



SEASON OF CREATION

RESOURCES 2023

The Season of Creation runs from the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation - September 1 - to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - October 4. It is a time set aside each year to focus on God's gift of creation and our responsibility to care for it, our common home.

The theme for the Season of Creation in 2023 is *Let Justice and Peace Flow*.

There are many resources available to support you in your efforts to celebrate the Season of Creation. A key resource is the Season of Creation web site. [link](#):

Here you will find:

- A celebration guide which provides a prayer service template from which you can choose material to use in your context
- Social media and newsletter graphics and wording
- A message from Pope Francis and more.

The site also has a wealth of other resources, which you may find useful for preparing a special Mass, a prayer service or other activities during the Season.

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CARE OF CREATION 2023

In recent years, Pope Francis has issued a message for the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation on September 1. His message for 2023 is available [here](#).

One way you can help your community engage in the Pope's message is to share a quote on each of the five Sundays during the Season of Creation. Here are five examples you can use:

Sunday 3 September

"Let Justice and Peace Flow" is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24).

The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival. This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed, neither remaining hidden deep beneath the ground nor vanishing like water that evaporates before it can bring sustenance. God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to his laws and thus to enable life to flourish. When we "seek first the kingdom of God" (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

Sunday 10 September

During this Season of Creation, let us dwell on those heartbeats: our own and those of our mothers and grandmothers, the heartbeat of creation and the heartbeat of God. Today they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonized in justice and peace. Too many of our brothers and sisters are prevented from drinking from that mighty river. Let us heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation.

Sunday 17 September

First, let us join the mighty river by transforming our *hearts*. This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that "ecological conversion" which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator. Furthermore, we should realize that an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God, with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow, with all of nature, and with ourselves.

Sunday 24 September

Second, let us add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our *lifestyles*. Starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and his creation, let us repent of our "ecological sins", as my brother, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has urged. These sins harm the world of nature and our fellow men and women. With the help of God's grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable.

Sunday 1 October

So too, like a river basin with its many tiny and larger tributaries, the Church is a communion of countless local Churches, religious communities and associations that draw from the same shared waters. Each source adds its unique and irreplaceable contribution, until all flow together into the vast ocean of God's loving mercy. In the same way that a river is a source of life for its surroundings, our synodal Church must be a source of life for our common home and all its inhabitants. In the same way that a river gives life to all kinds of animal and plant life, a synodal Church must give life by sowing justice and peace in every place it reaches.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Here are a selection of prayers of intercession from which you may choose a prayer to include in the Intercessory Prayers of each Sunday in the Season of Creation or which you may use at a special Mass or prayer service for the Season of Creation:

For all that You have created, that we may always be aware that we are not disconnected from other creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. Lord, hear us.

For Your wondrous gift of creation, that we may join St. Francis of Assisi and all of creation in ceaselessly praising You, our creator. Lord, hear us.

For our sister, mother earth, who cries out because of the impact of our consumerist excesses, that we may put an end to our abuses and take action to end her destruction. Lord, hear us.

For the countless animal and plant species that are dying out and whose praise of You is being silenced, that urgent and effective action is taken to ensure their survival. Lord, hear us.

For our poorest sisters and brothers who feel much more acutely the impact of extreme weather events associated with climate change. That world leaders will hear their cry for dignity and justice and take timely action. Lord, hear us.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose traditional lands and places of cultural significance are being devastated by economic interests. That their voice be heard and cries for justice are heeded and result in appropriate action by Government and business leaders. Lord, hear us.

For world leaders will remain resolute in their commitment to do what is needed to prevent the devastating impacts of climate change and halt the alarming loss of biological diversity. Lord, hear us.

For the children of the world who are worried about the impact on the earth of short-sighted and selfish actions. That all adults will share in the responsibility to offer them a future without immense ecosystem collapse. Lord, hear us.

Prayers of intercession from the Season of Creation [site](#):

OTHER RESOURCES

You may wish to use some of the resources below as part of your Season of Creation Masses, services and events or to share them in your newsletters over the Season of Creation.

