

7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat:

SCRIPTURE AND PRAYERS

Preparing to celebrate 1st September as
World Day of Prayer for Creation

Proclaimed jointly by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew & Pope Francis
From the Vatican and from the Phanar, 1 September 2017

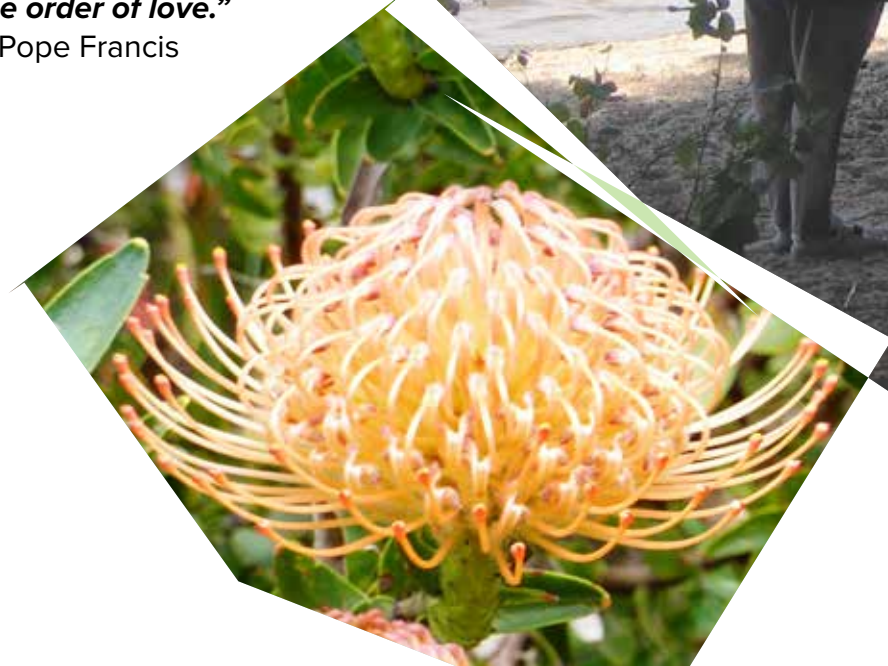
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***"...care for creation is in
the order of love."***

– Pope Francis



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Introduction

Greek Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis have jointly declared *1 September World Day of Prayer for Creation*. Its celebration offers an opportunity to bring their ecumenically shared message of *Care for Creation* to ordinary believers. Liturgy and prayer is the easiest way to meet the Christ Risen as the *First Born of a New Creation*. It leads us to *ecological conversion* and living an *ecological vocation*.

In the tradition of vigils, this *7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat* offers a prayerful way for believers to prepare for 1st September. Vatican II radically reformed the Roman Catholic liturgy. Along with encouraging active participation by the faithful, it mandated offering a richer diet of Scripture as the basis for prayer. This seven day reflection reinforces the officially sanctioned ecumenical celebration of a World Day of Prayer for Creation.

Scripture underpins this *7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat*. The readings link to a Biblical understanding of creation in four ways: remembers in praise the loving outreach of God revealed in all creation – *Missio Dei*; invites believers to better listen to and hear the hidden voice of Earth; links the cry of the earth with the cry of the poor; and recalls the often fickle human responses. They swing from praise to arrogant abuse, from seeing God present and close to rejection, from lament to forgiveness. The Five Covenants and associated promises of God in Scripture capture the Bible message about creation – Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus (cf. *The Eucharist and Laudato Si'* Columban Mission, 2015, Charles Rue, Ch.1).

The encyclical of Pope Francis *Laudato Si': on care for our common home* (LS) strikes a chord with all people of good will around the world. The Pope cited the environmental writings of brother bishops globally. For several years Cardinal Tagle of Manila and Archbishop Loy Chong of Suva have organised in their dioceses parish based liturgical prayer on creation during September. Recently, Cardinals in Burma and PNG, and the Synod of Amazonia in 2019 have voiced their call for *ecological conversion* to be expressed in prayer and action.

Pope Francis says that *care for creation is in the order of love* LS 77. Having a hopeful vision of creation gives a powerful message to all peoples on the human journey. The Pope offers a new form of spirituality suitable to this age, *creation spirituality* that links God, Earth and Humanity as one LS 66. He ends his revolutionary new social teaching with a call: *ecological conversion, ecological education and ecological spirituality*. Combined they lead to an *ecological vocation* where believers act in their own life situation, using their unique personal skills LS 220.

OUTLINE OF A 7 DAYS OF CREATION REFLECTION-RETREAT YEAR A

1. Days 1-4 follow the Lectionary practice of using the Gospel of Matthew in Year A. Other readings (OT, NT, Ps) are selected to reinforce the Gospel message. Theologically the gift of creation is developed as a progression over the four days – 1/ creation 2/ kingdom life growth 3/ sin and reconciliation 4/ the end time. This method focuses first on God's initiatives expressed in Scriptural stories and then on stories about varied human responses – awe and wonder, lament and forgiveness, hope and action. These stories help grow a *new creation* in the risen Christ.
2. Day 5 focuses on *slavery and liberation* images of grace. These images are appropriate in this age when the twin cry of the earth and the poor grows louder, and the need for liberating care grows more urgent LS 64.
3. Day 6 uses the existing Common Lectionary readings for the first Sunday in September Year A.
4. Day 7 uses new readings that celebrate the Feast of Francis of Assisi.



