

**Recommendations for Sunday Liturgies during
The Season of Creation 2022**



The Burning Bush
Ex 3:1-12

*Listen to the
Voice of creation*
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Join Christians around the world as we pray and take action to care more deeply for Our Common Home. These resources are provided by the Laudato Si' Working Group of the Council for Catechetics.

**For the international resources you can find further material at
www.seasonofcreation.org**



Contents

This year's theme: Listen to the Voice of Creation	4
The logo: The Burning Bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022	4
Some ideas for before your Season of Creation Liturgy	5
Suggestions for Music:	5
Sacred Space & Entrance Procession suggestions:	5
MASS FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION 2022	6
Introduction.....	6
Penitential Rite.....	6
Introduction to the Gloria.....	6
Homily Notes for each Sunday of the Season of Creation 2022	7
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C - Sunday 4 th September 2022.....	7
Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 11 th September 2022.....	9
Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sunday 18 th September 2022	10
Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 25 th September 2022	12
Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 2nd October 2022	14
Options for Prayers of the Faithful	15
Offertory Procession	16
Our Father.....	16
Before Communion	16
Post-communion Reflection	16
Final Blessing	17
As Congregation Exits.....	17
APPENDIX - POST COMMUNION REFLECTIONS.....	18
1. A Prayer for the Earth (from Laudato Si, 246).....	18
2. A Christian prayer in union with creation (from Laudato Si).....	19
3. St Patrick's Breastplate	20
4. WALK DON'T RUN By Rob Bell.....	21
5. The Hazel Nut by Julian of Norwich.....	21
6. The Eucharist and Creation – Pope Francis, <i>Laudato Si'</i> 236	21
7. The Dance of Creation: Brian Grogan SJ, <i>Creation Walk</i> 90-91	22
8. A prayer for the Earth (Martyn Goss, Diocese of Exeter)	22
9. Our Common Home seen from Space: Astronaut Russell Schweickart 1969	23
10. When I am Among the Trees – a poem by Mary Oliver	23

This year's theme: Listen to the Voice of Creation

St. Augustine writes, “[Creation] is the divine page that you must listen to; it is the book of the universe that you must observe.” The Psalmist (19: 1-4) acknowledges that hearing the voice of creation requires a kind of listening that is increasingly rare. The Psalmist declares that creation proclaims God’s handiwork and also knows that the book of Scripture perfectly revives the soul, makes the simple wise, rejoices the heart, and enlightens the eyes (Ps 19:7-8). The book of creation and the book of Scripture are meant to be read side by side. Contemplation opens us to many modes of listening to the book of creation. The harmonious balance of biodiversity and the suffering cries of creation are both echoes of the Divine because all creatures have the same origin and ending in God. Listening to the voices of our co-creatures is like perceiving truth, goodness or beauty and helps us become aware of the Trinity, in which creation lives, moves and has its being.

During the Season of Creation, our prayer and action can help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. We lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we centre the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. Communities of worship can amplify the voices of young people, Indigenous people, women and affected communities who are not heard in society. Through liturgies, public prayers, symbolic acts and advocacy, we can remember those who are displaced or have disappeared from public spaces and political processes. By listening to the voice of all creation, humans join in our vocation to care for our common home (oikos).

The logo: The Burning Bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022

We invite you to use this symbol during your liturgies. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Human greed, desertification and land misuse lead to the disintegration of ecosystems, the destruction of habitats, and the loss of livelihoods and species at an alarming rate. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice that we have caused. On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This was a flame of the Spirit that revealed God’s life sustaining presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered and promised to be with us as we followed faithfully to deliverance from injustice. During the Season of Creation, this symbol calls us to listen to the voice of creation, and faithfully respond through worship, repentance and action. Moses was told to remove his sandals, for he was standing on holy ground in God’s presence. May this symbol move us to remove the “sandals” of our unsustainable lifestyles that disconnect us from creation and our Creator, contemplate our connection to the holy ground where we live, and listen for the voice of creation. You might think of creative ways to use this symbol of fire during your liturgies and worship.¹

¹ Notes on this year’s theme have been adapted from www.seasonofcreation.org “Celebration Guide”.

