

Save our Bees

Lack of bees leads to the loss of biodiversity. Without bees to spread pollen, many plants, including food crops, would die off. Bees transfer pollen from one flower to another, fertilising the plant so that it can grow and produce food.

There are 98 different species of bee in Ireland: 20 bumblebee species and 77 solitary bee species. Bees are declining because their natural habitats are disappearing i.e. grassland, woodland and hedges.



Bees are essential. They are responsible for much of the food on your plate. Without bees humans wouldn't have very much to eat.

Help save our bees (and the food on your plate) by growing plants such as these in your garden:

- Geraniums
- Mint
- Salvia
- Thyme
- Lavender
- Asters
- Cornflowers
- Rosemary
- Hebe

Celebrating Earth Week in our parishes

Parishes may wish to erect a *Laudato Si* Tree in their church during Earth Week 2016. Take a branch as seen below and invite each person or family in the parish to do something to prevent loss of biodiversity e.g. leave an area of grass unmown, or plant vegetables etc. Then they write what they have done on a paper leaf and hang it on the tree.



The *Laudato Si* Tree highlights what your parish is doing, while hopefully encouraging others to participate as well.

Parishes will be supplied with liturgical resources as to how they might design a liturgy to celebrate the gift of biodiversity.

We are also inviting parishes to submit photographs of their *Laudato Si* Tree to pastoralcentre@dioceseofkerry.ie so that we can put them up on our diocesan website or on the Diocese of Kerry Facebook page.

www.dioceseofkerry.ie

Diocese of Kerry
Justice, Peace and Integrity
of Creation Committee

Earth Week

April 17-23



Would you like to protect
our Earth TODAY
for our children's
TOMORROW?



Earth Week 2016 is an initiative of the Diocese of Kerry Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee [JPIC]. The committee raises awareness of Catholic Social Teaching by encouraging action, by providing resources and building networks with other groups. This year, in response to Pope Francis' letter on the environment, *Laudato Si*, they have chosen **Loss of Biodiversity** as the focus for Earth Week 2016.



Loss of Biodiversity

Biodiversity or biological diversity is the term given to describe the variety of all life on earth. Biodiversity provides humans with food, fresh water and fuel, building materials and even the resources used to develop most modern prescription drugs. For this reason biodiversity can be considered as the very raw material that sustains life on earth. During Earth Week, JPIC invites you to look at how you can stem the loss of biodiversity in your own home and garden, in your local community and in your parish. Together we can make a difference!

“ Living our vocation to be protectors of God 's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; It is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience. ”

Laudato Si# 217

You are already responding to Pope Francis ' challenge to save biodiversity if

You have flowering trees e.g. Alder, Crab Apple;

You plant autumn/winter flowering shrubs;

You have native plant e.g. Hazel, Holly;

You are composting;

You have a pond or water with wildlife in it.



You can do more by:

Avoiding the use of pesticides;

Planting vegetables and herbs;

Using plants native to your area;

Planting a native hedgerow, e.g. Hawthorn, Dog Rose, or Blackthorn;



Installing a water butt to catch rainfall and use it to water your garden;

Making an insect hotel, it improves a garden's biodiversity by providing refuge for pollinators and pest controllers;



Collecting your leaves to make leaf mould for use as compost;

Leaving a wood pile in a shady corner to create a habitat for different species, such as frogs, centipedes, fungi etc.;

Leave some grass unmown!

Well cut lawns may look nice, but they are in fact 'green deserts'.