A COMMON TEMPLATE FOR A GROUP OR LITURGICAL REFLECTION

This *7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat* can be an individual exercise. However, it might be better prayed with a group. The format of a communal prayer reflection can well imitate the Liturgy of the Word segment of the Eucharistic liturgy. Proclamation and Response sets the rhythm. A number of short readings is best unless there is a reason for longer and fewer ones. To ensure a flow to the prayer, one person should be seen to be leading the group while not doing everything. Simple dignity is the hallmark of good liturgy or communal prayer. Hymns can dot the reflection but care needs to be taken that they neither take over nor become a chore for participants. Hymns can be chosen in the spirit of God's gifts remembered in the readings. Repeating the same hymn, so that it becomes familiar and easy to pray, can often be effective. The Prayer-Reflection might lead into a sharing of the Our Father to express the group's common commitment.

1. Opening Hymn – Chosen to set the mood and settle participants
2. Introduction – Name the grace to celebrate ('theme' has an educational tone).
3. Ritual (Optional) - Have an action to symbolise the group's aim (eg. sprinkling water)
4. Opening Prayer – Ask God to be with this specific group in its faith sharing.
5. First Scripture Reading – This reinforces the Gospel
6. Psalm – Chosen as a Response to the First Reading in the light of the Gospel
7. Second Scripture Reading – Remembers an aspect of the grace being celebrated
8. Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia or silence)
9. Gospel – Sets the tone for the entire celebration
10. Reflection on the Word – It might be a homily, story-telling or Scriptural sharing
11. Pause – Times of silence can be a powerful shared experience
12. Intercessions – Prepared texts can be combined with free sharing
13. Our Father – This prayer acts as a sign of communion among those gathering
14. Blessing – An option may be a shared prayer of blessing with a common gesture
15. Closing Prayer – The leader recalls God drawing us forward to fulfil the grace celebrated.
16. Closing Hymn – Chosen to reinforce conversion and vocational aspects of the readings.



**PRAISE BE TO YOU, MY LORD,
THROUGH OUR SISTER, MOTHER
EARTH, WHO SUSTAINS AND
GOVERNS US.**

– Laudato Si #1

Day One

A PROVIDENT GOD

Naming a grace to celebrate - God is always close to us, actively present in both cosmic and human history. The first reading remembers God's words, *I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you.* The Gospel tells of the providential care of God shown in feeding the birds of the air and adorning the lilies of the fields. Let us remember that we are blessed by the creative outreach of God just like the children of Abraham and all that exists (pause).

PRAYER

God of all history, in loving kindness you formed an everlasting bond between your own self, Earth and humanity. You granted a covenant to your chosen people, guiding them on their journey and generously provided for their needs. In our time may we witness to your blessings given for all the nations, remembering your deeds with joy as we sing your praise. We ask this ...

GENESIS 9:9-11 - NOAH COVENANT

As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the Earth with you, as many as came out of the ark, I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the Earth.

PSALM 33

God watches over all Earth's inhabitants

- ⁶ By your word O Lord the heavens were made,
all their array by the breath of your mouth.
- ⁷ You gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
you put the deeps in storehouses.
- ⁹ For you spoke, and it came to be;
you commanded, and it stood firm.
- ¹³ O Lord, you look down from heaven;
you see all humankind.
- ¹⁴ From where you sit enthroned, you watch over
all the inhabitants of the Earth.

ACTS 7:1-4, 6-8 - SALVATION HISTORY

Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Leave your country and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you.' Then he left the country of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. ... And God spoke in these terms, that his descendants would be resident aliens in a country belonging to others, who would enslave them and mistreat them during four hundred years. 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.' Then he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

MATTHEW 6:25-29 – BIRDS OF AIR

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

STORY TELLING

It is easy to start story telling by talking about the place where we live. It might be a positive story about a local place of geological importance, beauty or recreation. We can add details by naming a person linked with preserving or popularising the spot, or about some incident at the place. It might be a negative story about how the place became overgrown with weeds or became a rubbish dump. We can ask ourselves, how is the providence of God manifest in this place.

REFLECTION IDEAS

In every age and place, cultures embody a world view for a local people to flourish. Visions evolved as climates changed and neighbouring peoples met. In modern times, peoples have been drawn to migrate pulled on by visions of the *American or Australian dream*. This trend often enslaved people and led to ecological disasters.

The environmental letter of Pope Francis calls for all peoples to reflect in the light of faith and paint a new vision about Earth as our common home. The covenants are stories about God's promises and human responses, a constant ebb and flow. Today we remember the words of Jesus about the providence of God who is in control and ever faithful. Do not worry. We are not alone in the human journey on Earth.

Jesus calls us to find out what God is saying to us in the Earth itself, and to listen. We are to seek first the reign of God in our world, an outpouring of loving kindness. In response we work with campaigners for eco-justice as the unfolding actions of God on Earth, and all it holds, as our common home.



INTERCESSIONS

1. Remembering that God made an everlasting covenant promise to Noah never to again harm creation, may we respect the very existence of every creature and give us courage to work with our leaders in care for Earth as our common home. Father of Jesus hear ...
2. Just as God gave land to the starving migrant people of Israel, may our community welcome ecological refugees and help provide for their needs as we confront the human causes of climate change. Father of Jesus hear
3. Jesus taught us to look to the birds of the air and not to worry, so, may we respect Earth's free gifts that sustain us and all. Father of Jesus hear ...
4. Since Scripture tells us to seek first the kingdom of God, may all believers be clothed with baptismal wisdom to follow their ecological vocation in our time. Father of Jesus hear ...
5. Knowing that God raises up holy women and men in every age, let us recognise the martyrs who have given themselves in defence of Earth and all it holds. Father of Jesus ...
6. Rejoicing that God, Earth and humanity are bound together in one mystery, may our hearts be fired to make love of God and the whole family of creation the driving force in our lives. Father of Jesus hear

PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT: "OUR FATHER ..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Creative and nourishing God, you feed us like the birds of the air with Earth's free gifts and nourish us by the work of human hands. Your gifts tell of your abiding presence with us in our journey. You have shown yourself faithful to your Covenant promises. Guide our journey with the peoples, cultures and the Cosmos in every age until your new creation is made complete. We ask ...