- **The Columbans in Australia have compiled resources** to help you to incorporate Season of Creation themes into each Sunday Mass during the Season. You can access their resources and find out more [here](#).
- **Season of Creation Introductory Video** - A short [video](#) to introduce the theme and get people enthusiastic about the celebration.
- **The Letter: A message for our Earth** - Season of Creation is a wonderful time to host a parish viewing of [The Letter](#); a film which with discusses the encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* with Pope Francis.
- **Uluru Statement From the Heart Discussion Series: Voice Crying In The Wilderness** - The Season of Creation is a valuable opportunity to discuss the issues around the Uluru Statement From the Heart in a prayerful, scripture based manner. See the attached [resource](#) to host a four part discussion series.
- **Canticle of Brother Sun (Laudato Si') Video** prayed by the friars of the Province of St. Barbara, California. [Join](#) with the friars in praising God in the words of St. Francis:
- **Our Islands, Our Home [Video](#)** - Scientists predict that many Torres Strait Islanders will be forced to leave their island homes within 50 to 100 years unless significant action is taken to both limit climate change impacts and to implement adaptation measures. Our Islands, Our Home is a campaign led by Torres Strait Islanders seeking a UN decision on their call for climate justice.
- **An Ecological Examen** - This Ecological Examen is a [tool](#) to help you to deepen your commitment to care for creation and the most vulnerable people on the planet.



SEASON OF CREATION ECUMENICAL SERVICE

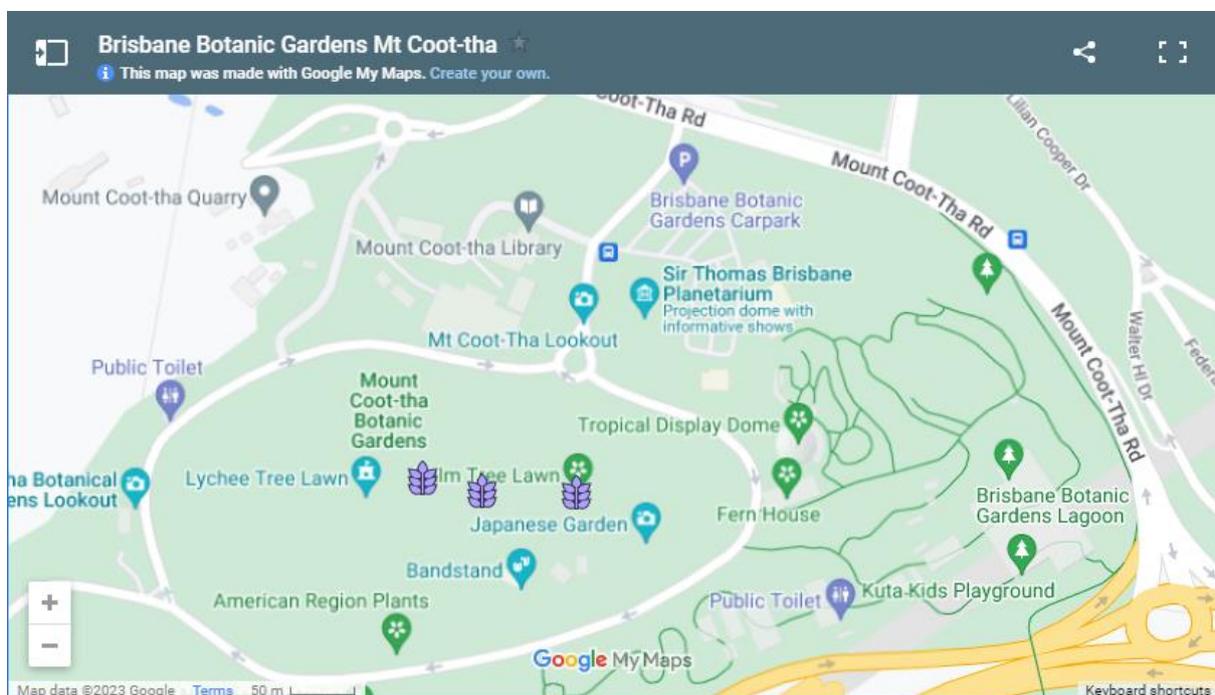
In addition to organising your own Season of Creation Mass or service, please join the Queensland Churches Environmental Network for an ecumenical Season of Creation Service. The liturgy is followed by a guided contemplative walk.

DETAILS:

Wednesday, 6 September 2023 at 12 noon.

Lychee Lawn, Mt Coot-Tha Botanic Gardens, 152 Mount Coot-Tha Rd, Mount Coot-Tha.

All are welcome.



If you need further information on the Season of Creation, please contact Emma Beach at beache@bne.catholic.net.au.



This resource is produced by Evangelisation Brisbane & the Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane as one of the actions included in our Laudato Si' Action Plan.

