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Based on the gospel for 26 September, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47

"And if your hand should be your downfall, cut it off"

This is a challenging reading, but perhaps it teaches us that there may be times for all of us when we might face difficult choices, painful decisions and discomfort in order to do what is right in our daily lives.

Ivanilde is a mother, grandmother and a farmer, who lives in a small patch of rainforest in one of the most heavily deforested regions of the Brazilian Amazon.

More than once, Ivanilde's home has been ravaged by fires started on land owned by wealthy cattle ranchers. Fires which destroyed the trees and crops which her family rely on to survive.

But she has never given up. For 19 years she has been at the forefront of the struggle to protect our common home. With support from local experts from our church network she has replanted and restored the land. She has also fought a lengthy legal battle for the right to stay and protect the place she calls home.

Even if it is hard, we are called to play our part to protect the earth. And to support others, like Ivanilde, throughout the world as they take action as guardians of creation.

By making whatever sacrifice we are able to now, and by working together, we strive to bring about true hope for the future both of the earth and of generations to come.

Grant us courage, Lord,
as we walk beside all those
who struggle to protect our common home.
Grant us hope, Lord,
and the vision to walk dark paths
in the light of a single sunbeam.
Amen.



Go Green and Give!

Take on a green fundraising challenge and help to tackle poverty and the climate crisis.

[Find out more](#)



Care of creation rosary

Nourish your commitment to care for the earth in the Season of Creation as you listen to and pray along with these joyful mysteries.

[Pray with us](#)



Climate Crisis Appeal

Donate to our appeal and stand alongside communities like Ivanilde's as they care for the earth.

[Donate now](#)

This reflection was written by Catherine Gorman in the Theology team. The prayer is an extract from our [Family Fast Day prayer](#).



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Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road,

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CAFOD

London,
SE1 7JB,