

Prayers  
to be used in  
conjunction with the  
*Just Water: Climate  
Change in the  
Pacific* series



# CLIMATE CHANGE PRAYER BOOKLET

 **Caritas**  
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development

## Water for All

E te Atua,  
Loving God,  
Thank you for everything that you have given to us.  
We thank you for the food and water we have in the world.  
We pray that you will help us  
to remember those around the world  
who struggle to have enough food;  
who are thirsty and don't have enough water.  
Help us to help others  
to have enough food  
and enough water,  
so that we all have everything we need.  
Amen.



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY NEVAN O'CONNELL - YEAR 7 STUDENT

MAIN COVER IMAGE: ORIGINAL SKETCH BY DONNA DONO - YEAR 8 STUDENT  
A HUGE THANKS TO ALL THE STUDENTS THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND WHO  
PROVIDED THEIR OWN ORIGINAL SKETCHES AND PRAYERS FOR THIS BOOKLET.

## Creation

God of all,  
open our eyes to see you in all that you have created.  
As we think of how great you are,  
move us to help our brothers and sisters and care for the earth that we share.  
Amen.

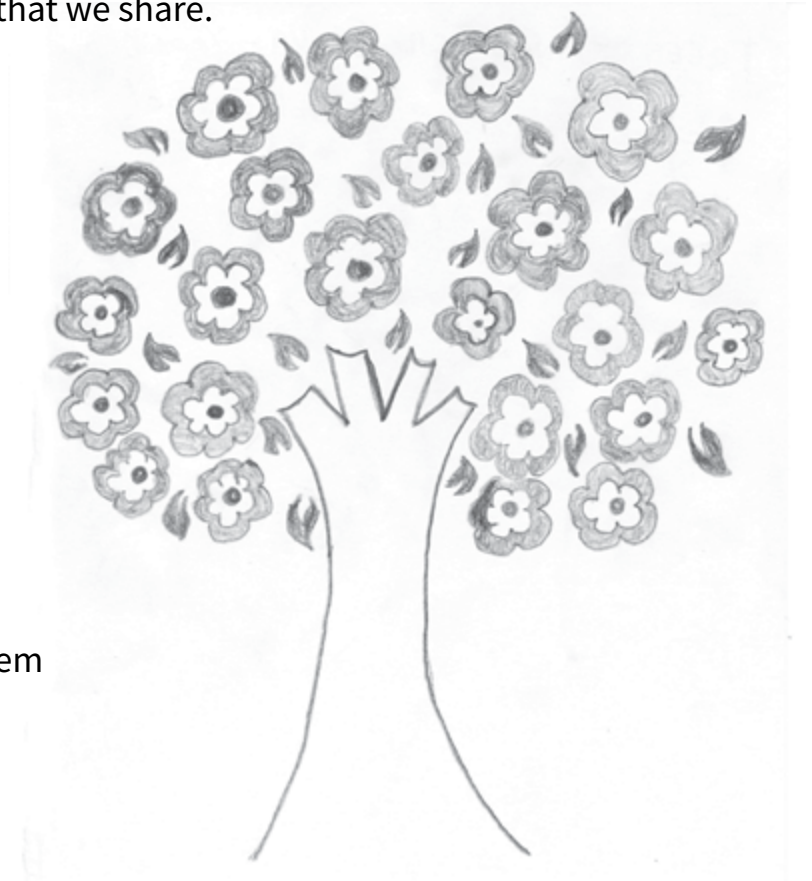
*Adapted from the Global Catholic Climate Movement.*

## Rising Water

E te Atua,  
Please bless those who are suffering and are moving  
because of sea levels rising and bad disasters happening.  
Please bless them and watch over them as they have to move  
to another island because of climate weather change.  
Please Lord, we ask you to take care of them and watch over them  
especially as they can't plant food to eat.  
Amen.

