

E&O P3 RERC 1-01a

I am discovering God's precious gift of life and reflect on how this reveals God's love for me.



Ask the children to bring in a leaf, twig, stone or flower that they have found.

In Circle time, give thanks to God for his creation.

If you have a nature area in the school grounds, you could prepare for this task by a guided walk, perhaps using magnifying glasses to inspect God's creation more closely.

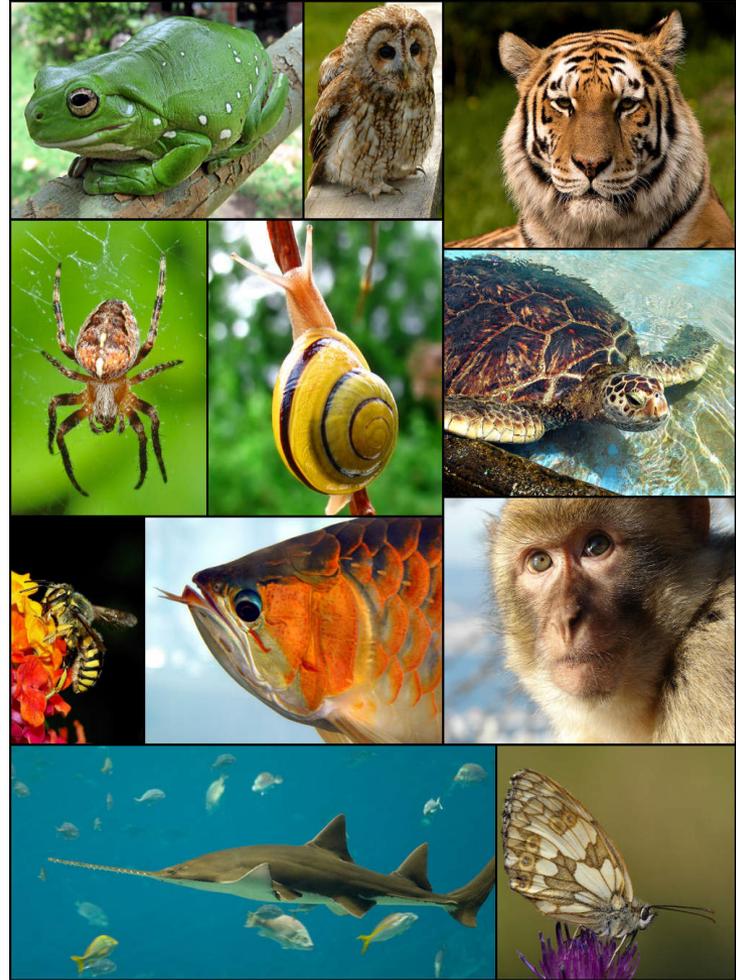
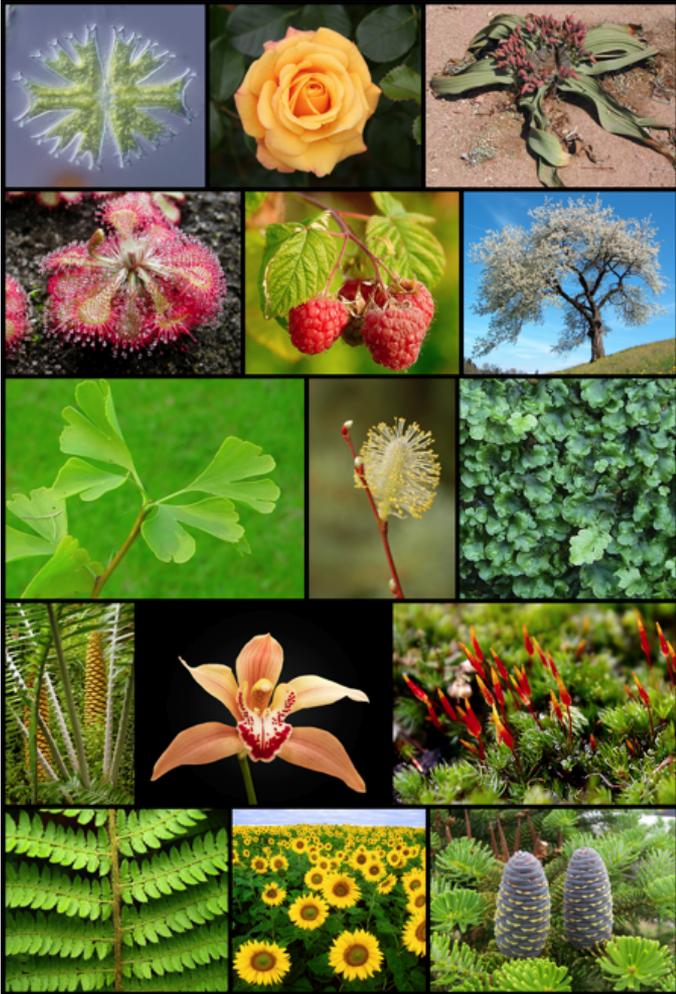
Make a display in your sacred space.

