

GOD'S TIMELINE

23 C Sunday Ordinary Time

Read the Lectionary Ecologically

[Ws 9; Ps 89; Phm 9; Lk 14]

*Who can know the intentions of God?
In every age God has been our refuge
In your eyes a thousand years is like yesterday
Make us know the shortness of our life
Give success to the work of our hands
Better than a slave - a dear brother
Teach us your laws
Who does not carry his cross ... cannot be my
disciple
Started to build and was unable to finish
My disciple ... gives up all his possessions
I am the light of the world.*

to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #8

Greeting

Today's Readings remind us that God created all life on Earth over eons, even the air we breathe. Have we taken these gifts of God for granted and the people around us?

**Prayers of the Faithful**

1. Circles of Life – In God justice and mercy meet. That our Church lead us into circles of life where we love sisters and brothers and Earth itself as kin ... we pray
2. Precaution - God is the source of wisdom. That national leaders truthfully assess the consequences of their environmental plans, abiding by the principle of precaution ... we pray
3. Lifestyle - Like a loving parent, God has formed us from Earth. That we choose simple lifestyles and not become slaves to passing whims that tread Earth underfoot ... we pray
4. Cosmic Time – God created the Universe over billions of years. That our generation not disrupt the time line God has set for Earth by changing the climate ... we pray
5. Astronomy – God has given delight to astronomers in every age. That we strive to understand their findings, rejoice with them in what they discover, and learn to respect God's time line ... we pray

Preface Prayer

Creator and Father, God ever-living and present in human history, it is right to give you thanks through your Son, Jesus the Christ. Humanity is called to take on the mind of God in whose eyes a thousand years is like yesterday, so that people of every age gladly find refuge in divine revelations. Even in the shortness of an individual life, God fills their hearts with the ways of order and change, if they search. With hands and heart, they use the gifts of Earth to find God as the light of the world. So, we join with the choirs of heaven, people of good will and Earth itself as we sing, Holy, holy ...

science and religion, with their distinctive approaches ... can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both

Pope Francis Laudato Si #62

Dismissal

Today's Eucharist gives us the courage to take a more humble stance in life. We go, in the wisdom of God, to help make Earth a place ordered according to God.



Season of Creation

Inserting a 'Season of Creation' into the Catholic Liturgical Year during September is a structural way to help implement the Pope's vision in *Laudato Si'*. As a pastoral initiative, it challenges and stimulates believers to face the 21st century ecological crisis. Eucharist is a privileged place to remember *Laudato Si'* in prayer, loving all things on Earth as kin until the completion of creation.

***"ecosystems" ... have an intrinsic value ...
Each organism, as a creature of God, is
good and admirable in itself***

Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* #140



Covenant

The prologue of John's Gospel proclaims a 'Cosmic Covenant' in Jesus as the Word of God made flesh (Jn 1:1-5), Good News to the nations (Ac 13:46-47), with the Spirit actively present to the culture of every land (Ac 15:6-9). The Cosmic Christ connects with the end time (Mt 25:34-40) bringing fulfilment to the human journey (1Th 4:16-17) and salvation for the entire cosmos (Ep 1:9-10). Apocalyptic writings show God's perspective (Is 51:6, 52:7) with the risen Lord as head over every power (Co 1:14-17).

Champions and Saints

Brother Guy Consalmagno SJ, sometimes dubbed the Pope's Astronomer, believes that science and religion must work together. Addressing the 2005 Catholic Earthcare Conference on Climate Change in Canberra, he said "Religion needs science to keep it away from superstition and close to reality, protecting it from the creationism falsehood."

Mysticism

Mantra like prayer is common to all spiritual pathways. It may be the repetition of a phrase from Scripture, *Come Lord Jesus*, or a verse of poetry, *I bind unto myself today, the virtues of the star-lit heaven ... The stable Earth, the*



deep salt sea, around the old eternal rocks (St Patrick). By chanting of the Psalms, Benedictine and Orthodox nuns and monks give voice to the power of mantras, giving a sense of a time beyond time.

Ecological Insight

The Australian Department of the Environment designs and implements Governmental policies and programmes. Its work rests on four pillars - clean water, national heritage, clean air and healthy land - helping to conserve the environment and promote action on global warming. Its *State of the Environment Australia* gives check-lists – an environmental reality scorecard for the nation; pointers for the media and decision makers. <http://www.environment.gov.au/science/soe/2011>

***the ecological movement ... thanks to
their efforts, environmental questions
have increasingly found a place on public***

Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* #166

Local Culture

The whole church is fully present in the local church as *inculturaton* (Lumen Gentium #13). Catholics in the Congo use drum and dance to celebrate Mass in *Missa Luba*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToNb-02n3KY&list=PL4F8CAE4847997A9F&index=1> Believers at Taize use multiple chants to sing the praises of God.