Some ideas for before your Season of Creation Liturgy

- Parishes might choose **one particular Sunday** in the Season of Creation (1st September to 4th October) to celebrate the season using these resources.
- Advise the congregation on the previous Sunday to bring something from nature and leave it at a table near the Altar when they enter the Church.
- Invite volunteers, children or adults, to dress in nature costumes – bees, insects, fish, and to welcome the congregation before mass.
- Technology can enhance the celebration in terms of visual resources. A set of visual resources will be available before September on the Irish Bishops Conference website for use with PowerPoint, webcam, LCD, Live Streaming etc.
- Consider how this year's symbol of the Burning Bush might be incorporated into your liturgy. Could people be invited to *take off their shoes and stand on holy ground*? Maybe outdoors after mass or during a tree planting service?

Suggestions for Music:

- St Francis' Canticle (could be used as a Psalm)
- Look at the World (John Rutter) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxr8QBPq1z0>
- Our God Reigns
- All Creatures Great and Small
- Ag Críost an Síol
- Psalm 38: All the Ends of the Earth
- For the Beauty of the Earth (John Rutter)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlBkpAm3fhw>
- How Great is Our God (Chris Tomlin)
- Laudate Omnes Gentes (Taizé)
- How Great Thou Art
- Taizé Chants: e.g. Laudate Omnes Gentes
- Deirdre Ní Chinneide: Oscail Mo Chroi (meditative chant)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW7niPuhxpY>
- God Has Given us the Earth (Grow in Love hymn) <https://vimeo.com/280567593>



Sacred Space & Entrance Procession suggestions:

- During opening hymn, children in nature costumes could wave colourful cloths and bring them to the Altar, with a globe, banners or other symbols.
- The theme of "Listen to the Voice of Creation" should be emphasised in the sacred space, alongside the Burning Bush image/fire or a banner for the Season of Creation.
- Use Earth's elements: fire, water, earth, wind. Include seeds, a plough, garden tools etc. Be creative.
- Statue of St. Francis (patron of ecology) or a picture of Irish saints such as St. Brigid, St. Kevin; use the Celtic Cross making links with our Celtic Spirituality.
- Tree saplings could be available for planting after the mass / pot plants. (see separate Tree Planting resource on www.trocaire.org or www.catholicbishops.ie Season of Creation page).

MASS FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION 2022



Introduction (Priest, Leader of Care for Creation Group or Reader)

I am happy to welcome you to this celebration of the Eucharist during this Season of Creation. The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established September 1st as the annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. It is a time marked throughout the Christian world from 1st September to 4th October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encourages awareness-raising initiatives to help us to heal and protect Our Common Home. The theme this year is **Listening to the Voice of Creation**. The Psalmist declares, *"The heavens are telling the glory of God...their voice is not heard, yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world."* (19: 1-4) Creation never ceases to proclaim to us. We celebrate in the awareness that our world is suffering deeply from numerous environmental crises as well as conflict in many regions. These global crises are interconnected and affect millions of people but are experienced most deeply by the poor and vulnerable. The earth is crying out to us, but are we listening now to the Book of Creation? May this Season inspire us and strengthen us in our efforts to protect our common home.

Penitential Rite

O Gracious God, Creator Spirit, Source of life, you have given order, light and life to the world around us, and you have expressed delight in your creation. You commanded us to till and care for the garden of life. And yet, we have trampled on the beauty of your creation and neglected to keep your Word. As we begin Mass today, we seek God's mercy and forgiveness for the times that we have offended against the integrity of God's creation.

And so, O God of Creation:

1. You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced, Lord have mercy
2. You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. Through the warming of the oceans and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled, Christ have mercy
3. You created Mother Earth, our common home, who sustains us. Human activities are causing the destruction of her delicate ecosystems as we contaminate the atmosphere with harmful emissions, Lord have mercy

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our ecological sins, and inspire us to care for our common home, Amen.

Introduction to the Gloria

As we say/sing the Gloria, let us remind ourselves that we are praising and celebrating God as the author of our universe and of our salvation.

