

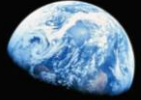


SEASON OF CREATION

2020

September 1
– October 4

JUBILEE
FOR THE
EARTH



Reflections on *Aqua Fons Vitae*

Orientations on Water:

symbol of the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth



**Office of Human Development
Climate Change Desk**

FABC

FEDERATION OF ASIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCES

Message from Bishop Allwyn D'Silva

The Season of Creation this year has for its theme: Jubilee for the Earth. One of the important elements of the Earth is Water. Water popularly represents life. It can be associated with birth, fertility and refreshment. In a Christian context, water has many correlations. Most of our sacraments use water for purification and life. Water has the power to purify, to provide deliverance, and it can also destroy evil and enemies as in the stories of the Flood (Genesis 6:17) and the flight of Israel from Egypt (Exodus 14:1-15:21). Christ walked on water and transmuted it into WINE, thus these acts can be seen as a transcendence of the earthly condition.

I congratulate the Office of Human Development and Climate Change Desk of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences for focusing on water during the Season of Creation. They have suggested practical steps for us to implement during the month so that we can save our planet earth. Besides, they have based their reflection on the Vatican Document on water by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development: *Aqua Fons Vitae*.

May this Season of Creation help us to feel the caress of God through water.

✠ Bishop Allwyn D'Silva

Chairperson – Commission for Ecology, Conference of Catholic Bishops of India
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay
15 August 2020

Gratitude

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Fr Joseph Gonsalves

Executive Secretary – Office of Human Development / Climate Change Desk
Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC – OHD/CCD)

Introduction

The Season of Creation – an ecumenical movement celebrated by the World Council of Churches along with the Catholic Church – begins every year on 1st September, the Word Day of Prayer for the Care for Creation, and ends on the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi on 4th October. It is a time to heal and renew our relationship with our common home through prayer and action. The theme for 2020 is [Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope](#). This year’s Season of Creation is a time to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth (i.e. Jubilee cf. Leviticus 25:11-12), and ecological, economic, social, and political ways of living.

This e-booklet contains reflections for each day of the Season of Creation that are based on the Vatican document [Aqua Fons Vitae](#) (Water is a Source of Life) [Orientations on Water, symbol of the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth](#) released by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in March 2020. The e-booklet seeks to create awareness among people on issues related to water and challenges local churches to act upon the given guidance and suggestions.

The format for reflection for each day is as follows:



#

A brief quote from [Aqua Fons Vitae](#), with the corresponding number beneath the icon; it is recommended to read the entire Vatican document for better understanding of the context



One or two questions for reflection based on the quote



An activity for each day; to be initiated during the Season of Creation, and continued thereafter – readers could also take up any other activity related to water or caring for Mother Earth instead the one suggested in the e-booklet



A short concluding prayer



OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

1ST SEP
2020

Since the past five years, the Catholic Church has joined other Christian Churches in celebrating 1st September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, celebrated by the Orthodox Church since 1989. This ecumenical venture has now been expanded into a month-long period known as the ‘Season of Creation’. According to the Holy Father, “The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in our vocation as stewards of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvellous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”

Opening Hymn

All things bright and beautiful all creatures great and small... (or any other hymn)

Opening Prayer *(Collect from the Orthodox Tradition)*

We praise and bless you, O Lord,

In the beginning of the beginning, you breathed upon the waters of creation, and filled the earth with life through your vibrant Spirit.

You spoke, and the earth burst forth in life, you saw that it was good.

You called forth creation, and enlivened every creature on land and sea.

We praise you for your manifold gifts.

May our daily care for your creation show reverence for your name, and reveal your saving power in every creature under heaven.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2: 4 – 9, 15: “When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens ...”