Core learning:

I understand that God's creation shows us something of his truth, goodness, beauty and glory and that God intends us to share all of this with him. (CCC 319)

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Core learning:

I can marvel at God's precious gift of life by observing the great diversity of plant and animal life created by God (Genesis 1: 11-13 & 20-25) and I can help to care for it.

Then God said,  
'Let the earth put forth vegetation:  
plants yielding seed,  
and fruit trees of every  
kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.'

And it was so.

The earth brought forth vegetation:  
plants yielding seed of every kind,  
and trees of every kind bearing fruit  
with the seed in it.

And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening  
and there was morning,  
the third day.

Ask the children to discuss in pairs their favourite fruits and describe which sorts of seeds are in it. Take photographs for a class storybook. If possible cut open an apple, melon, avocado, pear or grape to demonstrate. Cut up and eat the fruit, giving thanks to God for his creation.



*The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.*

*Genesis 1.12*

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'

So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.'

And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.



Ask pupils to describe which birds they have seen in the playground or at home. Which birds are their favourites. Google different birds on request. Thank God for them



And God said,  
'Let the earth bring forth  
living creatures of every kind:  
cattle and creeping things and  
wild animals of the earth of every kind.

' And it was so.

God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind,  
and the cattle of every kind,  
and everything that creeps  
upon the ground of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.



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Saint Francis is called the little poor man of Assisi.

He was born in the year 1182 in the town of Assisi in Italy. His father was a very wealthy merchant of Assisi.

Francis was very joyful, soft-hearted and loving by nature, so he had many friends.

All the noble men's sons were his companions.



Core learning:

I have investigated the life of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

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Francis spent a large amount of his wealth on himself.

He used to drink and party with the young princes of the land.

One day while joking and laughing with his friends Francis was approached by a beggar who came along crying for alms, or charity.

Francis, who was very kind, gave whatever he had in his pocket to the beggar.