Homily Notes for each Sunday of the Season of Creation 2022

These notes can be adapted as appropriate for your setting

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C - Sunday 4th September 2022

(Season of Creation 1 – Luke 14:25-33)

By Sylvia Thompson

Today is the first Sunday in the Season of Creation, the time set aside by the church to both celebrate the gift of all God's creation in our Common Home and, reflect on our role in caring for it. This year's theme is a strong call to **"Listen to the Voice of Creation"**. We know, only too well, that we are at a crucial time for our common home with both climate change and biodiversity loss already impacting the lives of many people, their livelihoods and all life. So as Christians, how are we responding to these moral and ethical challenges? Do we recognise that like Moses in the story of the burning bush, we too are standing on "holy ground"? Of course this call is not new and was put strongly to us by Pope Francis in his letter called Caring for Our Common Home...Laudato Si' nearly 7 years ago now!

And how fitting that in today's gospel, 'Jesus turns around' and asks us do we really want to be 'his disciples', his dedicated followers, to carry the cross? It's a pretty big ask these days! We all have our own immediate responsibilities, family, farm, work, school, illnesses, sadnesses, so many other entanglements. We are sometimes lost in the 'big crowd of followers', living our lives, rushing around from one engagement to the next and now we are being asked to carry a cross on top of all this! Who is going to sign up for that, I ask you!

But we sign up for training for football and different sports, years of primary school then more in secondary school, degrees and further education courses, we sign contracts and some go as far as signing life contracts in marriage. So it seems that we can make commitments. Now this Season of Creation can we commit or sign up to protecting our actual home place, Our Common Home, the precious blue planet lovingly created by God as a home for all creation?

Can we respond to the threat of a total climate breakdown and devastating biodiversity loss? Are we willing to sign up to change our way of life, how we heat our homes, travel, farm, garden and even shop and eat? These are huge asks, in fact a new kind of cross. But this is a cross that we can embrace with joy and no doubt some pain too as we leave behind old ways of being. Joy can come as we work (with Jesus and other) dedicated followers in our communities to co- create a new and transformed Common Home, where farmers can feed their families, indigenous peoples can live in their home place, people in cities breathe clean air and all of us can have clean and safe drinking water and of course where nature and all God's creatures can thrive.

Let us continue pray together and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we begin our celebration of the Season of creation and take steps, no matter how small, to live in harmony with all of God's creation, as we learn to walk more gently on Gods '*holy ground*'.

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 11th September 2022

(Season of Creation 2 – Luke 15:1-32)

By Sally Simpson

In today's Gospel from Luke 15, we have 2 brothers. And as is sometimes the case in families, they don't seem to have much of a relationship with each other. Yet both of them can proclaim "Our Father".

One son "squandered his property in dissolute living" and we read that he is then faced with famine. During this Season of Creation, this text echoes the squandering of the earth's resources. We have used and abused the resources of the earth with greed, placing "I" at the centre, dominating all of creation and God's creatures. We are now seeing the consequences of this squandering as our world faces multiple environmental crises. We have squandered our inheritance and the inheritance of future generations. Our lack of wisdom and over consumption has led to massive extinction of animal and plant species, the oceans are dying, rainforests are being destroyed, the climate is in crisis. While this is the result of our lifestyles the consequences of our actions are being lived by our brothers and sisters in other parts of our common home. They are in poverty, they are homeless, without food and clean water, without education for the children, without health care. These are our brothers and sisters living in this way. Can we look at them and say with them "Our Father"?

Pope Francis tells us in *Laudato Si'* that "Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth...The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now. (LS, 161). *Laudato Si'* also tells us that "all is not lost". Like the younger son in the parable today we can 'come to our senses', turn around, and make a new start. Each of us can do something, each of us has a role to play in order to bring healing to our common home. We ask "Our Father" for forgiveness and we can pledge to living out our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork.

As we all 'come to our senses' in relation to the climate and biodiversity crises, Pope Francis tells us in *Laudato Si'* to never underestimate the power of small actions which can have a ripple effect across a community; he tells us that "Truly, much can be done!" (LS, 180).

So today, during this Season of Creation, we are invited to take up this call, to listen to the voice of creation and discern where we are being called to act, in our own homes, in our local communities, to care more deeply for our common home.

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sunday 18th September 2022
(Season of Creation 3 – Luke 16:1-13)
By Jane Mellett

If you think that all the parables of Jesus are pleasant stories about people of integrity, then today's gospel might make you think again. In this story, a manager has been given his notice by his CEO and decides, while he still can, to even up the tables for those who are struggling to pay their debts to the company. He uses the power he still has to change the future for these debtors – and for himself. He is happy to make better arrangements for the debtors. The manager is free-spirited, a bit of a scoundrel yes, but Jesus liked scoundrels, once their efforts were put to good use. The only value the money really has is in the way it is used. He is squandering money, but he is not squandering opportunities.