Reflection

The creation accounts in the Bible clearly tell us that God is the creator of everything and all that He has created is good. While He has appointed human beings to be stewards of creation to care and protect it, creation belongs to God. Human beings are therefore accountable to God for our interaction and stewardship of creation. The Hebrew word for ‘care’ is *shamar*, meaning to ‘watch, guard, protect’. Therefore stewardship is a directive from God to work, care, watch over, guard and protect all that has been assigned to us. Caring for creation is a responsibility that has been entrusted to every human person. Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si’* reminds us that the ecological crisis summons us to a profound spiritual conversion. Our Christian experience must make us aware of our Christian vocation to be protectors of God’s creation.



OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

1ST SEP
2020

Prayer of the Faithful (*Book of Blessings #1018*)

As we pray in gratitude for God's blessing upon all of creation and the work of our hands, let us not forget that we must each do the works of holiness in our lives.

Let us, then, pray to God, saying: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. You brought all things into existence from nothing and inscribed in each being from the beginning the goal which it was to accomplish: pour out your blessing on the whole of creation, we pray to the Lord...
2. All provident Father, your care has given us food from the earth; grant that the crops we harvest may sustain us in body and help us to grow in spirit, we pray to the Lord...
3. You feed the birds of the air and clothe the lilies of the field; teach us to seek first your kingship over us and follow your way of holiness, we pray to the Lord...
4. You sent Christ Jesus into the world to touch the hearts of sinners: put an end to evil designs of those seeking only selfish benefits at the expense of the poor and the earth, we pray to the Lord...
5. You planned that all your children should share in the goods of your creation; grant that all those who are in need may come to enjoy an untroubled life and to glorify you and praise your holy name, we pray to the Lord...

Let us summarize all our prayers and petitions in words of Jesus – **'Our Father'**

Quote from *Aqua Fons Vitae*

Water is a symbol of regeneration because it is the drink we constantly need; it cleanses and constantly restores life. It may be abused, rendered unusable and unsafe, polluted and dissipated, but the sheer necessity of it for life, human, animal and plant, requires us, in our different capacities as religious leaders, policy-makers and legislators, economic actors and businessmen, rural subsistent farmers and industrial farmers etc., to jointly show responsibility and exercise care for our common home (#13).

Activity

Light a candle thanking God for the gift of water the source of life.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the Season of Creation, a time to reflect on the gratuitous gift of creation to us. Inspire us that we may become responsible stewards of creation to protect and conserve the various gifts of nature. May Jesus the source of living water give us the grace to faithfully undertake the reflection and activities for each day during this Season of Creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Hymn

Thank you Lord for all you've done (or any other hymn)





#20

Water is a source of life and hence the survival and health of human beings depend directly on water, and so does the production of food, energy and many consumer goods... atmosphere, the cycles of water and climate reminds us of Gods precious gift to us.



Are we aware of water as God's precious gift to us? Have we ever imagined what will happen to us if we don't drink water for 24 hours?



Water a plant or a tree that has been neglected or has stunted growth in the surrounding area or on the road, or adopt a tree and water it regularly.



Lord, we pray that you bless us with the perennial source of water and that we may learn to value and care for this precious gift to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A RELIGIOUS VALUE

3RD SEP
2020



#21

In the Old Testament – the act of creation at the beginning of *Genesis*, the water that purifies or that is a sign of blessing and fertile land, or even the punishment caused by drought or deluge – and in the New Testament there are many connections between water and healing.



Have we experienced the healing power of water in our lives? Whenever the holy water is sprinkled on us, can we feel the power of the Spirit cleansing and renewing us?



After personal prayer or the family rosary, sprinkle holy water on self and on others.



Lord, may we relive the moment of our baptism and experience the cleansing of our body and soul through the purifying grace of the water. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



A SOCIO-CULTURAL AND AESTHETIC VALUE

4TH SEP
2020



#24

Water also has a 'socio-cultural value'... Water is a carrier of the collective memory of humanity. The various arts, and poetry in particular, have found inspiration in water.



Can we recall any songs or poems that have made explicit use of water? Do they motivate us to grow in love for creation?



