

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION - 1st SEPTEMBER 2021

"The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community, an opportunity to renew our personal participation in our vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvellous works that God has entrusted to our care, invoking God's help for the protection of creation and God's mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live" Pope Francis



Some Things an INDIVIDUAL Might Do

Begin your day by praying one of the prayers that Pope Francis composed for his Laudato Si' encyclical.

A PRAYER FOR OUR WORLD

“Creator God, who made our beautiful world, appointed us as its guardians and gifted us with everything we need, forgive us for the times we cause it harm; for the times our way of life affects our neighbours.

Inspire us to care for the environment; to help rebuild lives and communities; to share in the griefs and anxieties, joys and hopes of all your people, so that all your creation may flourish. Amen.”



A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace.



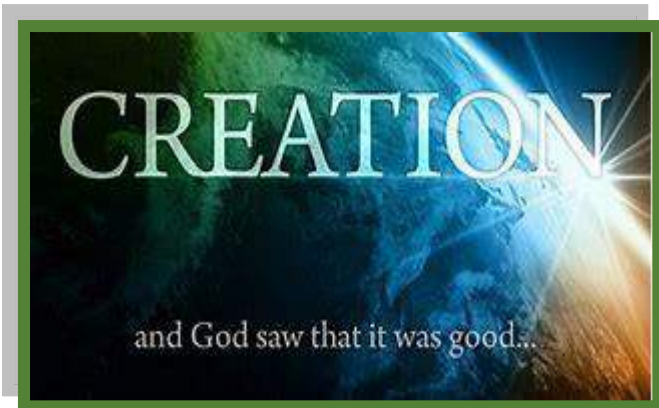
Some Things A FAMILY Might Do



- *A family* might simply pause, during a grace before meals, to recall all that they are grateful for in creation and then turn to give thanks to God for the food that we are going to eat.
- *A family* might use this day to reflect upon our sisters and brothers around the world who have so much less than we do. Trying to imagine their lives and what they experience is the first step toward compassion and then solidarity.
- *A family* might reflect upon what changes we might make in our everyday lives. We can desire and decide to simplify our lives, perhaps in stages. We can get used to less, and consciously do that as we feel more connected with those who have so much less.
- *A family* might take some time, perhaps over a weekend, even after 1st September, to talk about the family lifestyle and consumption. Children can be helped to understand what damage we have done to this planet over the past years. Children have a natural sense of compassion for animals and nature, and sense of the injustice of the suffering of others.
- *A family* could choose to do some simple actions, like choosing to conserve our use of water more.
- *A family* might simply pause to give thanks for all of Creation, and ultimately, for the Creator. We can make this as personal as we are able to do. We might start a journey, which lists all that we are grateful for today, and add to this, beginning a pattern of appreciation and gratitude.
- *A family* might Watch a Youtube clip – for example - Laudato Sii (6 min Youtube video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYdOlqvpqg&feature=youtu.be> -



Some Things GROUPS Might Do



PRAYER SERVICE

'CARETAKERS OF GOD'S CREATION'



Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Together let us praise the Lord, from whom we have rain from the heavens and abundance from the earth.

Blessed be God now and for ever. **All:** Amen

Leader:

Pope Francis has called for 1st September to be an *Annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*. God is calling us to be the caretakers of His creation.

Sing: All creatures of our God and King (or a similar hymn)

Verse One:

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia. Alleluia!
You burning sun with golden beam, you silver moon with softer gleam:
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verse Two:

You rushing wind that are so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, alleluia!
You rising morn, in praise rejoice, you lights of evening, find a voice.
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verse Three:

You flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear, alleluia, alleluia!
You flowers and fruit that also grow, let them his glory also show.
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verse Four:

You fire so masterful and bright, that gives us warmth and gives us light, alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One.
O Praise him, O praise, him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



READER: EARTH

The entire material universe speaks of God's love, of God's endless care for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a touch of God. We can all surely remember a beautiful sunrise or sunset, a walk among plants and flowers or sitting beside a running stream drinking fresh, cool water. All these places have given us a chance to recover something of our true selves. (*Laudato Si'* 84)

Leader:

In silence, press your feet into the ground and become aware of the earth beneath. Marvel and be grateful for the life and nourishment that we receive from mother earth. (*Silent Prayer and then sing O praise Him, O praise Him. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*)



READER: AIR

Let us remind ourselves that we are made of the dust of the earth (Gen 2:7); our bodies are made up of her elements; we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. The earth, our home, is however beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. (*Laudato Si'* 2:21).

Leader:

Become conscious of your breathing. Be grateful for the gift of air and resolve to use your voice to promote the need to purify earth's atmosphere. (*Silent Prayer and then sing O praise Him, O praise Him. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*.)



READER: FIRE

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political as well as for the distribution of goods.

Climate change represents one of the main challenges facing our world today. Our lack of response points to a loss of that sense of responsibility for the needs of our brothers and sisters.

(*Laudato Si'* 25)

Leader: Open and close your hands, aware that our ability to do so is through the sun's energy that is captured by the plant life we eat. Rejoice in the energy of the sun and resolve to use your energy to face climate change, one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.

(*Silent Prayer and then sing O praise Him, O praise Him. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*.)



READER: WATER

Access to safe drinking water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinkable water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their human dignity. (*Laudato Si' 30*).

