

Helping parishes to prepare for this year's Season of Creation:

1 September – 4 October 2020

'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home' Laudato Si' #13

The Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi.

We would like to assist all parishes and catholic communities to celebrate this season by pointing to some resources. These are not exhaustive. It is worth visiting the Vatican website to [read Monsignor Bruno-Marie Duffé's invitation](#) to participate. He is the Secretary, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

This year we are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the publication of 'Laudato Si'; On Care For Our Common Home'. The Vatican have published a further guide to help us on our journey towards an Ecological Conversion. It is entitled ['On the Path to Caring for the Common Home: Five Years after Laudato Si'](#).

Pope Francis has also declared a special Year of Laudato Si, from 24 May 2020 to 24 May 2021.

The United Nations talks on the Climate, COP26, have been postponed until November 2021. Our country will still chair these proceedings. These will be the most significant talks since Paris 2015.

The current pandemic has highlighted the inequalities which exist in our own country and its various communities and also the huge inequalities in the world between rich and poor. As we begin, however tenuously, to recover from the effects of the pandemic, we must recognise opportunities to rebuild in a better way. A greener, more environmentally friendly future is possible. Making care for the poor, the most disadvantaged in our society and in the world a priority is possible.

There are a variety of resources available online, provided both by *Caritas Plymouth* and *CAFOD Plymouth*. Just go to the CAFOD website, to the *Caritas Plymouth* website or to our Plymouth Diocesan Facebook page.

We are also sharing a Novena for the Season of Creation from 9-18 September which you can follow on the Diocesan Facebook Page. There will be a series of sort video reflections and prayers prepared by our schools and parishes. We will be posting material on Facebook throughout the Season.

Season of Creation Resources

A note for parish newsletters (below)

The Canticle of Creation St Francis of Assisi (below)

[CAFOD - Celebrate World Day of Prayer](#)

[CAFOD - Climate intercessions](#)

[CAFOD - Novena to St Francis](#)

[2020 Celebration Guide](#)

[Ecological Rosary for use on a Creation Walk/Pilgrimage](#)

[Catholic Climate Movement](#)

Season of Creation – A short reflection

1st September is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and marks the start of the Season of Creation – an opportunity for us all to reflect on how we care for our Common Home.

In his message for Laudato Si' week, Bishop Mark said 'We know this is the first time in our history that a Pope has taken the name Francis, after St Francis of Assisi. The spirit and vision of the saint is evident throughout the Pope's letter. There are two ideas which especially permeate what Pope Francis teaches us. The first is the idea of "our common home". Our earth is the home for the human family. It is in severe danger and needs immediate protection and healing at a global, national and local level. The second idea is that while the threatened state of the environment is a universal challenge affecting us all, those most in danger at present, and in the future, are those who are already poor and vulnerable.

The Pope constantly links these two realities throughout the letter; the need to protect and respect "our Common home" and the need to respect and protect the dignity and lives of the poor. Both themes have been evident since the beginning of Pope Francis's pontificate. We have seen this in the priorities which the Pope asks us to have. "*Laudato Si*" is permeated by a sense of human, moral and religious urgency, but the Pope recognizes the complexity of the joining of the environment and poverty. "We are not faced", he says, "with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental" (#139)'

We invite you to use the Season of Creation to reflect, to pray, and to act, so that we achieve that ecological conversion that the Holy Father calls us to.

You can find resources to use during the Season on the [Diocesan Website](#) and Facebook pages.



CANTICLE OF CREATION, ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory,
honour and all blessing.**

**Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation
and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently.**

O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.

**Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,
and for the stars
which you have set shining and lovely
in the heavens.**

**Be praised, my Lord,
for our Brothers Wind and Air
and every kind of weather
by which you, Lord,
uphold life in all your creatures.**

**Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful to us,
and humble and precious and pure.**

**Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.**

**Be praised, my Lord,
for Sister Earth, our Mother,
who nourishes us and sustains us,
bringing forth
fruits and vegetables of many kinds
and flowers of many colours.**

**Be praised, my Lord,
for those who forgive for love of you;
and for those
who bear sickness and weakness
in peace and patience
- you will grant them a crown.**

**Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,
whom we must all face.**

**I praise and bless you, Lord,
and I give thanks to you,
and I will serve you in all humility**