

# Prayer for Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

## Theme: Care of Creation

**Focus:** Have a plant or flower/s in the centre of the table. Each person says one thing that helps sustain the plant or flower/s.

### Opening Prayer:

Father, we praise you for all you created. Everything came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

### Reading: Genesis 1:26-31

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.'

So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good...

1. Take a minute to reflect on "have dominion over..."
2. What do you think that entails?
3. Does it apply to our roles? How?

### Prayer of Intercession:

**Response:** Whakarongo mai rā kia matou

We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

E te Ariki. **R**

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

E te Ariki. **R**

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them. E te Ariki. **R**

We ask protection for the elderly and vulnerable from the risks of the virus. E te Ariki. **R**

Personal intentions... E te Ariki... **R**

### Closing prayer: Pope Francis's Prayer for the Earth.

**All:** 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. Amen.