

World Bee Day

May 20

Why a World Bee Day?

By observing World Bee Day each year, we can raise awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today. World Bee Day has been celebrated since 2018, thanks to the efforts of the Government of Slovenia, that led the UN General Assembly to declare 20 May as World Bee Day.

The date for this observance was chosen because it was the birthday of Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern apiculture. Janša's family were beekeepers in Slovenia, where it is an important, long-standing agricultural activity.

Today bees, pollinators, and many other insects are in decline. World Bee Day provides an opportunity for all of us to promote actions that will protect and enhance pollinators and their habitats, improve their abundance and diversity, and support the sustainable development of beekeeping.

Bee Facts

- Honeybees can help a family escape hunger and poverty.
- As pollinators, honeybees double fruit and vegetable yields which give a family additional income. Which they can use to expand their farming.
- For centuries bees, among the hardest working creatures on the planet, have benefited people, plants, and the environment. By carrying pollen from one flower to another, bees and other pollinators enable not only the production of an abundance of fruits, nuts, and seeds, but also more variety and better quality, contributing to food security and nutrition.
- Pollinators such as bees, birds, and bats, affect 35 percent of the world's crop production, increasing outputs and producing plant-derived medicines.
- Three out of four crops across the globe producing fruits or seeds for human use as food depend, at least in part, on pollinators.

Prayer

Holy Creator,

Thank you for the life-giving work of bees.

You granted the Israelites a land flowing with milk and honey, and nourished John the Baptist in the wilderness with wild honey.

Bees pollenate plants that produce food so we may not go hungry. Bees provide us with honey and wax which nurture and provide aid in sickness.

Bless the bees with abundant healthy food and nesting sites. Keep them and their children strong and healthy offspring so that their populations be expanded.

We thank you for the bounty that bees provide and ask your protection on them so that they may continue to bless us as part of your creation.

In your name, we pray

Resources and Activities

Short YouTube Videos on the Importance of Bees

<https://www.fao.org/resources/digital-reports/bees>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9zUsEIn8lg>

Interactive Bee Quiz with additional Facts (Food and Agricultural Organization, United Nations)

<https://www.fao.org/resources/digital-reports/bees>

Busy Bee Activity Pack (Heifer International)

<https://media.heifer.org/What You Can Do/Busy-Bee-Activity-Pack.pdf>

How to Make a Bee Friendly Garden

<https://www.heifer.org/blog/windowsill-bee-garden.html>

Purchase a beehive from ELCA Good Gifts

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/honeybees>