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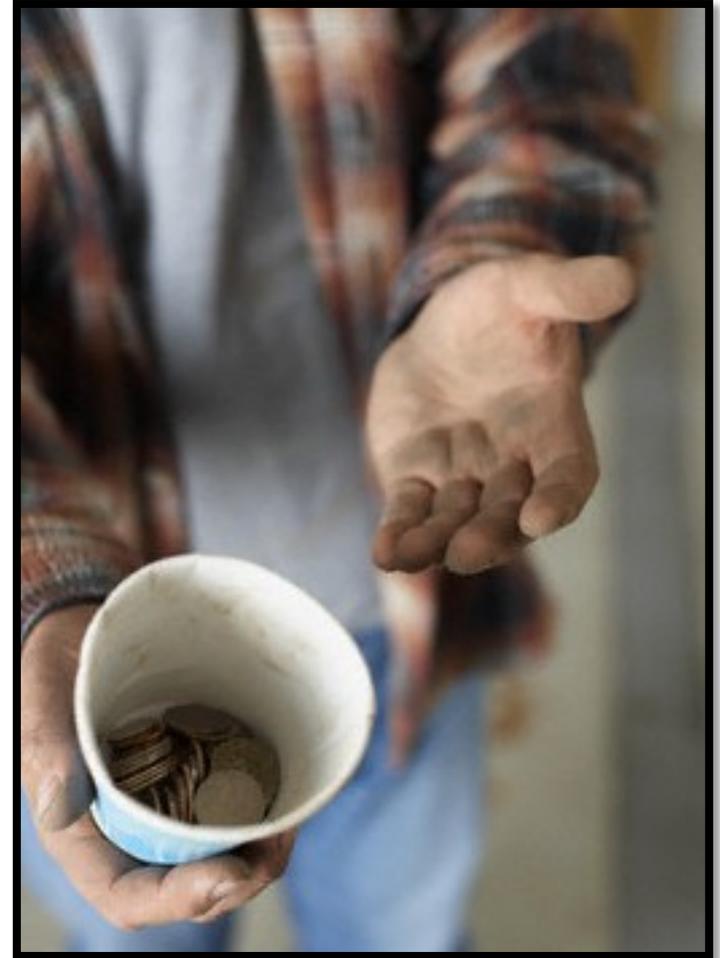
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His companions mocked him for his charitable act.

The sight of the beggar set him thinking about the poverty and misery of a selfish life and he began to give a lot of money to the poor.

His father thought that Francis was crazy wasting his money and scolded him.

Francis' parents were disappointed and became angry with him.

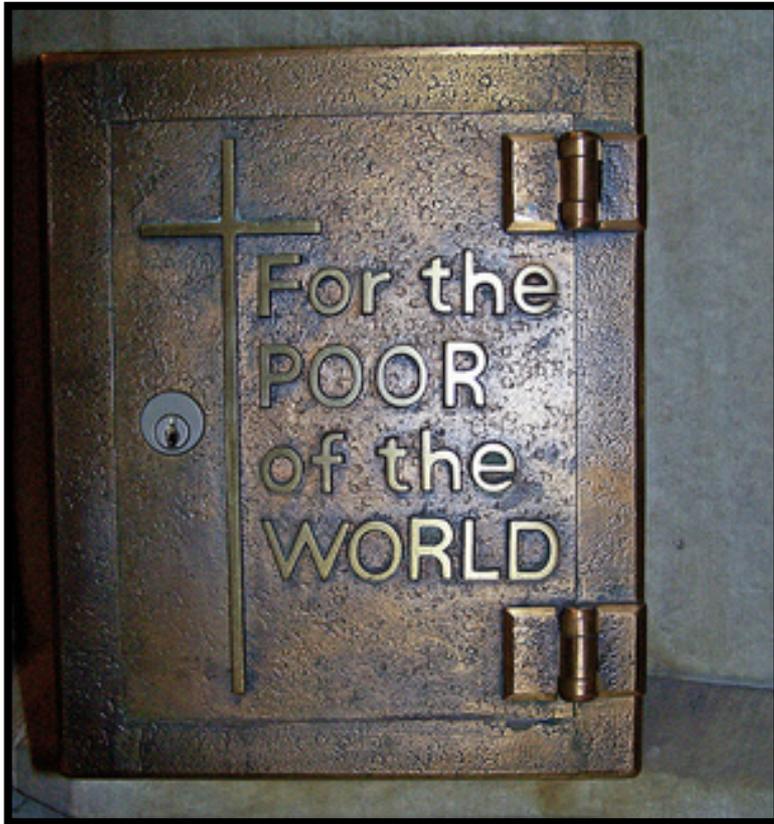


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Francis gave up his old ways, threw away his expensive clothes and began to serve the greater good of living things, people and animals.

He distributed clothes, goods and money to the poor. His father was very much annoyed at his son.

He said, "Is this the gratitude you show to me ? I worked hard and saved a lot of wealth which you are now wasting it on these poor people".

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With great patience, Francis began to live a life of simplicity wearing simple clothing and eating simple food.