Watch a film or any video clip on YouTube related to the issues connected with water. E.g.: [Nature Is Speaking – Penélope Cruz is Water](#) | [Conservation International \(CI\)](#)



Lord, we pray that Jesus the life-giving water may motivate us to love others and reach out to those who are deprived of this basic necessity of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN INSTITUTIONAL VALUE AND A VALUE FOR PEACE

5TH SEP
2020



#26

Water is a connector of an 'institutional value' as well as of a 'value for peace', since water is an element that drives the creation of bridges, collaborations and dialogue... Therefore, addressing water scarcity and improving water management, especially by communities, can help create greater social cohesion and solidarity.



Are we aware of the various activities involving water that contribute to the strengthening of social relationships with others? How can we foster these relationships further?



Initiate a meeting in the Small Christian Community or in the neighbourhood and discuss the importance of saving water and the ways to do it in the locality.



Lord, strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship among all people that we may stand by each other in solidarity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





#28

In many cases access to water suitable for drinking, its supply and transport, processing and purification operations have a cost. It is therefore right to acknowledge its role in production and thus in economy and to acknowledge that water has an 'economic value'.



Are we familiar with the water distribution system? What will be the consequences if we do not get water for one week? How will we survive?



Visit as a family or group a water purifying unit/pumping station in the area and find out more about the purification and the supply process.



Lord, we pray for the municipal authorities and the workers who are entrusted with the responsibility of supplying water to our homes. Bless them that they may always think about the common good of all people. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRIVATIZATION OF WATER



#29

Laudato si' is warning against some economic theories and against the attitude of some actors (companies, investors, politicians) that may consider or manage water as a mere commodity that can be owned, grabbed and controlled, consumed and traded *de facto*, denying that water is an essential element for life, meant for the entire humanity.



If water is freely available in nature, should it be sold like a commodity? Is it fair that companies are making huge profits by selling water when there is a large section of society that struggles to get adequate drinking water?



Find out about the city/town reservoir, from where water is supplied and the cost per unit paid for water. Who supplies the water? Is it the local/municipal authorities or has it been outsourced to private companies? Are they making enormous profits? Form a group and study the different aspects, if water has been privatized and create awareness about this in the locality.



Lord, we pray for all the policy makers that they may not be driven by greed and privatize water which is a basic human need, causing hardships and a burden to the poor who cannot afford to buy it. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





#33

Powerful economic actors may look for and obtain maritime concessions for new activities, related for example to tourism, aquaculture, energy production, extraction of sand and of valuable resources from the seabed. Thus, small-scale traditional fishers from local communities may lose their customary access rights, and this may adversely affect their livelihoods. This kind of privatization of maritime areas at the benefice of major economic actors supported by states can be called ‘ocean-grabbing’.



What will be the consequences of the loss of livelihood for the local communities because of aqua tourism, extraction, commercialization, etc.? Is it okay to avail of such recreational activities?



As we celebrate the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, offer today’s Rosary for the communities and families who are victims of ocean grabbing.



Lord, we lift up to you those people, especially fisherfolk, who are affected because of water sports and other commercial activities leading to loss of their livelihood. Bless them and their families and give them the grace and strength to come together and fight for justice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WATER FOR HUMAN USE



#36

Approximately two billion people still have inadequate access to drinking water which means an irregular access, or access that is too far away from their home, or access to polluted water that is not suitable for human consumption. Their health is directly threatened.



While millions of people do not have proper access to drinking water, are we aware of how blessed we are to have easy access to water? How can we be more careful in conserving water in our families?



Check if there are any leaking pipes or taps/fixtures in the house and fix it immediately. Find out how much water each of us needs for our daily use and whether are we using it judiciously.



Lord, we lift up to you those who undergo everyday struggles to acquire water for various reasons. Strengthen them dear Lord and give them the grace to face all hardships of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





#37

In some cases, the wells from which water was traditionally drawn, often in rural areas, present the following limitations:

- they dry up because the rate of withdrawal does not correspond to the regeneration capacity of the resource or because of climate or geological changes;
- they are abandoned when underground water becomes salty or manifestly polluted



How would people manage their daily chores if they have scarcity of water? If people barely have water to drink what would happen to their personal hygiene and sanitation?