*Cecillia Fuataga, Year 5*

*St Anne's Catholic School, Manurewa*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY ANGELICA SILVA - YEAR 8 STUDENT

## Leaving Home

Loving Father,  
Thank you for families and homes.  
We pray today for everyone who is lonely.  
May they feel your love.  
We remember those who are apart from their family.  
May you bring them comfort.  
We pray for everyone who has been forced to leave their home.  
Help them to remember the good times.  
Go before them to help them find a new home.  
Be a light and a guide.  
Remind us to keep praying for them.  
Amen.



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY SHAUN - YEAR 6 STUDENT

## Starting Again

E te Atua kaha rawa,

May you raise your healing hands  
over those people that are in need,  
like those experiencing climate change in their country.

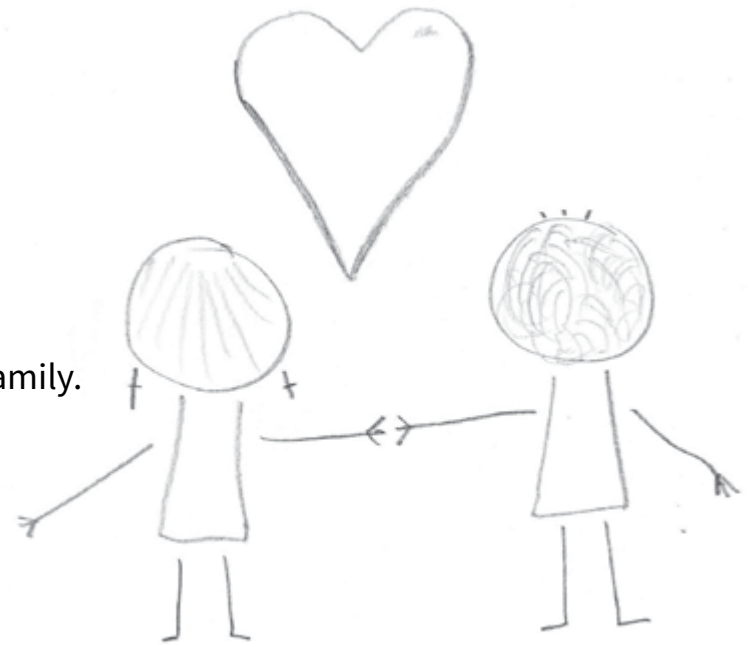
Please comfort those who are moving from their homelands  
because the sea levels are rising.

May you bless them with new homes  
where they will be welcomed by people;  
new homes where they are able to make a living to support their family.

Lord, we also pray that these people  
will hold onto their traditions, language and culture  
so that it can live on in their future generations.  
Amen.

*Christina Bechara, Year 6*

*St Anne's Catholic School, Manurewa*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY AMELIE - YEAR 5 STUDENT



## Water

Creator God,  
we praise You for water's gift of life and sustenance and growth.  
Help us to be worthy stewards of this great gift,  
to make sure that none go thirsty.  
Help us to safeguard its purity, accessibility and beauty.  
We pray in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

*Adapted from Catholic Relief Services.*

## Rising Sea Levels

E te Atua kaha rawa,  
Please look upon the people who are moving  
because of all the natural disasters,  
lands that are sinking into the sea  
and please look after people  
who are suffering from extreme weather events.  
Help those families especially  
as they are finding life hard.  
Our prayer is especially for all people  
to be safe every day,  
just like the life we are living now.  
I ask you Father,  
to save people from all disasters.  
Amen.

*Patricia Lotulelei, Year 6*

*St Anne's Catholic School, Manurewa*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY AMBER BIRD - YEAR 8 STUDENT

## Care for Creation

Dear God,  
Please look after those people who are poor and those who are homeless.  
May you guide those who have lost their homes, to new lands of plenty.  
Lord, we pray for those who are responsible for the pollution in the seas,  
the air and on the land you have created.  
May they know the error of their ways and work towards a new sustainability.  
Amen.

