

## LITURGY NOTES

### *for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Season of Creation (or another of your choice)*

*Parishes might choose one particular Sunday in the Season of Creation (1st Sept to 4th Oct) to celebrate the season using these resources, OR spread the ideas, particularly Prayers of the Faithful, Reflections, Songs over all 4 Sundays)*



Prepared by Catholic Earthcare and adapted from the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference Resources

### Welcome/Introduction

Welcome to this celebration of the Eucharist on this first (or whichever you choose) Sunday of the Season of Creation. The Season of Creation has special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established September 1<sup>st</sup> as the annual World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation. It is a time marked throughout the Christian world from 1st September to 4th October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encourages awareness-raising initiatives to help us to heal and protect Our Common Home. The theme this year is **Listening to the Voice of Creation**.

We celebrate in the awareness that our world is suffering deeply from numerous environmental crises as well as conflict in many regions. These global crises are interconnected and affect millions of people but are experienced most deeply by the poor and vulnerable. The earth is crying out to us, but are we listening now to the Book of Creation? May this Season inspire us and strengthen us in our efforts to protect our common home.

### Penitential Rite

Gracious God, Creator Spirit, Source of life, you have given order, light and life to the world around us, and you have expressed delight in your creation. You commanded us to till and care for the garden of life. And yet, we have trampled on the beauty of your creation and neglected to keep your Word. As we begin Mass today, we seek God's mercy and forgiveness for the times that we have offended against the integrity of God's creation.

And so, O God of Creation:

You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced, Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy.**

You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. Through the warming of the oceans and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled, Christ have mercy. **All: Christ have mercy.**

You created Mother Earth, our common home, who sustains us. Human activities are causing the destruction of her delicate ecosystems as we contaminate the atmosphere with harmful emissions, Lord have mercy. **All: Lord have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our ecological sins, and inspire us to care for our common home, Amen.

### Introduction to the Gloria

As we say/sing the Gloria, let us remind ourselves that we are praising and celebrating God as the author of our universe and of our salvation.

### HOMILY NOTES for each Sunday in Season of Creation (see separate document)

### Introduction to the Creed

As we stand to recite the Creed, notice that we are speaking to God who is the 'Creator of heaven and earth'.

## PRAYERS of the FAITHFUL

*(The Prayers below are designed to be used together as they feature all 7 goals. At the end of this document are other Prayers of the Faithful which you may choose from for other Sundays in Season of Creation.)*

**Celebrant:** Loving God, You are the Creator of the universe. As an Earthcare Parish, we are striving to heed the words of Pope Francis and achieve the seven Laudato Si goals. So, with great trust, in the name of all creation, we offer our prayers for our church, our world and our communities.

**Reader:** We pray for the stillness within to listen to **the cry of the earth** so that we might consider how our choices impact the earth and its precious resources. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** We pray for the compassion to listen to **the cry of the poor** so that we might consider how our choices affect all forms of life, especially those most vulnerable. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** We pray for the wisdom to see the significance of **ecological economics** so that we might support sustainable, ethical and fair production, consumption and investment.  
Lord hear us,

**Reader:** We pray for the humility to commit to a **sustainable lifestyle**, considering ways in which we can use less resources and energy systems as we go about our daily life. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** We pray for an awareness of the importance of **ecological education** so that we might grow in our understanding of integral ecology, mindfully promoting ecological awareness and action to others. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** We pray for our faith to evolve into an **ecological spirituality** that joyfully praises God and God's creation, encouraging greater contact with the natural world, bringing others into an awareness of creation, and promoting a spirit of wonder, awe, praise, thanksgiving and joy.  
Lord hear us,

**Reader:** We pray for the courage to **empower our communities** to action at the local, regional, national and international level. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** We pray for those who have died recently especially ... and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time ... may they rest in the peace of Christ. Lord hear us,

## Post-Communion VIDEO REFLECTIONS

### What is Season of Creation

<https://youtu.be/Q7VNncdlC4E> 1 min 49 secs

### Invitation to take part in Season of Creation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDqGkSb-4Rc&t=59s> 59 secs

### Look At The World by John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxr8QBPq1z0> 4 mins 31 secs

### For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlBkpAm3fhw> 2 mins 13 secs

### Prayer for the Earth from Laudato Si' (video)

<https://www.ecojesuit.com/prayer-for-the-earth-video-from-laudato-si/> Scroll down to find Video version of Pope Francis Prayer accompanied by beautiful images – 1 min 30 secs

### Pope Francis' A Prayer For Our Earth | CAFOD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaTJF1AkwcA> 2 mins 5 secs

### A Prayer for the Earth from Laudato Si'

<https://youtu.be/VJz0ZuxxMIO> 3 min 43 secs

**Laudato Si' – The Song** from Mumbai Archdiocese Office for Environment

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOwmQtdbwLk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOwmQtdbwLk) 3 min 16 secs - This one will have you dancing!

### **Music Suggestions**

All creatures of our God and King

How Great Thou Art

Canticle of the Sun (Marty Haugen, As One Voice Vol.1)

All the ends of the earth (Bob Dufford, SJ, As One Voice Vol.1)

All you works of God (Marty Haugen, As One Voice Vol.

Laudate Omnes Gentes (Taizé)

### **ALTERNATIVE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL for other Sundays in Season of Creation**

**Reader:** At this time in human history, we are mindful that the survival of our planet and the well-being of humanity is threatened. We pray that UN Agreements to reduce global warming and to care for the poor will be honoured by governments throughout the world. Give courage to world leaders as they meet in the coming months to make crucial decisions for our common home. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** In this Season of Creation, we pray, in the words of Pope Francis, that '*decisions made by governments attending COP27 [in Egypt in November] and COP15 [in Canada in December] can serve to unite the human family in effectively confronting the double crisis of climate change and the reduction of biodiversity*'. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** Creator God, in this month of creation time, teach us to see your footprints in the beauty of creation. Help us to listen to the voice of creation, inspire us to respect the rights of all people, and all living species to share in your gifts today and to be always mindful of those who come after us. Lord hear us

**Reader:** God of all life, we give thanks for the gift of the earth, our common home. At this time, many people, the oceans, and the eco-systems of the earth are struggling to survive. Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life which is not centred exclusively on ourselves but on the needs of others and the worship of you as our ultimate concern. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** Let us pray for each other at this time that we may live the vision and values of Pope Francis' encyclical On Care for our Common Home. In particular, we pray for greater attention to social justice, climate justice, and intergenerational justice. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** Lord, we pray that we may gain a deeper appreciation of the beauty and diversity of all that you have created. Help us to also listen to the voice of creation, to acknowledge how deeply interconnected we are with each other and with the natural world. Lord hear us,

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September is also the World Day of Migrants & Refugees** – below are apt for this day

**Reader:** Lord, we pray for climate refugees, people already displaced by the impacts of climate change, people forced to leave their homes due to rising sea levels or desertification. May they receive a generous welcome and support from wealthier nations. Lord hear us,

**Reader:** Lord, we pray for the poor who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, that societies contributing the most to climate change may assist financially in adaptation and mitigation programs. We pray especially for those at risk of losing their homelands and becoming climate refugees, especially in the Pacific Islands and Bangladesh. Lord hear us,