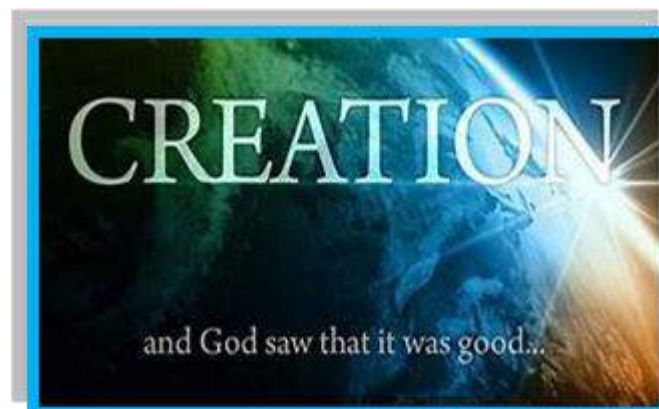
Leader: Drink a mouthful of water keeping in mind that, all living creatures, including human beings need clean water in order to survive. Be grateful for the gift of water and resolve to use it with reverence and justice. (*Silent Prayer and then sing ...O praise Him, O praise Him. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia.*)

Concluding Prayer:

O God, from the very beginning of time you commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation and fruit of every kind. You provide the sower with seed and give bread to the hungry to eat. Grant, we pray, that this land, enriched by your abundance and cultivated by human hands, may be fertile with abundant crops. Then your people, enriched by the gifts of your goodness, will praise you unceasingly now and for all ages unending. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **R.** men.

The following may be sung to the tune of "All Creatures of Our God and King." (or another suitable hymn)

Dear mother earth, who day by day, unfolds rich blessing on our way, O praise God! Alleluia!
The fruits and flowers that verdant grow, let them his praise abundant show.
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.





GUIDED ROSARY ON THE CARE OF CREATION

There are many ways we can look at the significant events in the life of Jesus, through the eyes of Mary, His Mother. In this rosary we invite you to reflect on the Glorious Mysteries in the light of Pope Francis' Encyclical "*Laudato Si'*".



1. The Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead

The most glorious of all miracles! Jesus our Lord is risen from the dead. Soldiers are placed outside the tomb to ensure that no-one steals His body and then claims that Jesus had risen. However, an angel from heaven comes down, there is an earthquake and the stone rolls away. The guards flee in terror. The earth testifies to the mighty power of God and the forces of nature play their part.

In John's Gospel Mary Magdalene mistakes the Risen Jesus for a gardener.

Are we able to recognise the face of Jesus in those around us?

Help us, Mary we pray to boldly confront and defeat modern forms of sin, decay and death.



2. The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven

Jesus leaves his disciples and is taken by a cloud into heaven. Before He leaves, He promises that the Holy Spirit will guide them to the end and that He will never be truly absent. Imagine what it must have been like for the disciples when Jesus was taken from Earth; how they must have felt, how lost they might have been, how shocked they were.

Though Jesus has physically left them they still have work to do!

Are we active in trying to bring about the Kingdom of God in our own world?

Do we embrace the call to take care of the world around us?

Or do we simply stare at the sky hoping that change will be brought about by someone else?

Help us, Mary, that we may see a connection between our efforts in the world and the mission Jesus gave to His disciples.



3rd Glorious Mystery - The Descent of the Holy Spirit Upon Our Blessed Lady and the Disciples

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (*Acts 2:2-4*) Meditating on Pentecost is also a reminder that we are called to a universal mission, and that is to spread the Gospel and embrace the responsibilities we have been given, including the care of creation.

Help us, Mary, to take seriously our responsibility of taking care of all that God has given to us as the gift of His Creation.



4th Glorious Mystery - The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

Our Blessed Mother, at the end of her life here on earth, is assumed body and soul into heaven.

“Mary, the mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power. Completely

transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness.” (“Laudato Si,” 241)

Help us, Mary to trust in your powerful intercession with Jesus for the needs of the poor, the displaced, those without hope, the needs of all people and of earth itself.



5th Glorious Mystery - The Crowning of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. (Revelations 12:1)

Mary, you are the Gate of Heaven, the Morning star, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, Help of Christians, Queen of Angels, Queen of Patriarchs, Queen of Prophets, Queen of Apostles, Queen of Martyrs, Queen of Confessors, Queen of

Virgins, Queen of all Saints, Queen of Peace.

Help us, Mary, that by your example we may be encouraged to work for the protection of the most vulnerable and for all creation that God made ‘very good’ in the beginning.

A Litany for the Healing of our Earth Through the Intercession of Mary

Leader: Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:

- Bring new life to the land
- Restore the waters
- Refresh the air

Response: **Mary, listen to our prayer and the prayer of all those who care about God’s world**

Leader: Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:

- Renew the forests
- Care for the plants
- Protect all creatures

Response: **Mary, listen to our prayer and the prayer of all those who care about God’s world**

Leader: Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:

- Celebrate the beauty of the seas
- Rejoice in the warmth of the sunlight
- Welcome the life-restoring rain

Response: **Mary, listen to our prayer and to the prayer of all those who care about God’s world.**

Leader: Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:

- Recall our final destiny
- Renew our spirits
- Reinvigorate our bodies

Response: Mary, listen to our prayer and to the prayer of all those who care about God's world.

Leader: Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:

- Give new life to our the human community
- Promote justice and peace
- Work towards a better world for our children

Response: Mary, listen to our prayer and to the prayer of all those who care about God's world.



Concluding Prayer:

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our Life, our Sweetness and our Hope!
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after
this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary!

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