Living in a cave in the mountains of Assisi Francis spent his time in prayer and meditation for two years.

Some kind people gave him food, but very often he had nothing to eat at all.

He became very close to God.

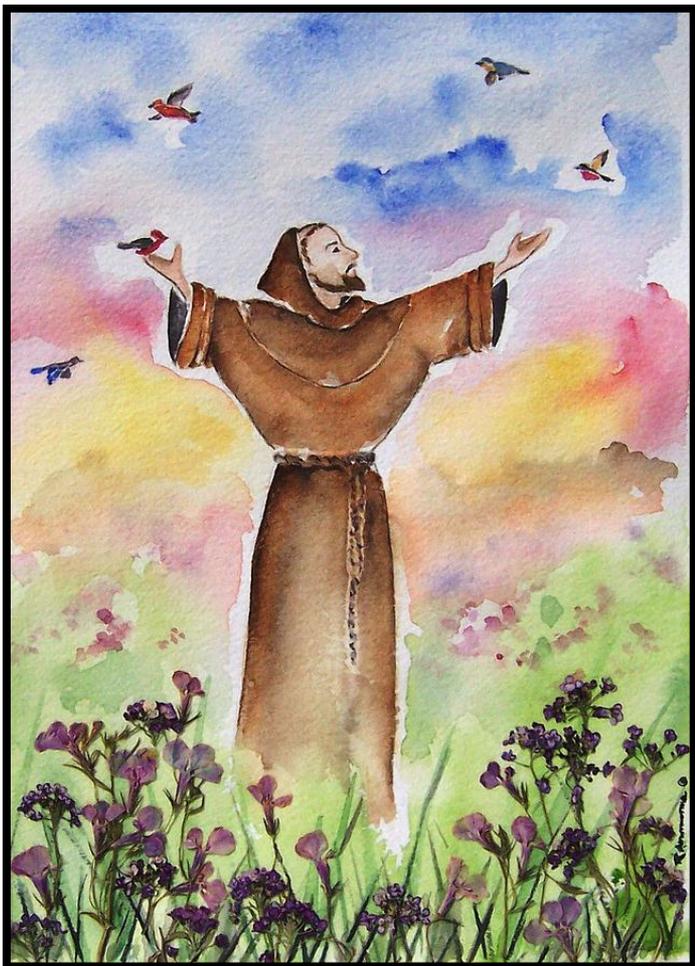


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Francis was very humble and loved all of God's creatures.

He loved birds animals, plants, trees and nature itself. He loved the lonely and the people who were left out.

He treated the birds, the beasts and all beings as brothers and sisters.

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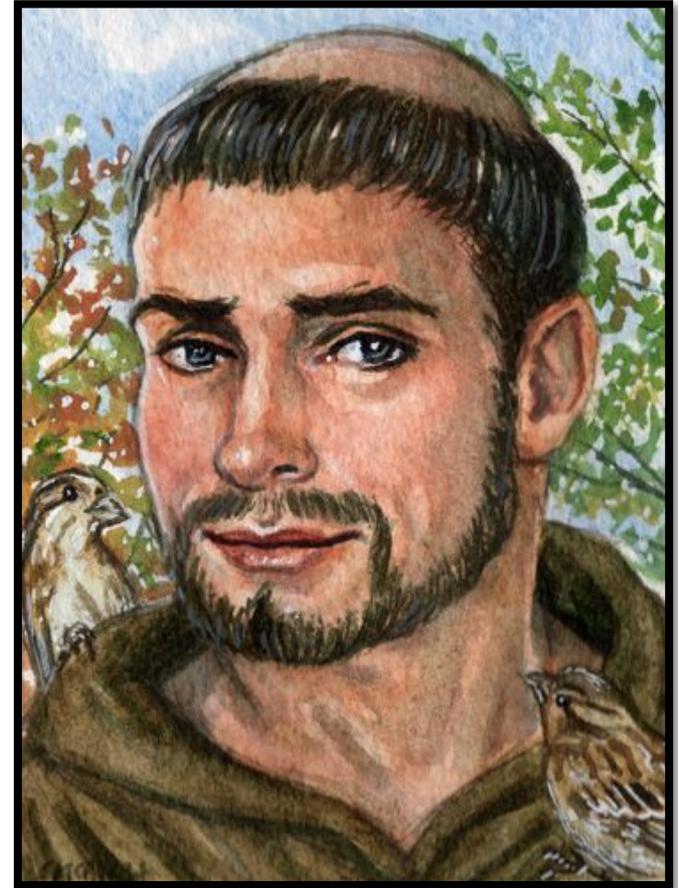
**I am discovering God's precious gift of life and reflect on how this reveals God's love for me.**