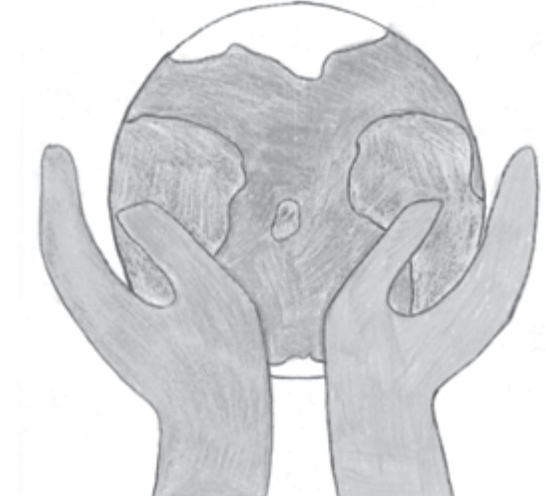
*Toma Oti, Year 6*

*St Anne's Catholic School, Manurewa*

## Take Action

God of life,  
Help us to see that your gifts are meant to be shared by all, not just exploited by a few.  
Lead us to take action to make a change not just for ourselves, but for all creation.  
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

*Adapted from the Global Catholic Climate Movement.*

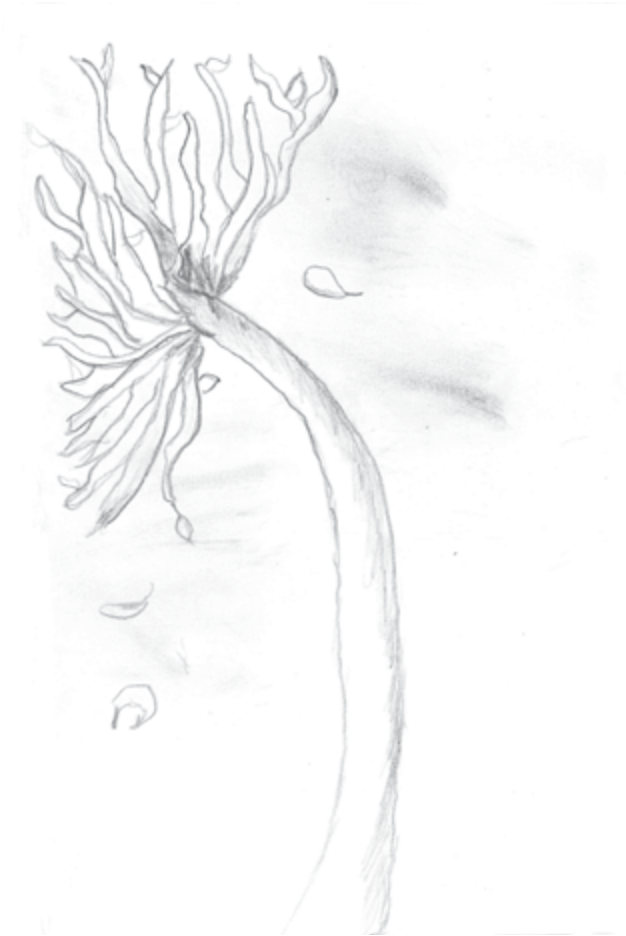


ORIGINAL SKETCH BY TAMARALEE RODWELL - YEAR 8 STUDENT

## Your World

God, you created the world with your dream of what it could be.  
You dreamed of people and plants, animals and air,  
all living in right relationship to you and to each other.  
Today we offer to you our dream for a world  
which is not threatened by a changing climate  
which hurts our atmosphere,  
which wounds the poorest and most vulnerable,  
which leaves this wonderful planet in poor shape  
for future generations.  
Help us to listen to your voice,  
your Word, and your creation.