"We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters."

—Laudato Si #2

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

Diverse Catholic Rites alerts us to be open to new spiritual pathways. Pope Francis was open to the spiritual tradition of the Greek Patriarch Bartholomew. The Greek Church has A Service of Agiasmos in Supplication for the Environment. St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, Sydney adapted the 'Lesser Sanctification of Water' for celebration on 1 September. This builds on the proceedings of the inter-Orthodox conference on environmental protection, Crete 1991, So That God's Creation Might Live. Orthodoxy and Ecology: Resource Book, eds. A Belopopsky and D Oikonomou, 1996, published by SYNDESMOS.



THE EARTH, OUR HOME, IS BEGINNING TO LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE AN IMMENSE PILE OF FILTH. IN MANY PARTS OF THE PLANET, THE ELDERLY LAMENT THAT ONCE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES ARE NOW COVERED WITH RUBBISH. – Laudato Si #21

Day Two

GOOD SEED BEARS FRUIT

Naming a grace to celebrate - God wants us and Earth itself to flourish, yielding a hundred fold. To blossom is the reason for our existence. The spirit of God wells up in all creation making us and all things co-creators in an evolving story. We know this through meditating on the marvels of the physical world in which we move and have our being. Let us remember our calling to respect and love every gift of creation (pause).

PRAYER

Creator God, over billions of years you created all that exists and brought forth humanity to flower as many cultures. Open the eyes and ears of our minds in growing awareness, so that each day we can better experience your Earthly presence. In wisdom and goodness may we stand tall like a tree witnessing that you sustain all that exists honouring you by its very existence. We ask this ...

WISDOM 11:24-26 – GOD LOVES ALL THAT EXISTS

For you love all things that exist,
and detest none of the things that you have made,
for you would not have made anything if you had hated it.
How would anything have endured if you had not willed it?
Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved?

You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living.

For your immortal spirit is in all things

PSALM 96

Declare God's marvellous works among the peoples

- ² Let us sing to you, Lord, bless your name;
tell of your salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare your glory among the nations,
your marvellous works among all the peoples.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the Earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- ¹² Let the fields exult and everything in them.
Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- ¹³ The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with truth.

ACTS 17:24-28 – LIVE AND MOVE IN GOD

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and Earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole Earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

MATTHEW 13:4-9 – YIELD A HUNDRED FOLD

And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears, listen!

STORY TELLING

Everyone has animal stories – the pretty and the ugly, the friendly and the aggressive. Some animals are fascinating because of their shape and colour. For many people the experience of being with animals is a way to appreciate the beauty of Earth, to delve into natural evolutionary processes and explore behaviour. Many people find love in animals and a revelation of God's diverse wisdom.

REFLECTION IDEAS

The yearnings of the human heart were manifest in every culture as people strove to make sense of their existence on Earth. The place where they lived formed the basis for the first stories they shared. They saw the stars, mountains, rivers, plants and animals as sources of life, wonder and sometimes fear. In prayer they developed ways of wisdom.

Scripture tells the stories of the descendants of Abraham as God formed them as a people. They lived with being landless and famine stricken migrants. Gradually they formed laws under God given leaders like Moses to guide them in the ways they treated both land and each other. They learnt God given wisdom. They made mistakes and asked forgiveness to change their ways.

We have our modern stories of both hope and fear, stories of bearing fruit in varying degrees. We are called to choose a way forward that is not overcome by the weeds of business nor become impervious to compassion like rocky ground. We can calmly move forward choosing first to remember we are loved by God in whom we live and have our being.

INTERCESSIONS

1. Learning from scientists that God's creation evolved over billions of years to flower as diverse cultures, may we thank the scientists and listen to them as messengers of the Holy Spirit. Father of Jesus, hear ...
2. As psalmists danced in praise God and wept for sins of infidelity, may we sing like the wind in praise of the Cosmos and wail in lament like the roaring seas. Father of Jesus, hear ...
3. Since God has allotted the boundaries of land, and filled diverse cultures with wisdom, may we listen to the Earth and its people, choosing good and shunning evil. Father of Jesus, hear ...
4. Remembering that God guides the church with mystics in very age, may we immerse ourselves in the mystery of God's own self revealed in the Cosmos and all it holds. Father of Jesus, hear ...
5. Knowing that God displays truth in the detail of Creation, may we neither be deceived by the false dreams of ambition nor harden our hearts to suffering. Father of Jesus hear ...
6. Scripture teaches that God scolded Job for not seeing a Creator's handy work in the Universe, so, may we search for the mystery of God present in diverse places. Father of Jesus hear ...

PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT: "OUR FATHER ..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Creative and nurturing God, you have planted deep in every human heart a desire to celebrate with all your gifts of creation. From mountain top to sweeping plains, from isolated ponds to the ocean, people around the globe remember your loving acts of creation. Sustained for the journey, may we continue to evolve according to your will until all is fulfilled as a new creation in you. We ask ...

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

–Laudato Si #62

SPIRITUALITY OF INTEGRAL-ECOLOGY

Following Jesus the Christ by faith has developed as diverse spiritual pathways over millennia – Monastic, Missionary, Service, Social, Lay and more. Some explicitly embraced love of creation – cultivation of gardens, love of animals, care for the sick, education, embracing the insights of science. In modern times, social justice commitment grew a spirituality of encounter with structural sin in a secular pluralistic world. A *spirituality of integral ecology* adds to these traditions. Cf. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/archived/spiritofthings/the-spiritual-heart-of-australia/7701294>





THE MISUSE OF CREATION BEGINS WHEN WE NO LONGER RECOGNIZE ANY HIGHER INSTANCE THAN OURSELVES, WHEN WE SEE NOTHING ELSE BUT OURSELVES.

