

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE
OF CREATION - 1st SEPTEMBER 2022**



**SUGGESTED PRAYER
SERVICE/ PRAYERS**

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

Pope Francis established 1 September as WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

This day of prayer is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

- ⇒ **"LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION"** is the theme and invitation of this year's Season of Creation. In his message for the World Day of Prayer 2022, Pope Francis calls us to use this season to "*cultivate our ecological conversion*" and to pray together in "*the great cathedral of Creation*". He warns that we are reaching "a breaking point" and must act decisively so that "*we and future generations can continue to rejoice in creation's sweet song of life and hope.*"

This *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* gives us the opportunity to reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation and to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which has been entrusted to our care.

May we implore God's help for the protection of creation as well as God's pardon for the devastation committed against the world in which we live.

"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 this vocation as custodians 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." — Pope Francis

⇒ **How to respond to the World Day of Prayer INDIVIDUALLY**

- Take time on 1 September to either go for a walk or take a few moments to thank God for the flowers/plants growing in your garden
- Use the prayer resources provided
- Speak to young children about the wonders of creation and our responsibility to nurture and protect it.

⇒ **How to respond in PARISHES or GROUPS**

- Celebrate Mass with a focus on the climate and care of creation
- Get together with others to reflect on the themes of *Laudato Si'*
- Use the resources that have been provided here

If you cannot mark the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation itself, you could use these resources at any time during the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October 2022).

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

All: Amen

A PRAYER FOR OUR WORLD – POPE FRANCIS

“Creator God, who made our beautiful world, appointed us as its guardians and gifted us with everything we need, forgive us for the

times we cause it harm; for the times our way of life affects our neighbours.

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



OR

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH – POPE FRANCIS



All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

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

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

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace.

⇒ **Sing a suitable hymn:**

(there are many hymns which thank and praise God for creation and offer insights into the nature of God based on the wonders of the natural world. Some hymns focus on repentance for exploiting creation or developing respect and care for the earth.)

- All creatures of our God and King / All good gifts (We plough the fields and scatter)
- All things Bright and Beautiful / I sing the mighty power of God
- All the ends of the earth – Dufford / Canticle of the Sun – Haugen
- For the fruits of this creation / For the healing of the nations
- Here I am Lord (I the Lord of sea and sky) – Schutte
- Oh Lord all the world belongs to you / We stand in wonder of creation – Alonso

⇒ **Reading from the Word of God - Suggested Scriptural Texts**

Gn 1:1-28-	Creation Story
Gn 9:8-17-	God's Covenant with Noah and All Creation
Ps 8-	The Majesty of God
Ps 65-	Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
Ps 104-	Praise of God the Creator
Ps 146-	Trust in God Alone
Ps 147-	Zion's Grateful Praise to Her Bountiful Lord
Ps 148-	Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator
Dn 3:52-90-	Praise of God; Praise of God's Creation
Jn 1:1-5-	In the Beginning Was the Word
Rv 21:14-	New Heavens and New Earth

⇒ **Prayers of Intercession**

Response: *May our efforts please you, Lord.*

May the care we take of all your living creatures, please You. / R

May our protection of your fertile ground please You. / R

May our just treatment of all who labour in your fields please You. / R

May our sharing of and caring for your life-giving water, please You. / R

May our sharing of the fruits of the soil, please You. / R

Response: *Lord hear our prayer.*

O Lord, grant us the grace to respect and care for Your creation. / R

O Lord, help us to end the suffering of the poor and bring healing to all of your creation. / R

O Lord, help us to use our resourcefulness to undo the damage we have done to Your creation and to sustain Your gift of nature. / R

Response: *Help us to protect Your creation*

We come to renew our promise to care for all You have given us. / R

We come as followers of Jesus to commit ourselves to heal injustice and poverty. / R

We come to stand together against all threats to your gift of life. / R

We come to discover some new beauty every day in Your creation. / R

We come to remember that You speak to us through the beauty of Your creation. / R

Sing: All creatures of our God and King



GUIDED ROSARY FOR THE DAY OF PRAYER ON THE CARE OF CREATION



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

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

FIRST MYSTERY: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



" At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love"". (Mc 1, 9-11)

Without water there is no life: the beauty of our planet would not be so awesome without this wonderful gift; without water there is no regeneration: man could not shine with the beauty of Christ, if through the water of baptism, he was not introduced into the very heart of the Trinitarian life. Few will be the efforts we will make to keep the water alive; so he can reach everyone; so that he can continue watering our fields and our forests, so that pure rivers flow down! And, without living water, there cannot be the living water of the Spirit in our hearts.

WATER – A PRECIOUS GIFT

In Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, water is mentioned 46 times. It is the precious gift of our sister, mother earth, through which we are refreshed. It is also useful for healthcare, agriculture, industry. And yet, also, it is in the earth's waters, as in the soil and the air, that we see the damage being done to the environment. There are also those who are excluded from access to clean water. Pope Francis says that access to drinkable water is a particularly fundamental human right. This is because it is a condition for exercising many other rights. He also questions the tendency to privatise water and turn it into a commodity. Can the availability of such a fundamental good be determined by price systems?