The gospel of kindness and love of Francis soon spread all over Europe and earned for him the name of St. Francis.

St. Francis collected many followers and founded the Order of Franciscans.

The followers of St. Francis built a beautiful church round him on the hill of Assisi, the hill he so dearly loved.

The influence of St. Francis and the beauty of his life live on until this day.

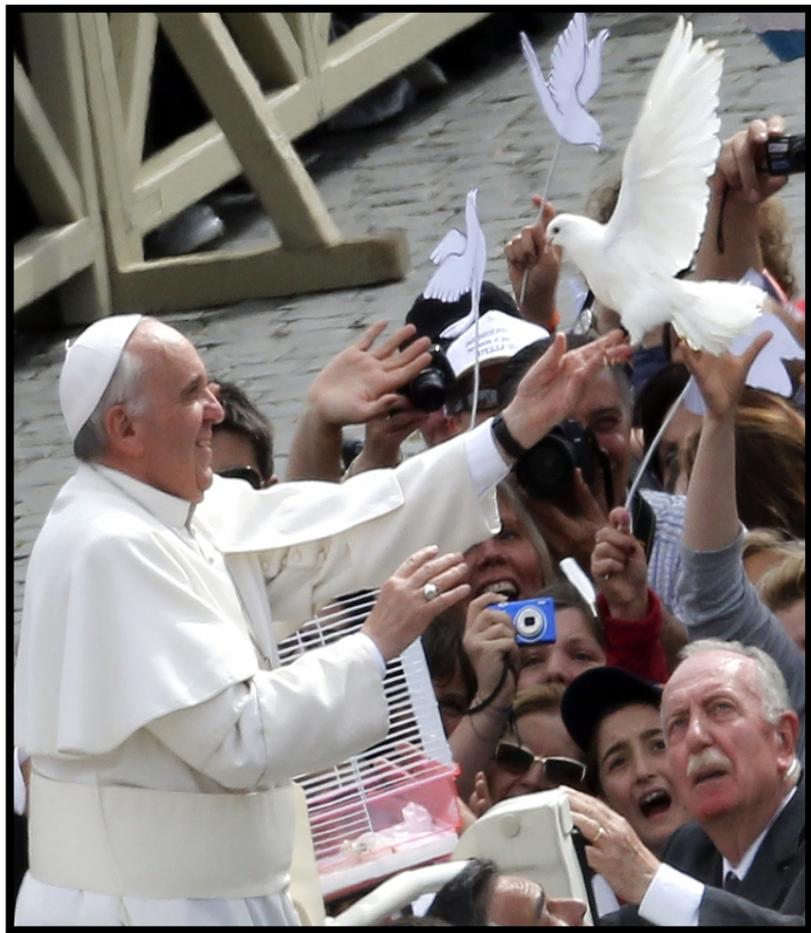


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You may have an eco -schools group in your school.

You might like to dedicate your Eco work to St Francis who loved and cared for all of God's creation as you do.

Our new Pope, the leader of the Catholic Church,  
loves the poor and all living things  
and chose to be called  
Pope Francis  
After St Francis of Assisi.

St Francis is the patron saint of Ecology.

Core learning:

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How many different kinds of birds can you spot in this stained glass image of St Francis of Assisi?

Do you know any of their names?

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Take a nature walk in a park with your class.

Try to see the beauty of God's creation as St Francis did.

List the plants and animals that you see.