Visit a nearby village/rural area and find out more about wells and the kind of access people have to water.

Whenever we want to drink water, let us first fill half a glass of water and refill it only if required. Put a brick/plastic water bottle in the flush tank to save water while flushing.



Lord, we pray for all women who have to go in search of water far away from their homes due to scarcity of water. Bless and strengthen them, ease their load and enlighten men in these areas to support the women. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



#39,
#40

Many families are forced to buy water from informal vendors, which is often very expensive and they are subjected to price gouging. Moreover, they have no way of checking the quality of the water they usually purchase from informal tank trucks... Particularly poor populations risk not being able to pay water bills or buy water.



Can informal vendors sell water without the knowledge of the local authorities and politicians? Is it not the failure of the government to supply adequate water to all people?



Are we aware about the water/tanker mafia? Find out more about them and their control over the town/city/region?

Use a broom instead of a hosepipe to clean house surroundings and paved areas. Similarly, use a bucket filled with water to wash the car, bike and even pets.



Lord, we pray for those people who are involved in the illegal selling and distribution of water that they may experience a renewal within themselves and strive to work for the common good of all people rather than indulging in exploitation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Another dramatic problem is represented by cases of sexual exploitation for access to water:...it happens that officials or technicians in charge of supplying water or reading the meters take advantage of their position to blackmail people unable to pay for water (typically women), demanding sexual intercourse in order not to interrupt the supply. This type of abuse and corruption is called sextorsion in the water sector.



Sexual exploitation for water – is this not a serious crime? Don't the poor and vulnerable sections of our society have human dignity? Should we tolerate such abuse in our modern society?



Message family, friends and neighbours and inform them about 'sextorsion'. Use social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc. to highlight the issue.



Lord, we lift up to you the victims of sextorsion who because of poverty and vulnerability endure inhuman treatment at the hands of those in power and authority. We pray that these victims, especially women, may get the grace and the strength to resist all such advances and protect their human dignity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SANITATION AND OPEN DEFECTION



It is estimated that around two billion people have inadequate access to sanitation and hundreds of millions regularly practice outdoor defecation. Lack of sanitation facilities expose women to sexual abuse and rape when they have to look for a place to defecate. Lack of adequate toilets for girls at schools keep many girls away from school.



Have we laughed, ridiculed or grumbled about people urinating or defecating in the open or on the road? Have we ever questioned ourselves why do they do this – whether it is out of choice or is out of compulsion?



Find out and try to participate in any government initiatives that tackle issues of sanitation and defecation, e.g.: [Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan in India](#).

Check in a nearby slum or in one's own building: How many toilets are there in the slum? Are the toilets secure, adequate and well-maintained? Write to the concerned authorities about cleanliness and safety of access of such toilets with the help of neighbours and friends.



Lord, we lift up to you people who do not have adequate sanitation facilities and have to defecate in the open, especially women and girls who are subjected to shame and embarrassment. We pray that all people may have access to proper sanitation facilities. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES



#44

Advertising is often a tool of the phenomenon of consumerism. Such use of plastic bottles occurs to the detriment of the environment, the economy, and human health, since the production and indiscriminate use of disposable plastic bottles contributes to making our common home begin to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.



Do we tend to purchase bottled water for drinking? What happens to the disposable plastic bottles? Are we adding to plastic pollution?



Make it a norm that everyone in the family carries their own bottle when leaving home. Use metal or glass bottles that are reusable and don't need to be disposed.



Lord, we pray that we may become aware about the ill effects of using plastics especially plastic water bottles, and help us to decrease the use of plastic to its minimum. We make this pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ACCESS TO DRINKABLE WATER



#49

The Holy See and the Church are committed to promoting access to drinkable water for all...without discriminations,...regular and constant access, in sufficient quantity to allow people at least to live in dignity... Moreover, it should have all the characteristics of good water: colourless, odourless, and with a good taste.



How are the poor and the vulnerable people affected when they do not get good drinking water?