When it comes to the reality of our environmental crisis, change is urgently needed at all levels of society. The science is clear: our world is warming because of human activity, giving rise to drought, famine, devastating wildfires, extreme weather events, a rise in sea levels and the displacement of millions of people. There is an urgent hunger crisis affecting 13 million people in the Horn of Africa at present, due to a drought fuelled by climate change. On our current trajectory, many parts of our world will be uninhabitable in the decades to come. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing our world today, and it has grave implications for many aspects of our lives: environmental, social, economic and political. We know that just a hundred fossil fuel companies are responsible for 70% of the carbon emissions which drive this crisis. These corporations care little for future generations. Young people are standing up to such systems, however, calling them to account, engaging in political action and challenging all of us to raise our voices for our common home. The youth climate movement tells us that change is coming whether we like it or not! They, like the manager in today's parable, are inviting us to 'holy mischief'.

In *Laudato Si'* – On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis inspires us by reminding us of our vocation to protect God's handiwork. He says, "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (*Laudato Si'* §217). Pope Francis reminds us that we can all do something to solve the world's problems, that each of us have a role to play, using our gifts and talents. Pope Francis tells us to never underestimate the power of small actions, those things we do in our daily lives in our homes, schools and parishes to try to live more sustainably, to walk more gently on this earth. These small actions have a ripple effect across a community and can become experiences of grace. They witness to a greater vision for our world. Let's start this conversation in this parish / diocese. We could become an eco-parish through Eco-Congregation Ireland; we could try to achieve the *Laudato Si'* Goals; we could join forces with local eco-groups / schools to find out about the actions we can take. Greta Thunberg tells us, "hope is found in action, if you want to find hope, look for action, then the hope will come". The theme for this year's Season of Creation is "Listen to the

Voice of Creation". One of the first things we can do is to spend more time in nature, fall in love again with the earth, so that we will be inspired to protect it, giving glory to God, the Creator. St. Francis' of Assisi, pray for us.

A poem by Rob Bell which might be used at the end of the homily:

WALK DON'T RUN By Rob Bell

Walk, don't run.
That's it. Walk, don't run.
Slow down, breathe deeply,
and open your eyes because there's a whole world right here within this one.
The bush doesn't suddenly catch on fire,
it's been burning the whole time.
Moses is simply moving slowly enough to see it.
And when he does, he takes off his sandals.
Not because the ground has suddenly become holy,
but because he's just now becoming aware that the ground has been holy the whole time.
Efficiency is not God's highest goal for your life,
neither is busyness,
or how many things you can get done in one day,
or speed, or even success.
But walking, which leads to seeing,
now that's something.
That's the invitation for every one of us today,
and every day, in every conversation, interaction, event,
and moment: to walk, not run.
And in doing so,
to see a whole world right here within this one.

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 25th September 2022
(Season of Creation 4 – Luke 16:19-31)
By Finbarr Keaveney

In today's Gospel the rich man fails to hear the Cry of the Poor and misses the opportunity to help the poor man Lazarus. On this 4th week of the Season of Creation we remember that the Cry of the Poor and the Cry of the Earth are inextricably linked. In "Laudato Si" Pope Francis tells us: *"the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters"* (LS2).

When we, the rich nations, abuse Mother Earth and her resources it is the poor nations who are disproportionately affected and who suffer the most. Pope Francis has said that *"Contemplation is the antidote to misuse of our Common Home."* (September 16, 2020, General Audience). We start here. Take some quiet time to slow down every day to feel, experience and connect with the Awe and Wonder of the Natural World. Paying attention to, and caring for, the plants and wildlife that live around us is a form of prayer, a communion with God through the Earth.

Take a contemplative walk in a forest or by the sea and take in the view with your eyes. Take a dip in the sea or go for a barefoot walk in the sand or the grass and feel the sensations through your body. Sit in your garden or in a park and smell the flowers and listen to the bees hum and the birds sing. Download an App to your smart phone to help you identify the plants that surround you or the species of birds singing in the trees beside you. Listen to the voice of creation.

