



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF POLYNESIA
OF THE
ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND AND POLYNESIA
Serving the islands of Aotearoa, Fiji, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Anglican Diocese of Polynesia Marked UN International Environment Day with Comprehensive Community Engagement

The Anglican Diocese of Polynesia commemorated the United Nations International Environment Day, emphasizing the critical global issue of plastic pollution and advocating for responsible environmental stewardship.

Aligned with its theological and moral commitment to preserving God's creation, the Diocese partnered with the No Pelesitiki Campaign – Tonga. Under the theme "Reduce, Remove, and Recycle Plastics from Tonga," this initiative represented a strategic and sustained effort addressing significant environmental and ecological challenges posed by plastic waste. Extensive community clean-up operations took place in multiple locations, mobilizing volunteers to remove harmful plastics and rubbish, enhancing local ecosystems, and promoting healthier living environments.

Further, in fostering environmental awareness among younger generations, Team Tonga of the Anglican Mission distributed fruit trees to youth groups across four Anglican parishes. This initiative encouraged active participation in environmental care and highlighted the crucial role of young people in building a sustainable future. The Diocese aimed to nurture an environmentally conscious mindset among youth, ensuring long-term stewardship and ecological responsibility.

Saint John the Baptist Training College actively engaged in the commemoration by hosting educational activities. Faculty, staff, and students participated in environmental sustainability, waste management, and ecological resilience, promoting awareness and actionable strategies for responsible environmental behavior.

All Saints Anglican School, Apia celebrated World Environment Day today (Thursday 5 June 2025) with a major clean up of the school compound (especially plastics) and the launch of a big planting scheme on school grounds (for edible plants and endemic trees) which is part of our whole school year Environment Programme which is dedicated, primarily, to the Oceans (Moana). This will be followed up by the re-launch of our Caring for God's Creations Walkathons which are held once each term to clean up the Apia Seawall Foreshore.

The significance of these initiatives was underscored in the recent Charge by Archbishop Sione Uluilakepa, who articulated the Diocese's profound responsibility to care for the environment. Archbishop Uluilakepa's message reinforced the Diocese's commitment to proactive environmental stewardship, serving as both a spiritual and practical call to action.

As the Diocese marked this year's UN International Environment Day, it welcomed broad community participation and solidarity in these significant efforts. Through collaborative action and shared responsibility, the Diocese aimed to lead by example, showcasing the transformative potential of collective environmental stewardship and fostering a cleaner, healthier future for generations to come.



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