– Laudato Si #6

Day Three

VOIDING GOD'S PROMISES

Naming a grace to celebrate - God promised to father the nation Israel and sealed that promise in a covenant. And God is ever faithful. However, human behaviour is fickle so that God's promises are rejected and the covenant broken. Human kind puts a curse on itself which in turn flows over onto Earth. Let us meditate both on the eternal loving promises of a patient God, and on unfaithful human responses (pause).

PRAYER

Lord, dried up land and polluted oceans are signs that we have desecrated land and polluted the waters you give in loving kindness. Often we have been unfaithful to your covenant of blessings, offering but lip service in return. Remembering that you are ever faithful and merciful, may we turn back to you with all our heart. Wash us clean and give us the power to act with integrity. We ask ...

ISAIAH 24:4-6 – EARTH DIES IF COVENANT BROKEN

The Earth dries up and withers,
the world languishes and withers;
the heavens languish together with the Earth.

The Earth lies polluted
under its inhabitants;
for they have transgressed laws,
violated the statutes
broken the everlasting covenant.

Therefore a curse devours the Earth,
and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt;
therefore the inhabitants of the Earth dwindled,
and few people are left.



PSALM 105

Remember God's covenant forever

- ⁸ Remember God's covenant forever,
a word commanded for a thousand generations,
⁹ The covenant that God made with Abraham,
a sworn promise to Isaac,
¹⁰ confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
¹¹ Saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance.'
⁴¹ God opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.
⁴² Remembering your holy promise,
and Abraham, your servant.

1 THESS 5:14-17 – PATIENTLY SEEK PEACE

We urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing.

MATTHEW 15:1-9 – DECEIT

Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat." He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honour your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.' But you say that whoever tells father or mother, 'Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,' then that person need not honor the father. So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God. You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said:

This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines."

STORY TELLING

Landline is a television program that tells stories linking the three spheres of ecology, economics and human communities as one. A program might be about growing mushrooms or sea weed, regenerating the soil with cell grazing of animals or developing a wildlife park for tourism. Inter-dependence is a key word to understanding how a human community makes a living by interacting with its ecological surrounds. Many people are fascinated by the management decisions involved and even find God present in the puzzle.

REFLECTION IDEAS

All of us would have taken part in a fancy banquet at a school reunion - everyone is dressed up, a MC leads the protocols, people are invited to speak, toasts are proposed as spirits run high. Sadly, sometimes the event rings hollow – made up stories and exaggeration holds sway - a false show.

Scripture is often blunt in condemning the phoniness of Israel, especially the leaders and priestly caste. Jesus said the Pharisees were unfaithful to their covenant with God - the vineyard belonged to God, to be cared for and not plundered. He condemned false show of hollow prayers as mere lip service.

In our day many grand exaggerated speeches, even shows of sympathetic concern to disaster victims, can deny the ecological emergency engulfing our planet. Likewise, our lifestyle preferences often ignore the measurable impacts of climate change and the reality of resource limitations. We disregard calls to re-evaluate displays of so called success to choose a more humble path of simplicity.

INTERCESSIONS

1. Just as God made dry bones in the desert grow to live, may degraded land and polluted waters be changed to nurture the household of Earth. Father of Jesus, hear ...
2. Remembering that God cared for Abraham's descendants as refugees, and that we all came here as outsiders, may we respect and share the gifts of this land. Father of Jesus, hear ...
3. Since the Equinox shows the new life of spring and the maturity of autumn, may we learn to bring its harmony and rhythmic flow into our lives. Father of Jesus, hear ...
4. Knowing that Jesus condemned the Pharisees for letting their traditions void the word of God, may we not give god-like status to our economic ways and lifestyle. Father of Jesus, hear ...
5. Learning that lip service does not please God, may we prepare our liturgy with an ear for Scripture, an eye to Earth's realities and a heart for the community. Father of Jesus, hear ...
6. As the Spirit of Jesus led his followers to form communities of integrity, may church leaders and believers listen to each other in patience so we can proclaim a new creation in the Christ Risen. Father of Jesus hear

PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT: "OUR FATHER ..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Creating and nurturing God, we know that we are called to first be reconciled with each other and Earth itself before approaching your altar in prayer. We know too that we have been washed clean by the obedience of your Son and made into a new creation. May we encourage each other in kindness knowing that you support us in all that we do. We ask ...

"Patriarch Bartholomew said, "to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God".

–Laudato Si #8

LESSONS FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

St Matthew's Gospel was written to communicate Good News to Jewish People. Jesus is shown as fulfilling God's promises to Abraham's children. He fulfils the Covenant promises. He is a descendant of David. Matthew writes to communicate. The faith journey in his Gospel tells stories of opposition and doubts. It charts a new order for the Kingdom of Heaven which culminates in the Great Commission for his followers to proclaim the Risen Jesus. He is Good News to all the nations, for God holds a dominion of loving care over the whole world. Matthew's Gospel encourages us to creatively communicate *Laudato Si'* - use language and images familiar to the hearer.





Day Four

STATEMENTS OF THE POPES ECHO THE REFLECTIONS OF NUMEROUS SCIENTISTS, PHILOSOPHERS, THEOLOGAINS AND CIVIC GROUPS, ALL OF WHICH HAVE ENRICHED THE CHURCH'S THINKING ON THESE QUESTIONS.

– Laudato Si #6

HOLY SPIRIT ETERNAL TEACHER

Naming a grace to celebrate - Jesus promised to send his Spirit to be with us to the end of time. In that spirit our faith communities are called to listen to opinions and discern ways forward. In God given wisdom we are to proclaim hope to the nations, especially in times of confusion and despair. Let us name the wonders of Earth and puzzle out how to care for them as praise of God (pause).