With the help of Small Christian Community members, identify a slum pocket in the area and find out if they get clean and pure water for drinking. If not, how can they be helped to get access to clean water from the municipality?

Practice simple ways to make water safe for drinking – boil it or use simple water filters.



Lord, we pray for the homeless and the slum dwellers who often do not have access to clean drinking water. Strengthen them in their daily struggles so that they may be united in their fight for justice to acquire clean water from the authorities. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





The Magisterium of the Church acknowledges that access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights.



If access to safe drinking water is a basic and universal right, then whose duty is it to ensure that this right of the people is protected? How can the authorities and the government become more accountable?



Find out if all areas in the locality receive water from municipal authorities. Are there any areas that do not receive water and what are the reasons for it – could an online petition be filed with the local ward/area office for such areas?



Lord, we pray for those people who are deprived of access to water because of poverty and marginalization. Enlighten and guide our policy makers that they may frame just policies bearing in mind the consequences that poor people have to suffer. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DUTY TO NOT WASTE WATER

17TH SEP
2020



A duty of everyone to not waste water and moderate consumption. To transport, purify and consume water costs and requires energy... The Holy See, therefore, has reaffirmed the importance of moderation in consumption of water and invoked the responsibility of administrations, businesses and individual citizens for sobriety.



What are the different ways in which people waste water? What could we do to create awareness about wastage of water?



Utilize the half or full flush technique for every toilet use. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth and shaving; use a mug with little water instead of running water. Install water-efficient and water-saving devices if possible.



Lord, we are sorry for taking the gift of water for granted because of our careless misuse and negligence. Give us your grace to preserve and conserve water which is a source of human life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





It is possible to go beyond mere pollution abatement and to seek to gain value from wastewater... Using appropriately treated wastewater for agriculture and power generation enhances opportunities for food and energy security, and can help alleviate the stresses brought about by increasing demand for water.



Do our families reuse/recycle the water used for bathing, washing vegetable, laundry, dishwashing, etc.? How can we creatively reuse/recycle water used in the above processes?



Find out the difference between greywater and blackwater. Always wash fruits and vegetables in a pot of water instead of running water and then reuse the water for watering plants or to flush the toilet.



Lord, we thank you for giving us water as a common good for the well-being and sustenance of the human and natural world. Strengthen our resolution to use water wisely and recycle whenever possible. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Any political and economic decision... or even trading systems of water allocations must therefore strive to avoid elevating limited interests of business above the greater good (e.g.: the production of sugary or carbonated beverages or any recreational use of water must not jeopardize the available amount of water which is needed at the local level to the supply of drinking water for human use).



Are we frequently drinking carbonated beverages? Are we aware about the ill effects of excessive consumption of such drinks?



Make an inventory of the number of carbonated bottles consumed by the family in the last one week. Resolve to avoid using carbonated beverages at home and for parties as well. Instead use lime juice or any other homemade beverage.



Lord, help us to realize that all that tastes good may not always be good for our health. Help us to become more aware about ill effects of food and liquid consumption that can harm our physical health. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





#57

Abandon the use of disposable plastic bottles as far as possible and contribute to separate waste collection; Avoid food waste, especially recognizing that wasted food has been produced using water, energy and work, and wastefulness is the crudest form of discarding (...) To throw food away means to throw people away.



Do we have a habit of wasting food? What do we know about 'Water Footprint'?



Are we aware that approximately 4325 litres of water is utilized to produce 1 kg of chicken? Search the Internet to learn about the quantity of water usage and wastage while producing food. Resolve to reduce meat consumption by having it only once or twice a week.



Lord, we thank you for the food we receive that nourishes us. We pray that through your divine providence those who are hungry and malnourished may receive food for their sustenance. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



#64

Urge citizens and associations to participate, as far as possible, in water management policies, for example through municipal or neighbourhood councils, and to monitor the quality and regularity of the service provided.



Have we advocated for more inclusive water management policies to be formulated by the water supply department? What has prevented us from fulfilling our civic duties?