The poet exclaims:

*"Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;"* (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

This year's theme for the Season of Creation is "Listen to the Voice of Creation". Quiet your mind, open your heart and listen to these words from Pope Francis in Laudato Si.

(Please read slowly and prayerfully the following quotations from Laudato Si. You might invite people to close their eyes, to think of their favourite place in nature.)

- "St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us" (LS1)
- "From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine". (LS 85)

- “The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God” (LS 84).
- “God has written a precious book whose letters are the multitude of things present in the Universe”. (LS 85)
- “To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope”. (LS 85)
- “Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see.” (LS 33)
- “What kind of world do we want leave to those who come behind us, to children who now are growing up? (LS 160)
- “The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face”. (LS 233)
- “there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night” (LS85)
- “If we approach Nature and the environment without this openness to Awe and Wonder, if we no longer speak the language of Fraternity and Beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters” (LS 11)
- “Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.” (LS 92)
- “Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.” (LS 244) “For we know that things can change” (LS 13)

Pope Francis urges us to undergo an Ecological Conversion. That is a “transformation of hearts and minds toward greater love of God, each other, and creation. It is a process of acknowledging our contribution to the social and ecological crisis and acting in ways that nurture communion: healing and renewing our common home.” ([Laudato Si’ Movement](#))

Let us listen out for the Voice of Creation every day and let us play our part in the protection and the restoration of Our Common Home.

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 2nd October 2022
(Season of Creation 5 & Day for Life - Luke 17:5-10)

By Bishop Martin Hayes

In **Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home**, Pope Francis calls our attention to “the three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships with God, with our neighbours and with the earth itself” (LS 66). A constant theme throughout, *Laudato Si'* is the interconnection between all of life (notably, LS 70 and LS 138). Indeed, Pope Francis, states that the connection between God and all beings is intimate and that our encounters with the beauty of creation lead to mystical experiences that reveal God to us (LS 233/4). It is appropriate that on this Day for Life as we raise awareness on the dignity of human life that we situate it within the context of care for all of life. Our particular focus on this Day for Life this year is ‘Caring for the Older Person’. It is our opportunity to raise awareness upon the provision of adequate care for our older people in settings that foster their ongoing inclusion and an appreciation of their place in the life of our communities. Pope Francis speaking to this theme of Care for the Elderly for the Day for Life states, “A greater awareness of the essential contribution the elderly make to the well-being of every society will help counter the throwaway culture”²

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* makes it clear that our preoccupation with progress based solely upon technology and productivity is futile (LS 78). It can lend to the elderly being regarded as dispensable and deem them victims of our throwaway culture. In celebrating our Day for Life this year, we give thanks for how the elderly have nurtured life in the past and on how they continue to be a source of wisdom for us today.

Today, we give thanks for the contribution of our elderly to the well-being of our society. Our Gospel of today highlights the value of service as expressed in the concluding verse, “**we are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty**”. Our older generation have contributed and have been of service to our society.

Further, in appreciation of our elderly, we must create opportunities for intergenerational dialogue which will have the beneficial effect of reducing the isolation of our older generations. We have much to learn from our older people who are of a rhythm of life that was not as preoccupied with the frenzy of progress. In entering their rhythm of life, we can be guided in how to live in an appropriate relationship with God, with each other, and with the earth itself. In listening to our older people, we can come to appreciate them as ‘living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance’³.

² Pope Francis, General Audience, 23 May 2022

³ *ibid*

Short silence after the homily

Introduction to the Creed

As we stand to recite the Creed, notice that we are speaking to God who is the ‘Creator of heaven and earth’.