PRAYER

God, you take on our griefs and anxieties, our joys and hopes. Grow within us your spirit of wisdom so that we can find you present in all the workings of Earth, in every living creature and culture. Guide us to love Earth and our earthly kin as a mysterious web of life, working for the harmony of this world so that in its very existence praises you. We ask ...

PROVERBS 3:13-14; 6:6-9 - LEARN WISDOM

Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.

Go to the ant, you lazybones;
consider its ways, and be wise.

Without having any chief
or officer or ruler,
it prepares its food in summer,
and gathers its sustenance in harvest.

How long will you lie there, O lazybones?
When will you rise from your sleep?

PSALM 148

God's glory is above earth and heaven

- ³ Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!
- ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
- ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!
- ⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
- ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds.

ACTS 15:6-9 - SPIRIT IN ALL NATIONS

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us.'

JOHN 6:7-8, 12-13 – ABIDING ADVOCATE

Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."

STORY TELLING

Good story telling always involves personal experiences. People are interested to hear what other people have done and how they feel. Many personal stories involve encounters with the natural environment – amazement seeing a sunset or horror at seeing clear felling of trees. *Catholics and Nature: two hundred years of environmental attitudes in Australia* explores local Catholic history. The booklet contains memories and short stories told by believers taken from their personal experience - family backyard, big western sky, notion of evolution, dirt encrusted faces, obsessed with animals (ACSJC *Social Justice Series No.57*, 2006, Charles Rue).

REFLECTION IDEAS

Pope Francis teaches that in these times, dialogue is the way to do mission. He challenges us to face the ecological challenge, loving Earth as mother and sister, caring for our common home. Dialogue means listening/speaking, moving in partnership to new ways of thinking and acting. The followers of Jesus in early church communities give



us an example of dialogue in practice. When faced with Gentile groups forming new Christian communities, the apostles had to broaden their ideas of what was demanded of them as leaders in Christ. The apostles learnt that the Spirit blows where it wills. God plays the tune for the dance of life.

As Christians engage with the insights of ecological scientists they are challenged by the Holy Spirit to listen to the voice of Earth, even to rethink their faith expression. Through dialogue believers make decisions to act, new commitments and new partnerships, finding new and unexpected friends for the human journey. The Christian spiritual journey grows and evolves so that even prayer itself takes on new language

INTERCESSIONS

1. Just as Vatican II led church communities to look to people's griefs and anxieties, joys and hopes, may we shun a tyranny of economics and false lifestyle dreams that deny hope to the young. Father of Jesus, hear ...
2. Remembering that believers in the Acts of the Apostles learnt to negotiate with each other in spreading Good News, may we listen to others on church and world issues.. Father of Jesus, hear ...
3. Since God has made us co-creators, may we strive to grow rural and urban communities, with jobs for all in a land not looking like a garbage heap. Father of Jesus, hear ...
4. As God has set us on Earth as in a vineyard, may we know and respect the locality where we live, loving it into producing good fruit appropriate to its place and time. Father of Jesus, hear ...
5. Forgiven when we repent, may we forgive ourselves, and others, for misuse of earth's gifts and personal faults, so living a new life. Father of Jesus, hear ...
6. Called to know God, may we respect the scientific method of knowledge, and humbly integrate it with our faith knowledge, deepening the mystery of God's presence. Father of Jesus, hear ...

PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT: "OUR FATHER ..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Creative and nurturing God, may our hearts and minds grow to appreciate the deep mystery of life to the full you give us in your Son. You forgive our arrogance and sinful pride. May we guide one another to search for what is good, traveling together as we point to the signs of Your reign on earth. We ask ...

"It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter, which is now added to the body of the Church's social teaching, can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face ."

—Laudato Si #15

MODERN MOVEMENTS

Designing a reflection-retreat in the 21st century must learn from modern movements. It is necessary to choose Scriptural texts and compose prayers that use inclusive language (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* Priests for Equality S/ Ward 2007/9). Carolyn Merchant wrote *Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution* (1980/1990) about the twin suppression of the voices of Earth and women. The Adelaide Earth Bible group from 2000 onwards used the 'hermeneutic of suspicion' developed by feminist scholars to retrieve the suppressed voice of Earth.



THE VIOLENCE PRESENT IN OUR HEARTS, WOUNDED BY SIN, IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE SYMPTOMS OF SICKNESS EVIDENT IN THE SOIL, IN THE WATER, IN THE AIR AND IN ALL FORMS OF LIFE. THIS IS WHY THE EARTH HERSELF ... “GROANS IN TRAVAIL” (ROM 8:22). – Laudato Si #2

Day Five

HEALS AND CASTS OUT DEVILS

Naming a grace to celebrate - Isaiah tells us that God looks upon the suffering of all peoples and the Earth itself. The word trauma regularly appears in news reports ranging from climate emergency to mental health, from family violence to migration. Let us remember that Jesus healed the sick and cast out devils, and that as people of hope let us begin by weeping when we hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor (pause).

OPENING PRAYER

Father of Jesus, you sent your Son to proclaim true freedom to those bound in mind or body, by physical restraints or spiritual anxiety. Lead all who are held captive in any way to pass from groaning and lament to freedom. May we be reborn, joining with Earth itself in praising your abiding presence, proclaiming the good news of your faithfulness. We ask ...

ISAIAH 61:1-3 - FREE CAPTIVES

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

PSALM 137

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept

- 1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.
- 2 There on the poplars we hung our harps,
- 3 for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

- 4 How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?
- 5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill.

