



SEASON OF CREATION

September 1 –
October 4, 2021

About the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. This prayerful season runs annually from September 1 through to October 4 – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

The Season of Creation is dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given to us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today.

This year our theme is 'A Home for All? Renewing the *oikos* of God'. (One of the meanings for the ancient Greek word *oikos* is *home*.) *Oikos* is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger because of people's greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation.

During these 4-5 weeks of grace, we reflect and focus on the loving kindness of God expressed in creation. The Season revolves around the Sunday Scripture Readings. We are invited to reflect on the abiding presence of God for our communal journey on Earth. Every gift of life on Earth displays God's faithful presence, nourishing and strengthening us.

Pope Francis invites us to turn to Jesus as both brother and Cosmic Christ and pray to God as a caring Father, as the loving Creator of all life.

Below are five Prayers of the Faithful. For your weekend Masses, you may wish to add one each week to your parish prayers of the faithful during the Season of Creation.

September 4/5: For our world, in the midst of our ecological crisis, we pray that all people will respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, by respecting creation and caring for it as a gift of God. Lord hear us.

September 11/12: With a shared sense of responsibility to care for our common home, we pray that the goals of energy transition, reduced global warming and protection of all life are attained. Lord hear us.

September 18/19: For all the sacred waters of the world - the great oceans, aquifers, lakes, rivers and streams, and the life that lives in the waters, that we will protect and preserve these great resources, and in doing so, ensure that we have drinking water for all. Lord hear us.

September 25/26: For our world and all its endangered species, we pray that we may learn to respect and protect all of God's creatures. Lord hear us.

October 2/3: That all people may be inspired by the example of Saint Francis to make wise lifestyle choices that are selfless and sustainable, promote the care and safeguarding of ecosystems, guarantee access to all basic resources and encourage practices that respect the fundamental rights of the human person and of every creature. Lord hear us.