

## Acts of Mercy for our Common Home

Here are some different ways in which you can show mercy to our common home. Pray and then choose one to do during Mercy2Earth Weekend. You may register your Act of Mercy on the website at [www.mercy2earth.org](http://www.mercy2earth.org).

1. I will join a local climate march.
2. I will begin a 'care of creation' group in my parish or community.
3. I will suggest a prayer for creation for our Sunday liturgy.
4. I will advocate for local and national policies that promote the transition to renewable energies.
5. I will buy from companies that support the switch to a low-carbon future.
6. I will reduce my consumption of meat.
7. I will divest my personal investments from fossil fuels and choose a KiwiSaver fund that pledges to do the same.
8. I will avoid flying whenever possible, using Skype to reduce having to travel to meetings.
9. I will reduce the use of my car by carpooling, taking public transport, bicycling or walking.
10. I will buy foods that are in season locally.
11. I will compost my food waste.
12. I will hang out the washing instead of tumble drying.
13. I will not buy bottled water if my tap water is safe to drink.
14. I will use my own bag for all purchases.

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# Mercy to Earth Weekend

Earth Day 22 April — Mercy Sunday 23 April



"MAY THE  
**WORKS OF MERCY**  
ALSO INCLUDE  
**CARE FOR OUR  
COMMON HOME.**"

 #Mercy2Earth

Mercy2Earth is a worldwide campaign promoted by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, inviting us to reflect on Pope Francis' message to 'show mercy to our common home' and to put it into action.

Organisers have noted that this year, Earth Day occurs on the Saturday before the Sunday after Easter, now widely recognised in Catholic circles as Divine Mercy Sunday, with a focus on God's mercy to humanity and our need to mirror God's mercy to our world and our contemporaries.

Begun in the United States in 1970, Earth Day - held each year on April 22— is now a global celebration that

seeks to place environmental concerns at the top of every agenda.

This year's campaign is about environmental and climate literacy. Education is the foundation for progress. Earth Day promoters insist that we need a global citizenry fluent in the concept of climate change and aware of its unprecedented threat to our planet.

Divine Mercy Sunday was instituted by Pope John Paul II, who also canonized Polish Sister Faustina Kowłaska from whose devotion this annual observance has sprung. Between the two World Wars, her message was that faith in Jesus leads to true peace.

This is the second of two events proposed by Mercy2Earth. The first was a global Lenten fast for climate justice, held on World Water Day, March 22. This weekend you are invited to an action to reflect your commitment to care for our common home. We suggest either a social event to which you invite friends to share some Fairtrade Easter chocolate, with the prayer outlined below, or a ceremony to plant a tree, as a gesture towards lowering Earth's carbon emissions. On the right is a suggested planting service.



## A blessing to plant a tree

This weekend, invite friends and neighbours to a tree-planting ceremony. Trees help to reduce climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide; they can also preserve biodiversity, protect native habitat and wildlife, and control flooding by minimising run-off and topsoil loss.

Talk to your local nursery or garden centre about the appropriate tree to plant—for shelter, or to provide flowers to attract bees or berries for birds.

Ask your supplier for a stake, if necessary, and for whatever fertilizer your tree will need.

Include the prayer below in your blessing ceremony and invite people to share a cup of tea and refreshments.

**T**hrough the wood of his cross, Christ has turned the tree from a symbol of death into a sign of unending life. May the God of all life bless this tree which we plant. May it be for us a sign of nature's power for growth and renewal, and a reminder of our call to be guardians and protectors of our common home, not only for ourselves but for generations still to come.

Papatūānuku Mother Earth is the home we share with all other creatures. May we help them to flourish. Let us rejoice to see this tree grow, and be ever grateful for the huge variety which our God has created. In this Easter season, we give thanks for the new life which surrounds us and which invites us to see God present in our midst. Amen. Alleluia!



## Sharing something sweet

Invite friends and neighbours to join you this weekend to share a Fairtrade Easter egg, some pieces of Fairtrade chocolate or a cup of Fairtrade drinking chocolate.

Some Trade Aid shops may have Easter eggs, made in New Zealand from organic ingredients from small-scale farms around the world. Check [tradeaid.org.nz](http://tradeaid.org.nz) to find your nearest shop.

Or if you are adventurous, you may like to make your own eggs from Fairtrade chocolate!



A prayer to share with your guests.

**E**te Atua Atawhai mutunga kore, God of unending mercy: we give thanks for all that is sweet in our world, especially for chocolate. As we share this gift today, we ask a blessing on those who grew and harvested the cocoa beans from which this chocolate has been made.

We know that many involved in this trade, including children, are exploited and poorly paid for their work. We ask a blessing on agencies around the world that strive to bring justice to this trade.

To the joy we have in sharing this treat may we add the assurance that we have supported a scheme promising a better deal for those whose livelihoods are spent in providing a delicacy that features so often in our celebrations and enjoyment.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who died and rose that all might have life in abundance. Amen.



*Look for the Fairtrade label—your independent guarantee that a product is certified. Fairtrade chocolate is now widely available in supermarkets throughout New Zealand and from outlets such as Trade Aid.*