ROMANS 8:19-22 - CREATION GROANS

Creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

MATTHEW 4:23-25 – CARE FOR OUTCASTS

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

STORY TELLING

Most people can tell stories about how they have seen the creative action of God thwarted. Even an elementary knowledge of evolutionary processes leads us to question over fishing oceans or over stocking farms, to putting little tested chemicals into the food chain or the proliferation of garbage dumps. Not only lament but anger is a legitimate response. Protest as well as loving action to heal become part of eco-spirituality.

REFLECTION IDEAS

Many people die in their pursuit of freedom. People go to any length to be healed in mind and body. Both freedom and healing are universal desires. In his environmental encyclical Pope Francis reminds us to look to the reality of a suffering Earth, parched lands and polluted ocean, diminished wildlife and its suffering peoples. All suffer under increasing human exploitation. We are to

acknowledge hunger, lack of security, forced migrations; acknowledge pollution, species loss and climate change.

The Scriptures are full of the twin cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The psalms lament the suffering of the people and invite them to join with the suffering of the stress of parched land, with the stress of a tree starved of water. It is God who upholds hope for healing and freedom, free like sheep led to green pastures in another image. God cares and is never far away from a suffering world.

Our ecological commitment calls us to bring hope to a suffering world. That hope is grounded in the faithfulness of an abiding God who heals and frees. The young and future generations will die if they have no vision of hope to pull them forward to healing in life, or if there are no actions which grow true freedom.

INTERCESSIONS

1. As Jesus travelled Galilee preaching Good News to liberate those suffering bondage in mind or body, may we have the courage to cooperate with all people of good will working for liberation. Father of Jesus ...
2. As Jesus healed the sick and cast out devils, may we grow in compassion, supporting workers who sacrifice themselves to care for people on the margins. Father of Jesus ...
3. Scripture says that God favours the oppressed, so, may we campaign to cancel the debt of nations lured into the false dreams of unsustainable development. Father of Jesus ...
4. Remembering that God willed the evolving design of our world, may we be cautious in adopting technologies that harm nature and farmers alike, deceiving consumers with false promises. Father of Jesus ...
5. As water is a sign of baptismal conversion, may dreams of irrigated lands not lead to ecological vandalism or to denying access to water as a human right. Father of Jesus ...
6. Knowing that Earth itself is a sign that God is near and giving, let our church communities be grateful to the scientists and poets who help reveal the gift of earth as mother. Father of Jesus ...

PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT: "OUR FATHER ..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Creative and nurturing God, your Son ushered in a new era of good news to the nations. May we be transformed so that we can live as good news for our neighbours and Earth itself, caring and healing in your name. Strengthen us on our painful journey as part of all creation groaning to give birth to a new creation. We ask ...

"drawing on the results of the best scientific research available today, letting them touch us deeply and provide a concrete foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows."

—Laudato Si #15

CREATING STORIES MODELLED ON THE PARABLES

Jesus told parables to convey deep spiritual truths, taking example from everyday life. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/parables-of-jesus/> Anyone can adapt a parable. For example, using the story of the seed growing while the owner sleeps (Mk 4:26-29) powerfully illustrates that Earth's natural systems operate to support all life 24/7 without human thought or direction. Another way to create parables uses stories about local wildlife. Climate and physical isolation always produce unique flora and fauna. <https://www.natureaustralia.org.au/explore/australian-animals/10-weird-and-wonderful-wildlife-of-australia/>





REPLACE CONSUMPTION WITH SACRIFICE, GREED WITH GENEROSITY, WASTEFULNESS WITH A SPIRIT OF SHARING, AN ASCETICISM WHICH “ENTAILS LEARNING TO GIVE, AND NOT SIMPLY TO GIVE UP. IT IS A WAY OF LOVING, OF MOVING GRADUALLY AWAY FROM WHAT I WANT TO WHAT GOD’S WORLD NEEDS. IT IS LIBERATION FROM FEAR, GREED AND COMPULSION”. – Laudato Si #9

Day Six

AGREEMENT

Naming a grace to celebrate - The Acts of the Apostles tells of struggles within the early church communities. Living out a 21st century faith driven ecological vocation is not straight forward. It combines head and heart, long term planning and courage. Also, it is a path that cannot be walked alone. We can meditate and pray for the grace that combines the human gifts of listening and compromise with the spiritual gifts of wisdom and love (pause).

OPENING PRAYER

Caring God, you sent you own Son to live a fully human life as we are called to live. He guided his followers in word and deed, and continues to guide all the baptised through the gift of his abiding Spirit. May we listen and not harden our hearts. May we turn to one another for help on the journey, striving to love our neighbour close by and around the planet, striving to find you in every creature that exists on Earth. Father of Jesus ...

EZEKIEL 33:7-9 - WARN THE WICKED TO REPENT

Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

PSALM 95

Harden not you hearts

- 1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- 5 God shaped the sea and owns it
and formed the dry land by hand.
- 8 Today if only you would hear God’s voice,
‘Harden not your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,
- 9 when you ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did’.

ROMANS 13:8-10 - MUTUAL LOVE

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

MATTHEW 18:15-17 - COMMUNAL AGREEMENT

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church.

STORY TELLING

Stories tell us that the suffering of earth and the suffering of people often go together. Research into the growing frequency of droughts and wildfires, floods and violent storms, shows that they both damage the land and turn livelihoods upside down. The twin cry of land and people need care and healing. This situation opens up often complex human challenges but equally complex eco-spiritual reflection.

REFLECTION IDEAS

It takes hard headed debate and choices to plan an adequate response to Earth’s environmental emergency. Structural economic and lifestyle problems take us beyond personal responsibility and personal blaming. We are called to cooperate with others so that we speak with one voice about the harmful impacts of negligent public planning and corporate greed.

