

The Season of Creation runs from September 1st (World Day of Prayer for Creation) to October 4th (the feast of St. Francis of Assisi). Amid numerous crises which have shaken our world, the theme this year is **“Restoring Our Common Home”**. During this season we are asked to join together to celebrate creation and protect our common home through prayer, reflection and action.

This year we celebrate this season mindful of the fact that our world continues to deal with the COVID-19 crisis as well as a devastating climate and biodiversity crisis. We look towards two UN Conferences in the Autumn, COP15 (on Biodiversity, due to take place in China) and COP24 (on climate change, Glasgow) in the hope that world leaders take the urgent action that is needed to Restore Our Common Home. We urge people to sign the [“Healthy Planet Healthy People”](#) petition as a key action for this Season of Creation. This petition can be found on the Trócaire parish page on their website.

In the Season of Creation, we want to celebrate, firstly, the beauty and diversity of all of creation which has been or is on display at this time of year and secondly, its fruitfulness as we move towards harvest time. The whole of creation is speaking to us of God, revealing God as do the scriptures in the Word of God. When we consider ourselves as part of the interrelationship of creation, we are challenged to move beyond notions of individual salvation alone.

The one phrase from *Laudato Si’* which I have been alert to for some time is “We are not God” (LS, 67). Pope Francis is highlighting that our calling to stewardship of the Earth has been misinterpreted as a licence to exercise domination over all other life forms. He reminds us that our preoccupation with absolute ownership runs counter to God’s gift of creation. He advocates a relationship whereby we take just enough to subsist and so provide for future generations (LS, 67). We are in a relationship of interdependency with all of life. It means that we cannot see plant and animal life as just mere resources (LS, 33) Once we come to an appreciation of different species, we must take practical steps to ensure their survival so that each creature can give glory to God.

The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other during the ecumenical Season of Creation and to encourage our parish communities to do the same. We hope that these resources will help you.

As Pope Francis says in *Laudato Sí* 13- “For we know that things can change!”

May God bless you all and your actions during this Season of Creation.