

PRAYERS

(from John Boyd-Boland ofm)

1. Almighty God, creator and carer of our earth, may the sun shine on our farms encouraging life and giving warmth.

May the waters come to irrigate the earth for new growth that our rivers may be full.

May all our farmers be blessed by God, and in using the land in a compassionate and sensitive way, may they be aware as custodians of the land of its fragility and precious nature. This prayer we make in Jesus' name. Amen

2. God of extravagant mercy you have gifted us with this land in all its beauty. May we accept this gift in all humility.

It is a gift not just for us but for all of our sisters and brothers, and a harvest meant for all. May we never be too mean to give of its bounty, and never too proud to receive of its goodness, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. We thank you Lord for creating the world, and for preserving it for us.

We thank you for the regular return of day and night, and of the seasons, and for the dependability of nature and time.

Let us not misuse your gift, but as stewards of your creation, treasure this gift, that the poor may be fed, and the hungry may be nourished.

This prayer we make in the name of Jesus who came to us as the Bread of Life. Amen

4. Lord our God, we come to you deeply grateful for your creation. As we look about us, we marvel at the beauty and majesty of the ocean, of the grandeur of the mountains, of the tranquillity of the creeks and lakes, the energy of grey storms, and the flooding rains.

May our response in thanksgiving be in our reverence and care of all that you have given to us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

5. In your mercy forgive us, Lord, for our sins against nature. Forgive us our indifference to recycling and conservation efforts, and for all those times when we defile the land which is your gift to us. As an act of love and gratitude Lord, let us not fail to give you glory for beauty of our world, and your constant care of us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

6. God of Jesus, Father and Mother of us all, you have created and blessed the earth that it may supply our needs.

May sun and rain and earth combine to give us the fruits of the field, and may human beings and animals be partners in our world, to give us sustenance in our sharing and care of creation. Amen.

7. May God bless those who are sowers of the seed, may God bless those who harvest the grain, may God bless the baking of the bread, may there be smiles for the shopkeepers in the buying and the selling, may there be fellowship and friendship for the meal, and may the hungry be satisfied, and Your will on earth be done now and always. Amen.

8. Eternal God, whose creation we see in the night sky, the trees and the light on the morning grass, whose world we hear in the cry of the seagull, and the pounding of the surf, who created the flowing tides and the sands on the shore of the sea. Protect us all in the power and turbulence of nature, that we may praise your wonder, for ever and ever. Amen