Options for Prayers of the Faithful

1. O Creator God, in this month of creation time, teach us to see your footprints in the beauty of creation. Help us to listen to the voice of creation, inspire us to respect the rights of all people, and all living species to share in your gifts today and to be always mindful of those who come after us. Lord hear us
2. God of all life, we give thanks for the gift of the earth, our common home. At this time, many people, the oceans, and the eco-systems of the earth are struggling to survive. Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life which is not centred exclusively on ourselves but on the needs of others and the worship of you as our ultimate concern. Lord hear us,
3. At this time in human history, we are mindful that the survival of our planet and the well-being of humanity is threatened. Let us pray that UN Agreements to reduce global warming and to care for the poor will be honoured by governments throughout the world. Give courage to world leaders as they meet in the coming months to make crucial decisions for our common home. Lord hear us,
4. Let us pray for each other at this time that we may live the vision and values of Pope Francis’ encyclical *On Care for our Common Home*. In particular we pray for greater attention to social justice, climate justice, and intergenerational justice. Lord hear us,
5. Lord, we pray that we may gain a deeper appreciation of the beauty and diversity of all that you have created. As we journey through our Synodal process, help us to also listen to the voice of creation, to acknowledge how deeply interconnected we are with each other and with the natural world. Lord hear us,
6. Lord, in the spirit of the call of your Son, Jesus, to follow Him by renouncing ourselves, may we resolve to curb all selfish individual actions that conflict with our interrelationship with each other and with the natural world. Lord hear us
7. Lord, on this Sunday – day of rest and recreation - we give thanks for the faith we celebrate in your Son, the Risen Jesus Christ, who has inspired us to gather in thanksgiving and praise.
8. Lord, may we have the courage to give expression to our faith with practical actions for the betterment of each other and of your creation to ensure the rejuvenation of our common home. Lord hear us

Offertory Procession

- A loaf of bread and bowl of grapes could be brought to the altar.
- Indicate that we have bread and wine to offer only because of the work of our endangered pollinators; bread and wine are gifts from the Earth, gifts from God.
- If symbols were not brought up at the beginning of the liturgy soil, seeds, plants or a tree for planting could also be offered.

Suggested Music: Ag Críost an Síol

Our Father

As we pray this prayer over the coming weeks, let us ask forgiveness for our sins against Creation and the poor. Let us be reminded of our deep interconnectedness with all that exists and that at the centre of the Lord's prayer we say: **thy will be done on earth** as it is in heaven.

Before Communion

The celebrant could read aloud the prayer usually said quietly by the priest: 'Lord Jesus Christ, may our receiving of you ... be for us protection in mind and body, and a healing remedy'.

Post-communion Reflection *Please see Appendix for further examples.*

The Canticle of Creatures (St. Francis)

Most High, all-powerful Lord,

Yours are the praises, the glory,

and the honour and all blessing.

Praised be you, my Lord, with all Your creatures,

especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day,

and through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;

and bears a likeness of You, Most High one.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,

in heaven You formed them, clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,

and through the air, cloudy and serene,

and every kind of weather through which you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister water,

who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother fire,

through whom You light the night, and he is beautiful and playful

and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,

who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit

with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love,

and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed those who endure in peace,

for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks

and serve Him with great humility.

Final Blessing

- Indicate theme of next Sunday's Mass
- We are encouraging parishes to plant a tree during the Season of Creation, invite people to join outside if possible. You can use our Tree Planting resource found on the www.catholicbishops.ie or www.trocaire.org Season of Creation resource page.
- The Final Blessing to include all aspects of creation, including what is around the Altar and outside the Church.

Presider: The Mass is ended. Go in Peace to listen to the voice of creation and care more deeply for our common home.

As Congregation Exits

- Small gift of seeds, bulbs, prayer card, booklet, photo, given out by children in costumes
- Planting of a native Irish Tree on church grounds to mark the Season of Creation 2021. Involve local groups and local media.
- Inviting people to *take off their shoes and stand on holy ground* (Ex 3:1-15)

APPENDIX - POST COMMUNION REFLECTIONS

1. A Prayer for the Earth (from Laudato Si, 246)

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole 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 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.

2. A Christian prayer in union with creation (from Laudato Si).

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!
Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.
God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

3. St Patrick's Breastplate

I arise today, through the strength of heaven,
The light of the sun, radiance of the moon, splendour of fire,
The speed of lightning, the swiftness of wind,
The depth of the sea, the stability of the earth, the firmness of rock.
I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me, God's host to save me
From everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near.
Against every cruel and merciless power, that may oppose my body and soul,
Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.
I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness, Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.



4. WALK DON'T RUN By Rob Bell

Walk, don't run.

That's it. Walk, don't run.

Slow down, breathe deeply,

and open your eyes because there's a whole world right here within this one.

The bush doesn't suddenly catch on fire,

it's been burning the whole time.