Speaking truth to power is difficult. It takes insight and courage. But speaking out will lack impact if not done in cooperation with others. The ever present wisdom of God must be invoked, experts and neighbours listened to.

Living out a faith driven ‘ecological vocation’ is not straight forward. It cannot be walked alone. But a community working as one is strong, a grace to be prayed for as co-creators with God in a new creation.

INTERCESSIONS

1. As we proclaim God as truth, may we publicly oppose those who intentionally sow doubt in people's minds through self-interest and the lure of money. Father of Jesus ...
2. Relying on the reconciliation brought by Jesus, as a nation of Aboriginal and migrant peoples destined to be one in this land, may we replace fear with outreach and listening. Father of Jesus ...
3. Knowing that God clothes all people with wisdom about Earth's voice, may our local community live out our ecological vocation with integrity, in justice and love. Father of Jesus ...
4. Remembering that God hears the voice of the poor, may our minds and hearts be open to environmental refugees and those forced to look for new work. Father of Jesus ...
5. Scripture teaches that Israel saw droughts and floods as reminders of human fragility, so, may we grow in humility as Earth moves from drought to harvest, from death to life. Father of Jesus ...
6. Learning from Israel's hope for a promised land, may we not sacrifice land and ocean, forest and the multitude of life they support through a distorted hope of a promised land. Father of Jesus ...

INTEGRAL-CREATION HYMNS

The adage says of hymns, to *sing is to pray twice*. *Laudato Si'* sets a radical new agenda. And putting its message to music flags a happy task in imagination for poets and musicians alike. The *mood of and style of hymns help express ecological conversion*. Vatican II set the criteria as pastoral relevance. But classical music and popular songs can add flair to reflection and prayer in *care for earth as our common home*. <https://www.earthday.org/12-songs-for-your-climate-strike-playlist/>

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE AUSTRALIA

Catholic Earthcare Australia has a mandate from the Conference of bishops. Striving for ecological conversion adds a new dimension to Christian mysticism. Growing awareness that earth underpins all life leads to humility before God and helps cultivate habits of patient reflection when making life choices. <http://catholicearthcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Mandate-for-Catholic-Earthcare-Australia.pdf>

PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT: "OUR FATHER ..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Creative and nurturing God, continue to guide all the baptised through the gift of the abiding Spirit of your Son. May believers turn to one another for help on the journey and reach out to listen to our neighbours close by and around the planet. May every creature and human family that exists on Earth grow into the fullness of life you eternally wish for them. Father of Jesus ...

"The urgent challenge to protect [earth] our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development ... I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share."

—Laudato Si #13





HE (SAINT FRANCIS) WAS A MYSTIC AND A PILGRIM WHO LIVED IN SIMPLICITY AND IN WONDERFUL HARMONY WITH GOD, WITH OTHERS, WITH NATURE AND WITH HIMSELF. HE SHOWS US JUST HOW INSEPARABLE THE BOND IS BETWEEN CONCERN FOR NATURE, JUSTICE FOR THE POOR, COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY, AND INTERIOR PEACE. – Laudato Si #10

Day Seven

FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Naming a grace to celebrate - God is close to the saints. They give over their talents to serve the will of God. St Francis knew, like a chick, he sheltered safe under the wing of God. He first came close to God in the place where he lived but was not afraid to move when God led him on new pathways. Let us reflect on the Scripture as it leads us into the saintly way of St Francis (pause).

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you raised up Francis of Assisi as a saint to challenge the luxury and frivolity of his age. He showed a new Gospel way of simplicity that valued poverty and care for the poor, reaching out to those on the margins and praising your gifts of Earth and in the heavens. Grow his spirit within us so that we may look to the challenges of our times, serving the alienated and a suffering planet. We ask ...

JEREMIAH 7:3-7 - REFORM WAYS

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!" If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.

PSALM 91

Under God's wings you will find refuge

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.'
- 3 Surely God will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 Under God's wings you will find refuge; The Lord's faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

ACTS 2:42-45 – PRAY AND SHARE

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

MATTHEW 23:37-38 - CARE

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate.

STORY TELLING

We like telling stories that inspire us. Stories about saints who cared for earth and modern ecological martyrs are many. But we might be surprised at the number of stories from our own circles we can tell about environmental activists, champions and companions, people of faith on a shared eco-spiritual journey. Their stories strengthen our commitment and help broaden our vision.

REFLECTION IDEAS

In 1990 John Paul II named Francis of Assisi as the patron saint of ecology. Francis modelled a simple lifestyle while showing love to beggars and animals alike, kin to them all and the planets as well. He sang in celebration.

We are pushed back to reflect again on the message of the Scriptures and traditional Catholic teaching about creation. Faith says that Earth belongs to God and we are but caretakers. Each part of cosmic creation reveals something of God's own self. We are to rejoice in the Earth as a gift of God's presence knowing that it offers praise to God by its very existence.

Remembering the life of Francis has radical implications for the way we live and the choices we make. His life calls us to act as peacemakers, respecting both people and all species on Earth as kin. He was transformed into a saint by simplicity and compassion, suffering and joy to personify Good News.

INTERCESSIONS

1. Knowing that God as creator willed a diversity of species evolve over eons, praising God in their own right, may we like St Francis call them sister and brother. Father of Jesus hear ...
2. As St Francis embraced poverty as a loving sister, may we turn away from wasteful lifestyles and make laws to manage Earth's resources with equity and justice. Father of Jesus hear ...
3. As the psalmists saw God's power in wilderness, may we find ways for disadvantaged young people to experience first-hand the uplifting wonders of Earth. Father of Jesus hear ...
4. Just as Francis of Assisi left a home of luxury to tend to the poor and diseased, mental and deformed, may our hearts be changed to stop blaming those suffering need and support carers. Father of Jesus hear ...
5. As St Francis initiated face to face dialogue with Muslim leaders in pursuit of peace, may all nations deal with each other justly, learning to respect each other's gifts and not shed innocent blood. Father of Jesus hear ...
6. As both Jesus and St Francis accepted the wounds of the cross, may we willingly take up our cross in service of our brothers and sisters and all our earthy kin. Father of Jesus hear ...
7. As we offer the bread and wine, gifts of Earth and the fruit of human hands, may we not turn them into a pathway of abuse but use them as a source of joy and celebration. Father of Jesus hear ...

