

A prayer to deepen our wonder at the gift of life

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. *(From Laudato Si')*

The text of this leaflet is available in large print: www.dayforlife.org

The proceeds of the Day for Life collection to be held in parishes in England and Wales on Sunday 19 June 2016 assist the work of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

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Day for Life is celebrated yearly by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. It is a Day dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. Catholic Trust for England and Wales, 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX. A company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. Company No. 4734592. Registered Charity No. 1097482.



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Faced with the sacredness of life and of the human person, and before the marvels of the universe, **wonder** is the only appropriate attitude.

Letter of St John Paul II to Artists 1999





Last year was the hottest on record.

In a small village in India, Jejabba braved the midday heat to take his cows to shelter by a mango grove. He arrived home dehydrated and died before he could reach hospital. He was 63.

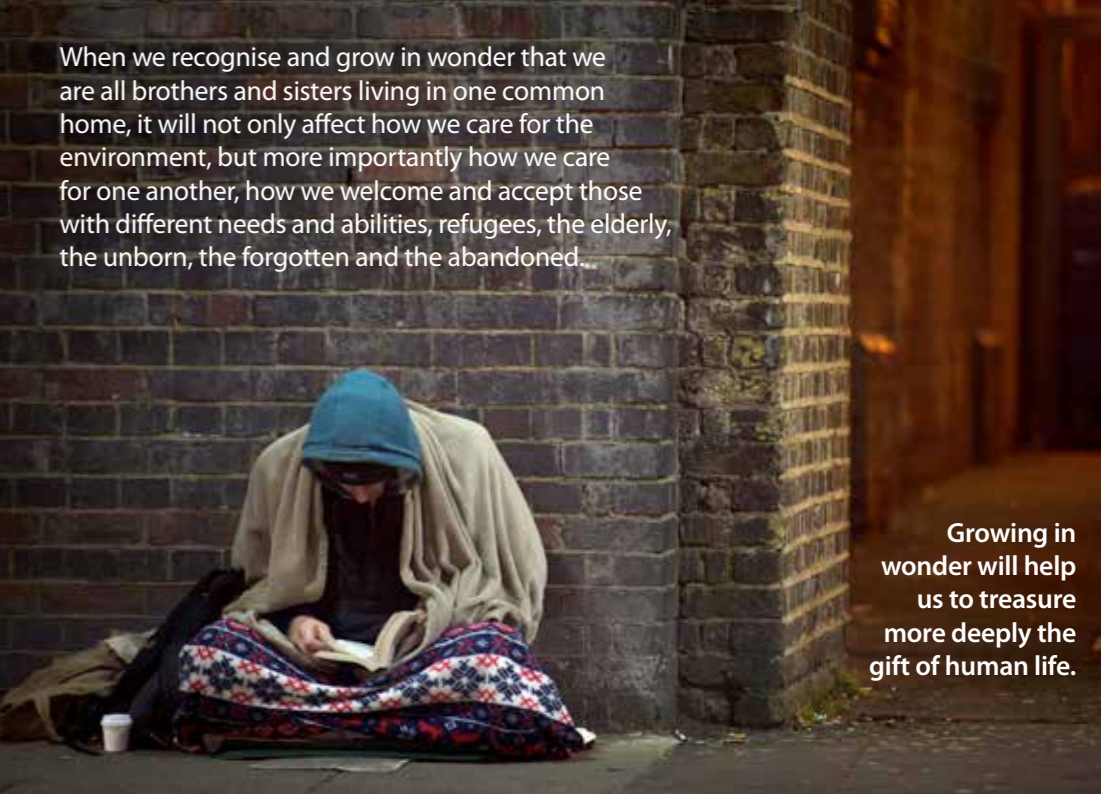
Jejabba is not alone. Over 4,500 people in India and Pakistan died during last summer's heatwave. Rising temperatures are making droughts more severe and floods more intense. The poor always suffer most.



Last year, Pope Francis published his important encyclical on the relationship between God's holy people and creation - *Laudato Si'*. The Pope reminded us powerfully that we are one human family sharing a common home, dependent upon one another and the whole of creation. It is our duty to "pay special attention to the most vulnerable." He said,

"Neglecting to monitor the harm done to nature and the environmental impact of our decisions is only the most striking sign of a disregard for the message contained in the structures of nature itself. When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 117



When we recognise and grow in wonder that we are all brothers and sisters living in one common home, it will not only affect how we care for the environment, but more importantly how we care for one another, how we welcome and accept those with different needs and abilities, refugees, the elderly, the unborn, the forgotten and the abandoned...

Growing in wonder will help us to treasure more deeply the gift of human life.