*Adapted from Dream for the World,  
Center for Ministry Development and Catholic Coalition for Climate Change.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY KATIE - YEAR 7 STUDENT



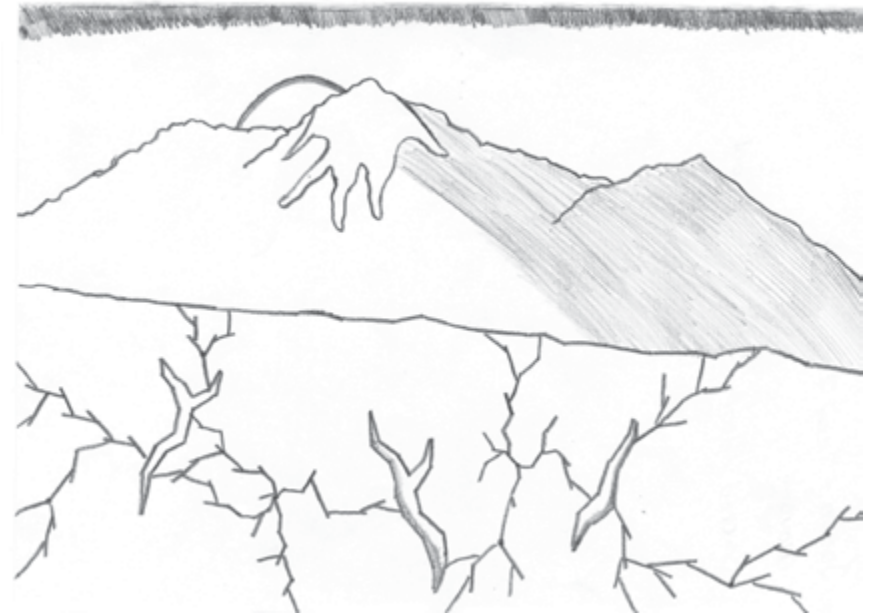
## Prayer of Stewardship

God of all creation,  
at the beginning of time  
you placed a single mandate on humankind:  
to be stewards of creation;  
to replenish and nurture through all generations  
What you have made.

We kneel today amid that same creation.  
A world that is, in many ways, more splendid than ever  
But, in too many ways, scarred beyond recognition.

Turn us from our thoughtlessness.  
Help our touch be light.  
Help us renew the world that supports us.  
So we may once more know creation as it was in the beginning.  
Amen.

*Adapted from Catholic Relief Services.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY JACOB - YEAR 7 STUDENT

## Water and Baptism

Loving God,  
thank you for the gift of water.

We pray that each time we wash our hands, pour water into a glass or water the garden,  
we will say a prayer of gratitude for clean water  
and be reminded to act and pray on behalf of those who live without it.

We pray that each time we bless ourselves with holy water or see the baptismal font,  
we will be inspired to live out our baptismal call to follow Jesus' example  
and uphold the dignity of others,  
especially those who live without clean water.

We pray all this (signal everyone to dip their fingers in the holy water and make the sign of the cross together)  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

*Adapted from Catholic Relief Services.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY EMILY MAHONEY - YEAR 8 STUDENT

## Taking Time

Almighty God,  
thank you for the gift of your creation.  
As we journey through life help us to take time to appreciate it,  
from each sunrise to sunset;  
to celebrate the intricacies of your handiwork,  
admire the changing of the seasons,  
recognising that this is a gift.  
Remind us to care deeply that as our climate is changing,  
future generations may not have the same luxury of enjoyment,  
as people around the world now, are already suffering from the effects of climate change.  
May our actions reflect a love for your world and justice for those affected.  
Help us to share the same dream of a world free from poverty.  
Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer written by Christian Aid.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY MICOLE - YEAR 8 STUDENT

## Creation

O Lord,  
grant us the grace  
to grow deeper  
in our respect of,  
and care for your Creation.

Help us to recognize  
the sacredness of all your creatures  
as signs of your wondrous love.