With the help of residential welfare association or Small Christian Community members, visit the ward office and discuss any local water issues with the officials.

Choose to purchase energy-saving and water-efficient devices like washing machines, dishwashers, etc.



Lord, motivate us to be responsible citizens by fulfilling our civic obligations towards our city. May we collaborate with the civic officials in ensuring proper water supply, especially to those areas that are inhabited by the poor. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





The risk of unsustainability from an environmental point of view of the exploitation of water resources is a challenge, such as: harmful pollutions that can affect plants and also animal and human health, such as those caused by the chemical and pharmaceutical industry, by some sectors of food production, by the fossil fuel (including offshore and fracking) and mining industry.



What is the impact of industrial pollution on animal and human health? How can industries minimize industrial pollution?



Watch this YouTube video on Minamata disease caused by contaminated water – Japan’s ominous dancing cats and the disaster that followed. Turn off the tap during soap lathering while washing hands.



Lord, we pray for all people who are victims of industrial pollution and waste and are suffering due to the negligence of polluting industries. May they grow in their determination to stand up for their rights and fight against all forms of injustice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

23RD SEP
2020



The global agricultural sector, especially intensive crops that make use of numerous chemicals, is responsible for various types of pollution that also contaminate water. Many small food producers or fishermen... can see their activity devastated if other actors potentially capable of causing serious pollution do not respect the environment.



Do we know about the use of chemicals that not only pose health hazards but also contaminate water? In what way will intensive crop production or extensive fishing impact small time farmers and fishermen? What are the ill effects of consuming contaminated water?



Find out if the health and livelihoods of people have been adversely impacted by pollution caused by industries in their vicinity, e.g.: [the Plachimada case in Kerala \(India\)](#). Avoid using all forms of chemicals for cleaning homes, kitchens, toilets, etc. because these chemicals ultimately enter and contaminate the water and soil.



Lord, we pray for all the small farmers and fishermen whose livelihood is badly affected because of industries that look for profits through large scale production and fishing. Lord, be their hope and their strength to fight for their rights. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





#68, #69

The poorest often have no insurance to protect themselves in case of droughts or floods... The degradation of ecosystem and, of course, climate variability contribute to a further increase in flood risks, a concern which in many parts of the world is further exacerbated by inadequate flood planning and management practices.



Have we been affected by water logging due to excessive rainfall or flood-like situation? How would the life of millions of people be especially those who are living in frequently flooded areas?



Cities and towns are more prone to flooding because of cementing and concretization that prevents water from permeating into the ground. Consider deconcretizing or repaving of surroundings or church premises. Stepping stones can be used for walkways. Resolve to use a bucket filled with water for bathing, rather than using a shower with running water or a bathtub that consumes more water.



Lord, we remember all those people who suffer and face hardships because of constant flooding. We pray that you may be their strength enabling them to face the challenges of life and be their guide and protection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



#72

Farmers, artisans, breeders and fishermen who work trying to respect nature as much as possible should be encouraged and supported... This also includes the relation with water, that is: the ability to monitor collection and the quality of the water used, the ability to use it soberly and effectively, the ability to prevent and reduce pollution.



What would happen to the farmers if there is a bad monsoon? Or if there is a drought-like situation? In the absence of steady income, how would water variability impact their families?



Purchase frequently from farmers' markets where locally grown vegetables, fruits, fish, etc. are available. Use automatic washing machine and dishwashers only for full loads.



Lord, we pray for all farmers, fisherfolk and other artisans who are dependent on rain water to sustain themselves and their families. May they have easy access to water so that they can grow and produce abundant crop. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Pastorally and spiritually accompany water-operators, fishermen and the people of the rural agricultural world, as well as slum-dwellers... Support the work of those teams – often of religious or ‘Justice and Peace’ promoters – who strive to collect water samples and have them analyzed in order to demonstrate that dangerous pollution is taking place.



Does the Church have the calling to get involved in social issues? Should bishops and priests participate in justice issues?

Join the community/parish Civic and Political Cell or the Green Cell, or join groups that are involved in the conservation of water. Suggest the possibility of water harvesting in the church or in the building/locality.