In Circle Time, thank God for all you see.

Core learning:

I recognise that St Francis' love of Jesus led him to contemplate the mystery of the Creator through his creation, and we can do the same.

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This is the Cross of San Damiano.

St Francis was praying before it when he heard Jesus speak to his heart.

He was given the mission to rebuild the Church.

All Franciscans treasure a similar Mission cross.

Discuss with a friend how you can be like St Francis.

Core learning:

I recognise that St Francis' love of Jesus led him to contemplate the mystery of the Creator through his creation, and we can do the same.

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Pray the Canticle of the creatures:

Make a sound picture of the weather;

Devise dance and movement to enact the canticle of the Creatures.

Use joyful music to dance to.

Write down a line from the prayer and illustrate with a picture.

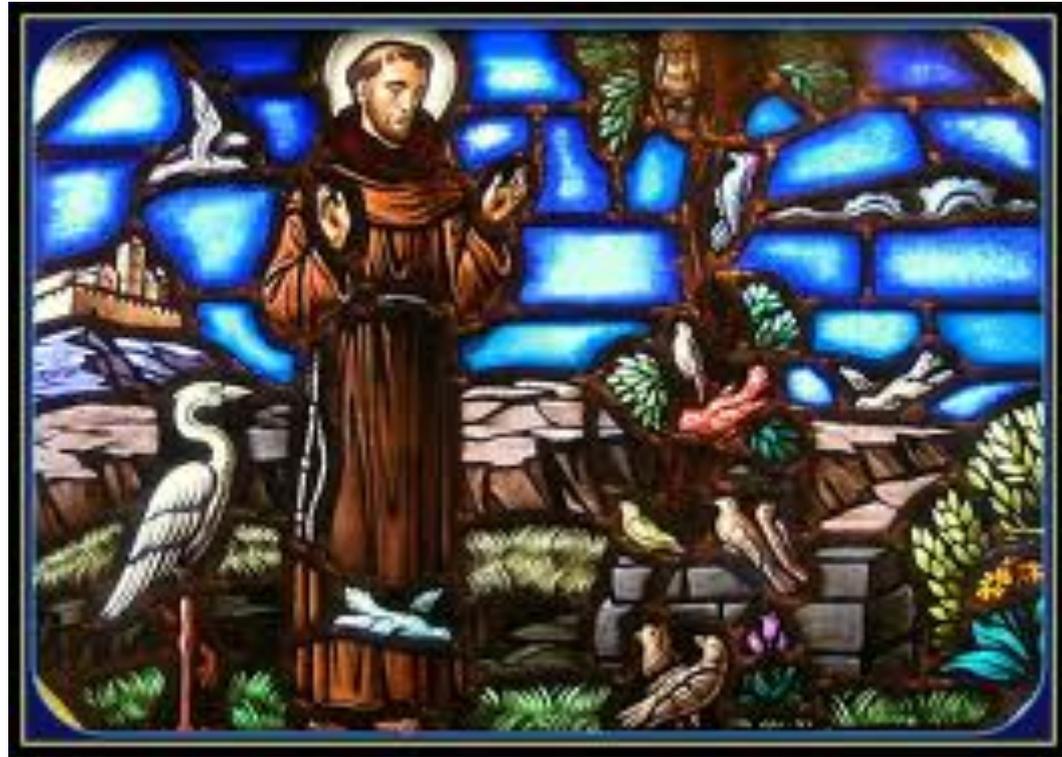
As a class devise a collage of the Canticle of the Creatures for your classroom wall.

Core learning:

I can hear, read, and pray St Francis' Canticle of the Creatures and, like St Francis, I can give praise to God the Creator in a variety of prayerful ways, e.g., writing, music, dance, drama or art.

Most High,  
all-powerful,  
good Lord,  
all praise is yours,  
all glory, all honour,  
and all blessing.

To you, alone,  
Most High,  
do they belong.  
No mortal lips are  
worthy to pronounce  
your name.



All praise be yours, my Lord, through all you have made,  
and first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day;  
and through whom  
you give us light.