Spark our imagination  
so we might find new ways  
to live harmoniously  
with creation  
and new technologies,  
to reverse the damage  
we have done to your Creation.

Help us turn from the selfish consumption  
of resources meant for all,  
and to see the impacts of our choices  
on the poorest and most vulnerable on our planet.  
Amen.

*Adapted from Catholic Relief Services.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY KATIE - YEAR 7 STUDENT

## May it Please You

God of all living things,  
on the third day, you brought forth vegetation:  
every plant that bears seed,  
every tree that bears fruit.  
You saw that it was good and it pleased you.  
How creation must have danced to know of your pleasure.

May our stewardship of this garden so please you.  
May our protection of your fertile ground so please you.  
May our just treatment of all who labour in your fields so please you.  
May our sharing of and care for your life giving water so please you.  
May our sharing of the knowledge of cultivation so please you.  
May our sharing of the fruits of our harvest so please you.

Lord, even before you breathed us into existence,  
this garden you created – unfathomably bountiful,  
unutterably beautiful.  
And in your love for us, thought to place us among it.

Make us worthy of this earth:  
in what we sow and what we reap,  
in what we plant and what we prune.  
So that when that last harvest comes,  
when we are called to stand before you,  
it may once more be said of this people:  
“He saw that it was good.”  
Amen.

*Adapted from Catholic Relief Services.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY MICOLE - YEAR 8 STUDENT



## Water for Life

God of Creation,  
 on the third day you caused water to fall from the heavens.  
 And it was good.  
 Ever since, water has been essential to our life,  
 to our health and to our very existence.  
 Our rivers and streams teem with life.  
 Our forests, and farms and meadows,  
 even the cracks in the sidewalk,  
 are rich in vegetation because of the rain you send down  
 and the springs that you raise up.  
 We are grateful for this gift.  
 We are humbled by it.  
 And sometimes we are fearful of it.  
 We acknowledge water's strength,  
 its ability to flood, to devastate,  
 to drown, even as we praise you for water's gift of life,  
 and sustenance and growth.  
 Help us to be worthy stewards of this great gift,  
 to make sure that none go thirsty.  
 Help us to safeguard its purity, accessibility and beauty.  
 We pray in Jesus' name.  
 Amen.

*Adapted from Catholic Relief Services.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY HANNAH HICKEY - YEAR 8 STUDENT

## Walk Lightly

Each leaf, each petal,  
each grain, each person,  
sings your praises,  
Creator God.

Each creature on the earth,  
all the mountains and great seas show your glory,  
Spirit of Love.

And yet the hand of greed has patented  
and plundered your splendour,  
has taken and not shared your gift,  
has lived as owner of the earth, not guest.

And so the ice is cracked  
the rivers dry,  
the valleys flooded  
and the snowcaps melt.

God our Father,  
show us how to step gently,  
how to live simply,  
how to walk lightly  
with respect and love  
for all that you have made.

Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer written by Linda Jones/CAFOD.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY COURTNEY HARLAND - YEAR 8 STUDENT

## A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God,  
 you are present in the whole universe  
 and in the smallest of your creatures.  
 You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
 Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
 that we may protect life and beauty.  
 Fill us with peace, that we may live  
 as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
 O God of the poor,  
 help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
 so precious in your eyes.  
 Bring healing to our lives,  
 that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
 that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
 Touch the hearts  
 of those who look only for gain  
 at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
 Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
 to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
 to recognize that we are profoundly united  
 with every creature  
 as we journey towards your infinite light.  
 We thank you for being with us each day.  
 Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
 for justice, love and peace.

