



Listen to the
Voice of Creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The Burning Bush
Ex 3, 1-12

SEASON OF CREATION 2022 – LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION

“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.” Laudato Si’ #13

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation: it is a time when the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect our common home. The Season begins on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. This year the theme is “Listen to the Voice of Creation.”

During the Season of Creation, we are invited to pray and act and focus on the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor – to listen to those whose voices are less heard; to pray for those individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change.

The symbol chosen for this year is the **burning bush**, which contrasts the fire of so many unnatural fires that aggravate the climate crisis; with the sign of fire as the light of the Holy Spirit that unites Christians. Individuals and communities are invited to participate through prayer, sustainability projects, and advocacy:

- **Prayer:** Host an ecumenical prayer service that unites all Christians to care for our common home or
- **Sustainability:** Organise an event reaching a wider public of people to help people to reflect on the current situation and what we can all do to make a difference. Caritas Plymouth may be able to help with funding for refreshments and speakers (email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk).
- **Advocacy:** Raise your voice for climate justice by participating or joining an ongoing campaign, such as CAFOD’s Fix the Food System campaign.

Why is it important?

Taking action during the Season of Creation is living out our Catholic faith. The Diocese of Plymouth environmental policy respects the earth as God’s creation and acknowledges that our care for it needs to be integrated into the life and mission of our Diocese.



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The Church, following the teachings of Jesus, from the Social Doctrine has called us all to work for the common good, which requires dignifying life in all its forms, caring for the common home, committing to the construction of more just, supportive, fraternal and peaceful societies, to achieve what Pope Francis calls integral ecology in *Laudato Si'*. Often, when we speak of creation, we talk about nature, animals, landscapes, the sun, the moon, and can perhaps forget that the human being is the culmination of the Father's creative work, "God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good." (Gen 1:31). The **Season of Creation is a celebration that allows all people to recognize ourselves as "the work of the Lord's creative act,"** to contemplate nature and all that dwells in it, and to care for our Common Home. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration of the Season of Creation to help us as a Church to implement concrete actions towards care of our common home.

Pope Francis, through his encyclical letters *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, has taken a global lead in encouraging every person on the planet to take action and care for the earth - our common home - and preserve it for future generations, thinking and acting in solidarity with those who are poor and suffering. *Laudato Si'* is a call to an 'ecological conversion' inviting each one of us to recognise the connection between our faith, our planet and the most vulnerable people and to take an active role in preserving the gift of life on earth. We need a more considered relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth through the way we manage our resources as a Church.

More information

You can find out more on our website www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/the-diocese/how-we-work/environment/season-of-creation/ where we will be adding further resources in the coming weeks.

Information on the global campaign <https://laudatosimovement.org/seasonofcreation/>

CAFOD's current campaign <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Fix-the-food-system>

Caritas Plymouth,
St Boniface House, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 7JL
Tel: (01364) 645360,
email: caritas@prcdtr.org.uk website: <http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk>
Plymouth Diocesan Trust (Registered Charity Number 213227)