Lord, may the Church become a sign of promoting equality and justice by working with underprivileged communities. We pray that the Justice and Peace workers may be protected from all sorts of social pressures and are able to do their job with sincerity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARINE POLLUTION

27TH SEP 2020



- Increasing pollution and degrading conditions of oceans: presence of plastics and micro plastics in marine flows and animal organisms (thus in seafood), multiple pollutions (caused by ships, offshore, undersea and land activities, including mining, drilling, and exploratory actions of the extractive industries), discharge of industrial and sewage pollutants and agricultural chemicals
- Loss of marine biodiversity: intensifying extinction of marine species and depletion of corals, sea kelp, mangroves and other habitats... leads to losses to the coastal economies, fisheries, and jobs.



Marine pollution affects not only fish and marine life, but invariably affects us directly. Is this true? Why? What can we do to reduce marine pollution?



Say no to the use of plastic bags and any single-use plastic objects like plates, cups, spoons, etc. because many of these items land up in water bodies and in the oceans.



Lord, we lift up to you all those who are suffering because of the problem of plastic pollution and those whose health is affected because of consuming contaminated sea food. Ease their pain and suffering and bless them with good health. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.





A major challenge is the sea level rise resulting from global warming with threats on coastal habitats and aquifers. The encroachment of seas on coasts can jeopardize homes and other buildings, freshwater resources, fishing habitats and agriculture .



Are we aware about the severity of the climate crisis? What are we doing to reduce our carbon footprints?



Form a group and meet locally elected government representatives – encourage them to push for a climate action plan by the state or the country. Insist on policies for the protection of wetlands and ecologically sensitive zones.

Initiate or participate in a signature campaign to protect destruction of any ecologically sensitive areas in the region or country.



Lord, we lift up to you all the dwellers living in coastal areas. The climate crisis is a serious threat to their livelihood and settlements and causes their forced displacement and eviction. In the midst of growing fear and uncertainty, Lord bless them, guide them and keep them safe. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMON HERITAGE PASSED ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS



The area of the seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, as well as its resources, are the common heritage of mankind. Such an inheritance must be protected and passed on to future generations.



What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up (*Laudato si'* #160)? Are we stealing from the future generations?



Educate children about saving water. Teach them simple techniques to collect rainwater and reuse it for domestic purposes thereby encouraging water-saving habits. Alert them on the criminal waste of water caused by water toys, hose pipes and water sprinklers.



Lord, inspire and enlighten us so that we may become responsible stewards of creation, and protect the trees, the water, and all the natural resources that have been handed on to us by our ancestors, so that we can pass it on to future generations. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





#92

The human rights of all workers at sea, as well as those in the entire naval sector, including the people who deal with the disposal of ships, must be protected... Seafarers must be granted long enough periods on land to be with their family without losing their jobs, and they must be allowed to have access to medical treatment or religious assistance.



Should the Church speak about human rights and the rights of workers? Are we aware about the Social Teachings or the Social Doctrine of the Church? What do we know about it?



Contact a seafarer and try to understand the hardships and challenges they face while sailing.



Lord, we pray for those who work at sea and the seafarers that you may guide and protect them always. Especially we lift up to you all seafarers who for months together live away from their family, often in difficult and trying circumstances while facing all sorts of dangers at sea. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISPOSABLE PLASTIC OBJECTS AND BEACH CLEANING

1ST OCT 2020



#99, #100

Avoid the use of disposable plastic objects, wherever possible, in church facilities and activities. Contribute, as much as possible, to the cleaning of beaches or river banks, organising these activities or associating with those who organise them... involving for example groups of young people, families, religious people and scouts.



Does the parish have any policy regarding the use of plastic material such as polystyrene (thermocool) decorations, flex banners, etc. and bottled water in the church premises? What are the details?



Meet the Parish Priest or office bearers of the Parish Pastoral Council and try to initiate a Parish Green Policy regarding the use of plastic material and bottled water. If a policy is in place, become aware of the details. Get the family together and participate in a beach or a river clean-up drive.