Moses is simply moving slowly enough to see it.

And when he does, he takes off his sandals.

Not because the ground has suddenly become holy,

but because he's just now becoming aware that the ground has been holy the whole

time. Efficiency is not God's highest goal for your life,

neither is busyness,

or how many things you can get done in one day,

or speed, or even success.

But walking, which leads to seeing,

now that's something.

That's the invitation for every one of us today,

and every day, in every conversation, interaction, event,

and moment: to walk, not run.

And in doing so,

to see a whole world right here within this one.

5. The Hazel Nut by Julian of Norwich

'God showed me a little thing, the size of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand. I looked upon it and wondered, "What might this be?" And I was answered, "It is all Creation."

I marvelled how it could last, for I thought it might suddenly fall to nothing, it was so small.

And I was answered, "It lasts and ever shall last, for God loves it.'

In this little hazel nut I saw three truths: the first is that God made it; the second is that God loves it; and the third is that God keeps it safe.'

6. The Eucharist and Creation – Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* 236

'The Eucharist is an act of cosmic love: yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world. The Eucharist joins heaven and earth: it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God's hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration. In the bread of the Eucharist creation is projected towards divinisation, towards unification with the Creator himself.'

7. The Dance of Creation: Brian Grogan SJ, *Creation Walk* 90-91

We may imagine heaven, not as an endless choir practice on a wet Sunday afternoon, but as the unrestricted and all-inclusive joy of dancing in a transfigured universe. Even an initial awareness of the infinite imagination and power of God who plays in creation shows that ours is already a dancing universe.

We are part of the unfathomable weave of the universe, immersed in its deep mystery. Its dance has already begun: it has always been in process. Each of us has a role in it. Jesus and his Father are working (John 4:34) for the good of all creation and we can tune in to their signals and do likewise. Thomas Merton says that every moment and every event in every person's life plants seeds of spiritual vitality in their hearts. This is the divine at work on Earth: this is grace, and grace is everywhere. All is sacred, and so are we. We must not desecrate our Common Home. We belong to the great Creation Story, to a whole that is infinitely greater than ourselves. We are called even now to share with all of creation 'in the freedom of the children of God' (Romans 8:21). So, let's put on our dancing shoes and learn the steps of the cosmic dance!

8. A prayer for the Earth (Martyn Goss, Diocese of Exeter)

God our Creator, maker and shaper of all that is, seen and unseen;
You are present in the breath and depth of the whole of creation,
and in the processes that make life possible.

Yet, we are distracted by the gods of the marketplace.

Our lives have become fractured and fragmented.

In our brokenness we disturb
the Earth's capacity to hold us

Call us back from the brink.

Help us to choose love and not fear,
to change ourselves and not the planet,
to act justly for the sake of the vulnerable,
and to make a difference today for the life tomorrow.

We make this our prayer in your name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Amen.

9. Our Common Home seen from Space: Astronaut Russell Schweickart 1969

‘The astronaut looks back and sees the Earth not as something big but small. And now the contrast between Earth--that bright blue-and-white Christmas tree ornament--and that black sky, that infinite universe, really comes through. Earth becomes so small and so fragile, and such a precious little spot in the universe, and you realize that on that small spot, that little blue-and-white thing, is everything that means anything to you; all of history, music, poetry, art, games, war and death, birth and love, tears and joy, all of it is on that little spot out there that you can cover with your thumb.

‘You’re going 25,000 mph, ripping through a vacuum, and there's not a sound. There's a silence, the depth of which you've never experienced before, and you think about what you're experiencing and why. Have you been separated out by God to have some special experience that other people cannot have? No. ‘It's not for yourself. You have to bring it back, somehow--a rather special responsibility. It tells you something about your relationship with this life. When you come back, there's a difference—so precious-- in the relationship between you and that planet and all its forms of life, because you've had that kind of experience.’

10. When I am Among the Trees – a poem by Mary Oliver

When I am Among The Trees,
especially the Willows and the Honey Locust,
equally the Beech, the Oaks and the Pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they Save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have Goodness, and Discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk Slowly, and Bow 1often.

Around me the Trees stir in their leaves
and call out, “Stay awhile.”
The Light flows from their branches.

And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say,
“and you too have come into the world to do this, to Go Easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine.”