THE LOVING KINDNESS OF GOD

Pope Francis names Catholic insights into the modern world - ecological, human, economic and political - as a worthy contribution to help dialogue and ongoing praxis on environmental issues LS 63. This faith is Scripture based, about the loving outpouring of God's own self. The Five Covenants help believers remember that God loved creation first, giving us the power to love creation in response. We avoid the temptation to centre prayer solely on ecological themes which can devolve into campaign like slogans and even anger. We are called to go beyond symptoms LS 9. Scripture forms a solid basis for *ecological conversion* and *eco-spirituality* that draws believers on to embrace an *ecological vocation* LS 217.

PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT: "OUR FATHER ..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Creative and nurturing God, Jesus made a family gathered around a festive table as the final sign of unity with his followers. May we be united and transformed like the saints in every age. As we remember Francis of Assisi, give us his vision and strength to dedicate ourselves to rebuilding your house suitable to our times and a foretaste of the eternal Jerusalem. We ask ...

"Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there ... Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise."

—Laudato Si #12





Scripture Readings

YEAR B & YEAR C

SCRIPTURE READINGS IN YEAR B (EMPHASIES MARK'S GOSPEL)

DAY ONE - SPIRIT IS UPON ME

Gn 12:1-3 – covenant blessing
Ps 24:1-4, 10 – earth belongs to God
1 Jn 4:7-13 – power to love another
Mk 1:9-11, 14-15

DAY TWO - PARABLE OF THE STORM

Jb 12:7-10 – ask the beasts
Ps 104: 5, 10, 14, 19, 24 – praise
Ac 5:25-26, 40-42 – witness
Mk: 4: 35-41

DAY THREE - TAKE HERITAGE

Is 24.4-6 – earth suffers
(alts, Est 4.9-10, 15-17; Gn 12:5-6,10)
Ps 51: 1, 13-14, 17 – mercy
1 Co 11:18-22 – share food
Mk 12:1-9

DAY FOUR - BAPTISM SPIRIT

Is 55:1-3 – covenant and water
Ps 65: 5, 11-13 – clothes fields
1 Co 15:45-49 – co-create
Mk 1: 4-8

DAY FIVE - TRULY FREE

Is 40:1-6 – God uses Cyrus
Ps 119:1-5 – free in God's law
Ga 5.1, 13-14 – use freedom well
Jn 8:31-36 (alt. Mk 1:30-34)

DAY SIX - A PURE HEART

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8 – laws of life
Ps 14:2-5 – act with justice
Jm 1:17-18, 21-22, 27 – new creation
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-22

DAY SEVEN - ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Dt 15:7-11 – poor among you
Ps 69:9-13 – zeal for your house
Ac 2:42-47 – share in common
Jn 2:13-17 – money

SCRIPTURE READINGS IN YEAR C (EMPHASIES LUKE'S GOSPEL)

DAY ONE - MAGNIFICAT

Sg 5:10-16 – the beloved
Ps 46:2-3, 9-11 – fear not
Rm 16:1-6 – women deacons
Lk 1:46-55

DAY TWO - MUSTARD SEED

Lv 25:2-7 – rest
Ps 90:4-6 – God's timeline
Ac 13:44-47 – to all lands
Lk 13:18-21 (alt. Lk 3:5-8)

DAY THREE - PRODIGAL SON

Gn 3:17-19 – human labour
Ps 126:3-6 – wipe away tears
1 Co 15:45-49 – new Adam
Lk 15:11-32

DAY FOUR - WORD

Ws 7:26-30 – eternal light
Ps 23:1-2,4-6 – shepherd
Rv 21:1-3, 6 – new earth
Jn 1:1-5, 9, 14

DAY FIVE - FINAL DAYS

Ex 12:14-17 - new Passover
Ps 106:3-6 – Israel freed
1 Th 4:13, 16-17 – Second Coming
Lk 17:26-32

DAY SIX - PLACE AT THE TABLE

Si 3:17-20, 28-29 – be gentle
Ps 67:4-7, 10-11 – give a home
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24 – city of the living
Lk 14:1, 7-14

DAY SEVEN – ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

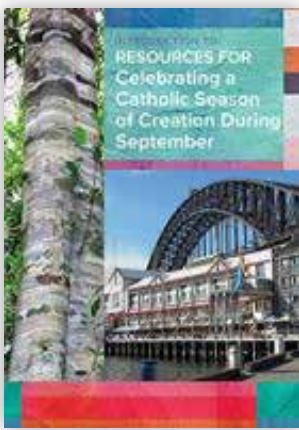
Lv 26:41-45 – remember covenant
Ps 106:43-47 – happy in praise
Ac 5:36, 38-41 – movement of God
Lk 1:67-73 – God faithful



EUCHARIST AND LAUDATO SI 2017 - Catholic September Liturgical Season of Creation

Commentary on the existing Catholic Lectionary

https://issuu.com/ecen.communications/docs/eucharist_and_laudato_si



A CATHOLIC SEASON OF CREATION – SUNDAYS OF SEPTEMBER (YEAR A, 2020)

<https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-resources/a-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-of-september-year-a>

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by Charles Rue

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