Lord, we are sorry for not preserving our common home, instead we have turned it into a pile of filth because of our consumeristic mind-set and use-and-throw attitudes. Inspire us to say 'No' to single-use plastics like water bottles, thermocol decorations, flex banners, etc. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





#105

We must educate others and educate ourselves... since the contemplation of creation... can teach us valuable lessons and be an unending source of inspiration and of humility. We have limits since we are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us.



We are not God and the earth was here before us and it has been given to us – What are the thoughts evoked on reading and reflecting on these words? In what way can we educate others about caring for creation?



As a family prepare a poster on a chart paper about saving water and paste it outside the front door or at the building entrance. Pose a reflective question to readers.



Lord, give us your grace that we may never take water for granted and waste it. May the Holy Spirit inspire us to educate others about the need to conserve water which is a precious gift to us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WATER VIOLENCE

3RD OCT
2020



#107

In some extreme circumstances, individuals and communities defending their environmental and land rights are threatened. Human rights defenders and conservationists with their families frequently face violence – including killings and sexual violence, smear campaigns, and other forms of intimidation.



Can we easily voice out our opinions or are we fearful of being targeted by the authorities?



Read about international organizations/NGOs that work to protect rivers and the rights of dependent communities. Join such movements and show solidarity with people and communities who are victims of injustice. E.g.: International Rivers, India's Human Rights Defenders Alert



Lord, we pray for all human rights activists, especially the water warriors who are fighting for the rights of communities and vulnerable groups. May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire them and give them the grace to struggle for justice despite challenges and violence they and their families have to endure. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



CLOSING PRAYER SERVICE

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

4TH OCT
2020

Adapted Prayer Service prepared by Fr Luke Rodrigues SJ

Hymn

Holy God, we praise thy name... *(or any other hymn)*

Leader

Today we come to the end of the Season of Creation which had started on 1st September as the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation. During this season, we have paid special attention to our Christian duty of caring for our common home by reflecting on the Vatican document *Aqua Fons Vitae*. We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for the wonderful gift of creation especially the gift of water and commit ourselves to respect, cherish and protect this gift. *(pause in silence)*

Scripture Reading

Colossians 1: 15 – 20: “Christ is the image of the invisible God...”

Silent Prayer

In this passage, Saint Paul beautifully describes how creation originates in Christ and is filled with Christ. We pause in silence, reflecting on how we experience the presence of God in creation.

Hymn

Great is your name Lord, its majesty fills the earth... *(or any other hymn)*

Leader

Saint Francis of Assisi, whose feast we celebrate today, is the patron saint of Ecology. The Papal Encyclical *Laudato Si'* takes its title from the hymn of praise composed by him. We reflect on a few lines from the Encyclical wherein Pope Francis urges us to learn how to live like Francis of Assisi.

“I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by people of other faiths ... He 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)*



CLOSING PRAYER SERVICE

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

4TH OCT
2020

Invocations

After each invocation, we say: **We praise and bless you Lord.**

1. For the sun which is the source of all our energy...
2. For the air which sustains our life at every moment...
3. For the rain which waters the fields and fills our lakes...
4. For the forests which are home to so many species...
5. For the soil which bears forth the food we need...
6. For the farmers who toil to make our lives comfortable...
7. For all those who work fearlessly to protect the earth...
8. For Saint Francis of Assisi who inspires us to love creation...

Silent Prayer

In the silence of our hearts we praise and thank God for the blessings we receive through creation.

Activity

One can perform the following short ritual: Take a small bowl of water and place it in the centre of the living room. Every family member should come forward and touch their fingertips in the bowl of water and say 'Thank you for everything'. The head of the family could ask each one about their experience of touching the water.

Concluding Hymn

Any thanksgiving hymn



Season of Creation 2020 Prayer

(source: seasonofcreation.org)

Creator of Life,

At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the need of every living thing. And throughout time, the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycle of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation,
Jesus Christ.
Amen.