages like this. What do you think are the lessons we are to learn from this passage about how we should view the world, ourselves and others?

Then God said: "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

Genesis 1:26-27



The answers are quite easy - One of the greatest lessons communicated in this passage, is that humans are made in the image and likeness of God. As a consequence, all people have dignity and value.

Another important lesson, is that God has entrusted humanity with the responsibility of looking after the earth and all it contains.

This is called stewardship. Humanity, that includes you and me, is the steward of God's entire creation.

For a moment, imagine that someone you love and admire deeply has placed into your hands a precious and fragile gift and have asked you to look after this.

How would you treat the gift and why.

Now consider that the Church has long taught us that God's creation is a precious gift that we, its stewards, have been entrusted to care for and use well.

Catholic Social Teaching highlights the deep connection between humans and creation, and stressing the effects our actions have on the planet and thus on our brothers and sisters around the world.

Over the last few decades, advances in science have helped us recognise what happens when people fail to pay attention to these factors.

A good example of the damaging effects humanity has had on the environment would be the deforestation of the Amazon. It's estimated that in the last 40 years, 20% of the Amazon has been cut down to satisfy the wants of people across the world e.g. to build mahogany furniture. Losing so much of the forest increases risks of global climate change as rainforests absorb considerable amounts of carbon dioxide.



Pope Francis has made great efforts to encourage all people to be mindful of the impact their actions have on the planet and thus on others.

He has urged people not to treat the world like a rubbish dump but to use the earth's resources wisely, not to consume more than we need, to throw away less and recycle more.

These lessons he laid out most clearly in a special letter (a Papal encyclical). In this letter, entitled *Laudato Si'*, the Holy Father reminded the world that we all need to do what we can to take care of our common home.

If we do not, the risk of global warming and conflict increases, as people struggle to gain access to water, food and safe places to live in.



Going Forth - What does this mean for you?

As we leave today let us be stewards of the earth and be mindful about how we use the earth's resources.

You could try to throw away less, recycle more, walk to school or even use a reusable water bottle to reduce how much plastic we are using.



Next week as part of Laudato Si Week we will be taking part in a house group litter pick - we are working towards the Green Flag Award for school. One of the activities we have to take part in is a litter pick for each house group.

Classes will be assigned a date and an area in school.

Protective equipment will be supplied.

You can only pick up litter with the correct pickers and nothing by hand.

let us finish our time together in prayer:

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe, And to recognise that we are united with the whole of creation.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen