



PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025



LITURGY NOTES

for 1st Sunday in Season of Creation - September 7

World Day of Prayer for Creation (or another of your choice)

Parishes might choose one particular Sunday in the Season of Creation (1st Sept to 4th Oct) to use these resources, OR spread the ideas, particularly Prayers of the Faithful, Reflections, Songs over all 5 Sundays)

Prepared by Caritas Catholic Earthcare with resources from Irish Catholic Bishops Conference & Dominicans USA

This year's theme: "Peace with Creation"

War on Creation Isaiah 32:14-18:

"The palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and watchtower will become dens forever, the joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks" (Isaiah 32:14). The prophet Isaiah portrays a desolate Creation, devoid of peace due to injustice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. Devastated cities and wastelands reflect the destructive impact that human activities can have on Earth.

Though God's plan for Creation is rooted in justice and peace, human sin disrupts this, leaving Creation in ruin—from wealthy palaces to poor farmlands, forests, and oceans. Isaiah vividly describes the results of human estrangement from Creation.

Throughout history, many human activities have contributed to the destruction of Creation. Yet today, more than ever, some human activities take the form of a war against Creation. Our impact has expanded from local to global, manifesting in unsustainable lifestyles, excessive consumption, lasting pollution, and a throwaway culture. Some hold greater responsibility for this crisis—elite consumption, exploitative business models, and economic theories prioritizing profit over sustainability. Pollution, health crises, deforestation, and mining in conflict zones worsen the situation.

Our Hope: Creation Will Find Peace When Justice Is Restored "Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field" (Isaiah 32:16). There is hope for a peaceful Earth. Biblically, hope is active—it involves prayer, action, and reconciling with Creation and the Creator through repentance (metanoia) and solidarity.

Isaiah 32:14-18 envisions a peaceful Creation where God's people live only when justice is achieved.

This year's symbol: Garden of Peace

Inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18, the symbol depicts a white dove flying over a tree. The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right—symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable. Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden. Through this year's Season of Creation, we will reflect on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace. The white dove with an olive branch is a globally recognized symbol of peace. In the story of Noah, it also signifies new life after destruction.

Welcome/Introduction

Welcome to this celebration of the Eucharist during this Season of Creation. The Season of Creation 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 & protect Our Common Home. This year's theme, Peace With Creation, reminds us that many human activities amount to a "war against Creation." Unsustainable lifestyles, exploitive business models, excessive consumption and throw-away cultures, thoughtless destruction of habitats, disregard for biodiversity loss, and the devastation of literal wars are just a few of the human dynamics threatening the web of life around planet Earth. The mission before us as people of faith and members of the human community is to work for the justice and global solidarity that are essential to establishing "Peace with Creation."

Penitential Rite (see alternatives for each Sunday in separate Dominican document)

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 creation. And yet, we have trampled on the beauty of your garden 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 a world that produces enough food for all humanity, and yet, millions of people go hungry while food wastage is a huge problem in our society. 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.

OR

Becoming conscious for a moment of the vast, beautiful, and awe-inspiring Universe of galaxies beyond imagining... and of the great, complex web of life in which we are but a small strand, ... let's sing out our praise and gratitude to God.

HOMILY NOTES for each Sunday in Season of Creation (see separate documents - Irish Bishops' Conference & Dominicans USA)

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 (see alternatives for each Sunday in separate Dominican document)

Celebrant: Loving God, 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 eco-systems are struggling to survive. Help us to change our ways, to unite in hope and to act with Creation so that the firstfruits of hope can be born. 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. 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 2024

[World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBXHDbesb7k)

For The Fruits Of All Creation

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBXHDbesb7k

We See The Fruitful Harvest

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMpM65Ez2hc

A Harvest of Thanksgiving

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JB7R2RokaY

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=xIBkpAm3fhw> 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 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>

Canticle of the Turning <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9vp6qBw8F4>

A Harvest of thanksgiving <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JB7R2RokaY>

Psalm 96 - Praise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mudGglaGnqs>

Final Blessing (see alternatives for each Sunday in separate Dominican document)

could include all aspects of creation, including what is around the Altar and outside the Church. See a variety of Final Blessings in the Dominican document.

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 & King – Gather 395

All the ends of the earth - Bob Dufford

All Things Bright and Beautiful

All you works of God - Marty Haugen

Canticle of Creation – Dan Schutte

Canticle of the Sun - Marty Haugen

For the Fruits of This Creation – Gather 426

For the Healing of the Nations – Gather 513

How Great Thou Art

Laudate Omnes Gentes (Taizé)

Let All the Earth Their Voices Raise

Let the Heavens Be Glad

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

Morning Has Broken – Gather 537

O God Beyond All Praising

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: 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 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.

Similarly, this set of Prayers of the Faithful covers all 7 goals

Reader: God of hope, lead us out into the field, to hope and act with Creation for all.

Reader: Help us listen to the cry of the earth. Show us how we are one part of your big, beautiful Creation. Inspire us to act with care for the environment around us. Lord, hear us.

Reader: Help us listen to the cry of the poor. Show us how our choices affect others. Inspire us to act with compassion so that everyone can thrive. Lord, hear us.

Reader: Help businesses everywhere to be sustainable, ethical and fair in all aspects of their work. Show us how we can encourage them to do that. Inspire us to make the world better for all. Lord, hear us.

Reader: Help us not waste Earth's precious resources. Show us how to take greater care of the things we have access to. Inspire us to live simply. Lord, hear us.

Reader: Help us learn how best to care for Creation and for our brothers and sisters around the world. Show us new ways and remind us of ancient ways of caring for Earth and each other. Inspire us with creativity and courage. Lord, hear us.

Reader: Help us remember to live in wonder and awe of Creation. Show us how to love Earth and each other as you do. Inspire us to practice gratitude every day. Lord, hear us.

Reader: Help us work together to make the world a healthy and fair place for all. Show us and our community how we can act for justice at local, regional, national and international levels. Inspire us to be brave and generous. Lord, hear us.

Sunday 28th 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.



<https://www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/348640604155828>