*Prayer of Pope Francis, Laudato Si'*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY SOPHIE HUNTER - YEAR 8 STUDENT

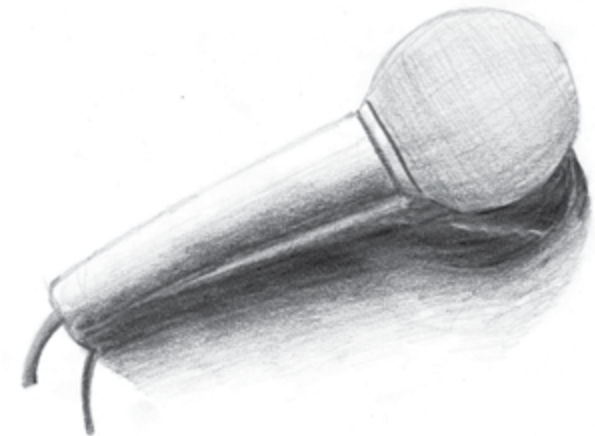
## Climate Change

Your creative love, O God, brought forth our world,  
 once a garden where humans  
 could taste and see the goodness of the earth.  
 But our eyes have been blinded  
 to the beauty of Creation,  
 to the knowledge that it is Gift,  
 one given so that all humans may live and flourish.  
 Our indifference changes the world;  
 even mighty glaciers weep now.  
 Our disregard for our sisters and brothers  
 threatens the very skies above us.  
 Our passivity begins to choke us, and  
 the excess of our lifestyles blot out the sun.  
 Call us to renewal, to stewardship;  
 call us to solidarity to the earth and all its creatures.  
 Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains to us;  
 give us new spiritual energy to become active  
 in loving the world through our daily life;  
 give us new voices to speak out for environmental solidarity.  
 Bless us again with the gift  
 of being a joyful community;  
 bless us with a love of your Creation  
 and we will glimpse your Eden once again.

*Prayer written by Jane Deren/Education for Justice.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY MICOLE - YEAR 8 STUDENT



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY EMILY MAHONEY - YEAR 8 STUDENT



## Help us Lord

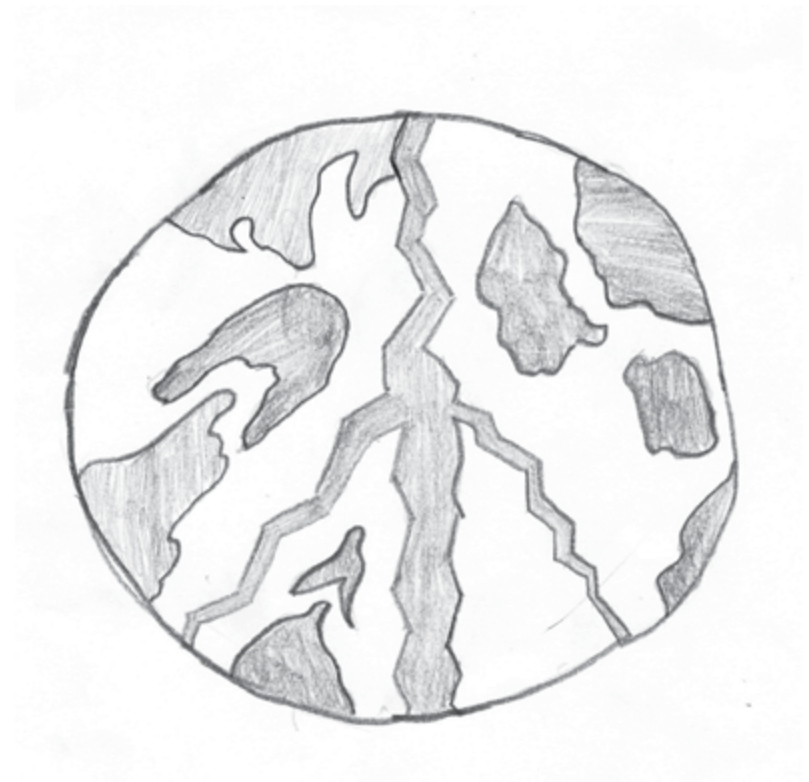
Lord God,  
We thank you for the gift of life.  
We thank and praise you for the mystery of creation.  
We know that you are in us,  
and we in you.