How beautiful is he,  
how radiant in all his  
splendor;  
Of you, Most High,  
he bears the likeness.



All Praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon  
and the stars;  
in the heavens you have made them,  
bright, and precious, and fair.



Sister Moon Window



All praise be yours, my Lord,  
through Brothers wind and air,  
and fair and stormy,  
all the weather's moods,  
by which you cherish all that you have made.

All praise be yours, my Lord,  
through Sister Water,  
so useful, humble, precious and pure.



All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom you brighten up the night.



How beautiful is he, how cheerful!  
Full of power and strength.

All praise be yours, my Lord,  
through our Sister Mother Earth,



who sustains us and governs us,  
and produces various fruits  
with colored flowers  
and herbs.

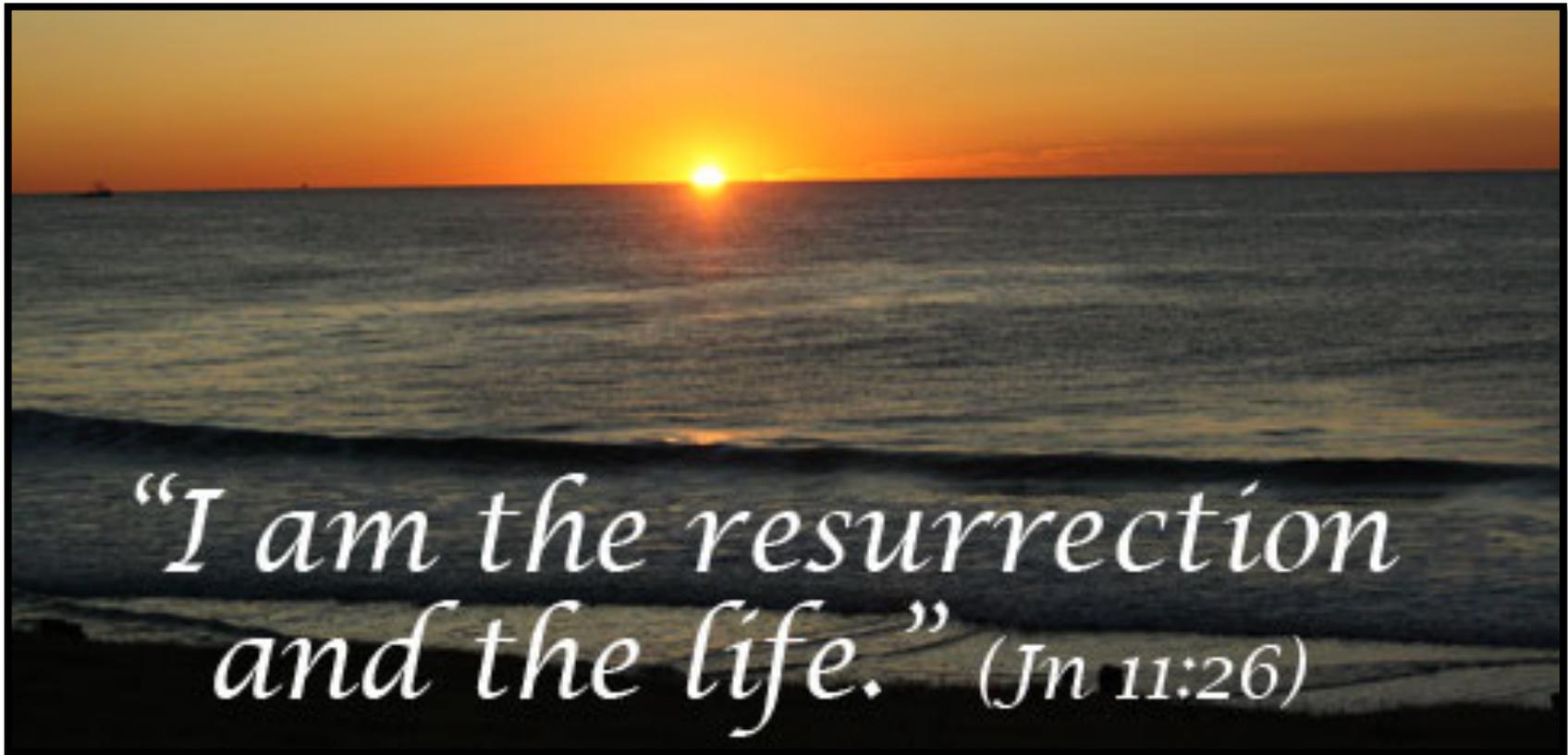
All praise be yours, my Lord,  
through those who grant pardon for love of you;  
through those who endure sickness and trial.