SECOND MYSTERY: THE WEDDING OF CANA



This mystery of the Rosary presents us with the story of a wedding feast – a committed relationship which the Church calls marriage, blessed and raised to a sacrament by Jesus, for the good of the couple and the procreation of children.

Jesus did not begin His Public Ministry by some great work. At a household gathering in a little Galilean village, He worked His first miracle which added to the joy of a wedding feast. Thus, He saved the married couple from embarrassment and showed His desire to minister to their happiness.

All the wine had been served and Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine". Jesus replied: "Woman, why do you involve me? My hour has not yet come". His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you". What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in Him". (Jn 2, 3-5.11)

WATER BECOMING WINE

The water that is transformed into wine at the Wedding Feast is a symbol of the joint effort between God and humanity. Wine is the combination of earth, grapes, water which are the natural products that God gives us and the creativity of people. And so that wine may never be lacking, God asks us to take care of our common home.

THIRD MYSTERY: THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM



God's kingdom is a kingdom of justice and truth. In God's kingdom "He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace" (LS 10).

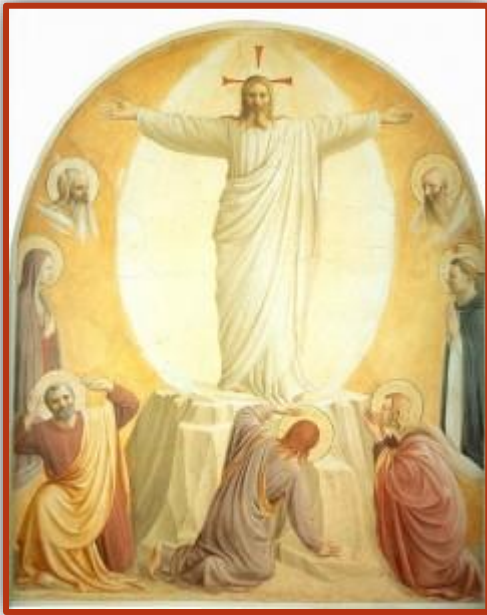
"After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mc 1,14-15)

When Jesus sends out the 70 disciples, He makes it clear that they are on a mission of peace (Lk 10). They are to bring peace and healing to every house they enter. No wonder, then, that the disciples 'returned with joy'. Jesus warns them not to rejoice in the wonders and miracles they worked, but 'rejoice that your names are written in heaven'. Our true joy comes from *our own conversion* –

we were sinners, but we have been healed. We must become more like Mary, whose pure heart enabled her to play her part in the coming of the kingdom on earth.

The time has come to re-establish the original relationship between man and God, man and woman, man and nature, which sin destroyed leaving on earth injustice and greed, that the planet and its inhabitants have exploited since then. The call for a deep ecological conversion is an integral part of God's kingdom (cf. LS 217).

FORTH MYSTERY: THE TRANSFIGURATION



About a week after Jesus told His disciples plainly that He would suffer, be put to death, and be raised to life (Luke 9:22), He took Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray. While praying, "the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning... A voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him'". (Lk 9, 29.35)

Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus about His death that would soon take place. Peter, not knowing what he was saying and being very fearful, offered to put up three shelters for them.

The Gospel of life and light and immortality shone among all of us as material light, of this world, in the form of an explosion that shone like the face of the Lord and that occurs at the beginning of the Lord's ascent to Jerusalem, where He goes to die on the cross. The white, sparkling light invites us to not forget that on our

path to conversion, we must be only guided by this light of resurrection, because this is a light of truth and life, we can be transfigured and change our face by Christ.

FIFTH MYSTERY: THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST



"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body'. Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood'". (Mt 26, 26-27)

Christ is present in bread and wine. He Chose to use the basics of everyday food when He instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Why are most basic cereals for living at such high prices that most of the inhabitants of this planet are deprived of such basic food?

God's charity encourages us to work for justice and peace on earth, especially for all those in need.

It is our basic human right to have some form of bread that renews our strength.

Today, most of us don't depend solely on bread. because we have many different kinds of food. But we still need food to live, whether bread or not, so food sustains life.

Laudato Si' was signed by Pope Francis on May 24, when the Church celebrates the Feast of Mary Help of Christians.

This is a beautiful opportunity for us to meditate on Mary as "the Mother and Queen of all creation." (Laudato Si', 241)

A LITANY FOR THE HEALING OF OUR EARTH THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF MARY

LEADER:

Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:
Bring new life to the land
Restore the waters
Refresh the air

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

LEADER:

Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:
Renew the forests
Care for the plants
Protect all creatures

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

LEADER:

Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:
Celebrate the beauty of the seas
Rejoice in the warmth of the sunlight
Welcome the life-restoring rain

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

LEADER:

Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:
Recall our final destiny
Renew our spirits
Refresh our bodies

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

LEADER:

Mary, our Mother, we ask you to intercede with Jesus so that we may:
Give new life to our the human community
Promote justice and peace
Work towards a better world for our children

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

CONCLUDING PRAYER:



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

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

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

Conclude by singing a hymn to Our Lady.