Guide us, therefore,  
in our efforts  
to hand on the earth to future generations,  
so that others can seek to understand  
your will and purpose in the world,  
bring your love to perfection  
and magnify your holy name.

Help us overcome godlessness with love.  
Help us support and protect  
the victims of climate change everywhere;  
those who've lost  
their homes or livelihoods  
to the ravages of famine, fire and flood.

Teach us to live in peace  
And harmony with all creation.  
Lord, in your name,  
Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer from St Alban's Church in Copenhagen.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY ETHAN - YEAR 7 STUDENT



## Climate Justice Prayers of Intercession

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for the waters of the world,  
that they may be restored to health and filled with bountiful life.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for the Earth's soil,  
that its richness be protected to ensure abundant harvests for all.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for all creatures who share Earth with us,  
that their beauty and diversity will be preserved.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world  
who have been and will be directly impacted by the effects of climate change.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for future generations, may they learn from our environmental irresponsibility,  
and be good stewards living simply and in harmony with all your creation.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for all human beings, that we will be filled with a spirit of concern for the future of our environment,  
bring an end to the exploitation of the earth's scarce resources,  
and live as responsible stewards protecting and respecting this gift of creation God has placed in our hands.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

We pray for wisdom for decision makers in Aotearoa and around the world,  
that wealthy nations may make amends for the harm they have done to the environment  
and find creative and just solutions to protect all of creation and ensure climate justice.

Response: God of Creation, help us to respect and renew the Earth.

*Adapted from Education for Justice and Caritas Australia.*

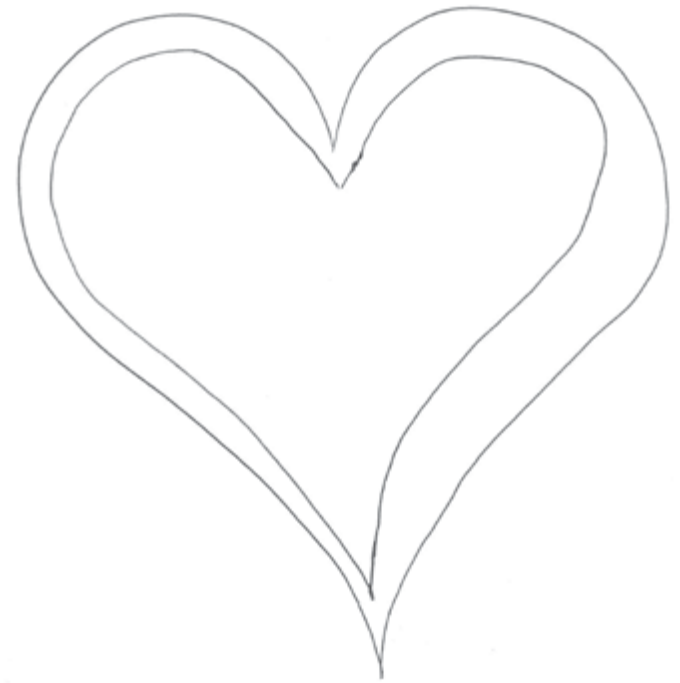


ORIGINAL SKETCH BY JOSHUA - YEAR 8 STUDENT

## Relocation due to Climate Change

Creator God, you have blessed our sisters and brothers in the Pacific with lands and seas which are bountiful and marked by great beauty. Within our own consumer driven society, our lifestyles have led to rising sea levels and changing climate which cause great environmental damage and threaten the very existence of their island homes. Give us eyes that see the damage, minds that understand the problems and hearts that reach out in great generosity to support our sisters and brothers as they take action to address their great concerns. May we listen to them and work with them with respect and commitment. Give us new hearts so that our sisters and brothers can face the challenges of climate change with a new hope. Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer written by the Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.*



ORIGINAL SKETCH BY IZZY VALENTINE - YEAR 8 STUDENT