Happy are those who endure in peace,  
By You, Most High, they will be crowned.



All praise be yours, my Lord,  
through Sister Death,  
From whose embrace no mortal can escape.



Happy those she finds doing your will!  
The second death can do them no harm.



Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks  
And serve him with great humility.

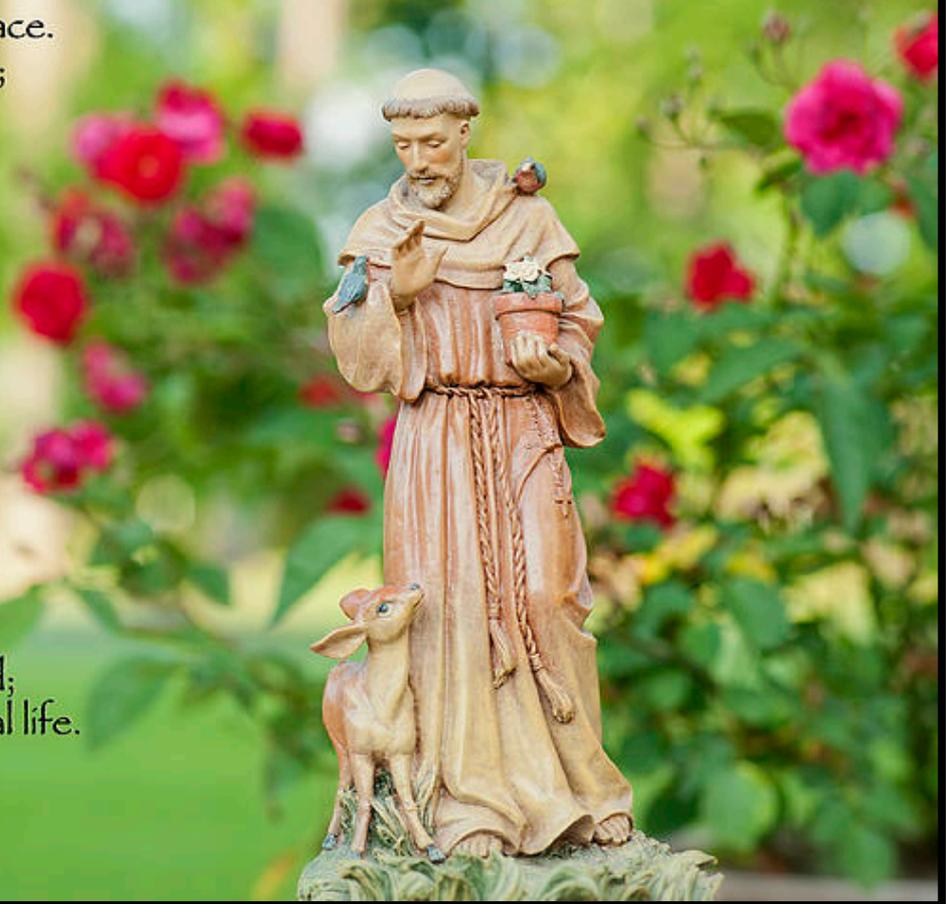
## Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen



Read each line aloud, and ask pupils to repeat it.  
Make this part of your class prayers for a week.

Learn the hymn:  
Make me a channel of your peace.



Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me  
bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt,  
true faith in you.

Chorus:

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life,  
let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born  
to eternal life.