**LITURGY NOTES**

***for 1st 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 Caritas Catholic Earthcare and adapted from the Irish Catholic Bishops Conference Resources

**This year’s theme: Let Justice and Peace Flow**

The Prophet Amos cries out: “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

Our prayers, sermons and liturgies must call for justice not only for humans but for all creation. Justice, allied with peace, calls us to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions. Righteousness demands we live in peace, not conflict with our human neighbours, and building right relationships with all of creation. ‘Peace’ involves not only the absence of conflict but positive, life-giving relationships with God, ourselves, our human neighbours, and all creation.

We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation and to converge our individual identities, of name, family or faith community, in this greater movement for justice, just like tributaries come together to form a mighty river. As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

**This year’s symbol:**

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims: “Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43: 19). Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The hope of keeping the average temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius is fading. The world which humans have known, enjoyed, and celebrated is changing rapidly beyond repair. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate. Industrialization, colonisation and the extraction and consumption of resources have created great wealth, unequally distributed. Powerful Global North nations have grown wealthy at the expense of Global South nations and Indigenous and subsistence communities. Today’s climate and ecological emergency hurts the most vulnerable, many living in the least wealthy nations, who have contributed the fewest emissions. Indigenous peoples make up five percent of the world’s population and protect nearly 80 percent of the world’s remaining biodiversity.

We are presently more aware than ever of the link between fossil fuels, and violence and war. We can, however, dream and work for a world where each country produces the energy they need from God-given gifts of the sun and wind, rather than going to war for fossil fuels. The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created instead of despair. Streams can rise in the desert. An economy of peace can be built instead of an economy based on conflict.

**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 is a time marked throughout the Christian world from 1st September (the World Day of Prayer for Creation) 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 **Let Justice and Peace Flow.** The Prophet Amos cries out: “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

Creation never ceases to proclaim to us. 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 we are speaking to God, ‘Creator of heaven and earth’.

**PRAYERS of the FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** LovingGod, You are the Creator of the universe. With great trust, in the name of all creation, we offer our prayers for our church, our world and our communities.

**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, to join this river of justice and guide us to live a life not centred exclusively on ourselves but on the needs of others and the worship of you as our ultimate concern.

Lord hear us,

**Reader:** At this time in human history, we are mindful that the survival of our planet and the well-being of humanity is threatened. Let us 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:** 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. As we journey through our Synodal process, 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,

**Reader:** Lord, in the spirit of the call of your Son, Jesus, to follow Him by renouncing ourselves, may we resolve to curb all selfish individual actions that conflict with our interrelationship with each other and with the natural world. Lord hear us

**Reader:** Lord, may we have the courage to give expression to our faith with practical actions for the betterment of each other and of your creation to ensure the rejuvenation of our common home. 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,

**Offertory Procession**

A loaf of bread and bowl of grapes could be brought to the altar.

Indicate that we have bread and wine to offer only because of the work of our endangered pollinators; bread and wine are gifts from the Earth, gifts from God.

**Our Father**

As we pray this prayer over the coming weeks, let us ask forgiveness for our sins against Creation and the poor. Let us be reminded of our deep interconnectedness with all that exists and that at the centre of the Lord’s prayer we say: thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Post-Communion VIDEO REFLECTIONS**

**Adapted from the message of Pope Francis for World Day of Prayer for Creation 2023** by Finbarr Keaveney <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Reflection-from-Pope-Francis-Message-for-SOC20230-by-Finbarr-Keaveney.mp4>

**What is Season of Creation**

<https://youtu.be/Q7VNncdIC4E> 1 min 49 secs

**Invitation to take part in Season of Creation**

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

of the

**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/VJz0ZuxxMI0> 3 min 43 secs

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

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

**Mother Earth – Monica Brown** <https://vimeo.com/167026555>

**Canticle of the Sun – Marty Haugen** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfJ6WJPUff8>

**Final Blessing**

could include all aspects of creation, including what is around the Altar and outside the Church.

**Presider:** The Mass is ended. Go in Peace to listen to the voice of creation and care more deeply for our common home.

**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.
* Morning Has Broken
* Laudate Omnes Gentes (Taizé)

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

*(The 7 Prayers below are designed to be used together as they feature all 7 goals.)*

**Celebrant:** LovingGod, 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 aware-ness of creation, and promoting a spirit of wonder, awe, praise, thanksgiving & 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,

**Sunday 24th 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,