



SEASON OF CREATION

Don't miss out
Outdoor Mass at Mercy Grove
24 Sep 2020, Thursday 2.00pm
See back page for the invitation.

About the Season of Creation September 1 to October 4 Feast of St Francis of Assisi

The Season of Creation, an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect creation is underway this month with the theme 'the web of life'. The season begins on September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, established by Pope Francis in 2015 and runs through to October 4, the Feast of St Francis, who is the patron saint of ecology in many traditions. It is celebrated by Christians of all traditions, and the leaders of faith traditions have encourage the faithful to participate.

The Season of Creation is celebrated annually by tens of thousands of Christians around the world. Local, volunteer event hosts on six continents organise celebrations in their communities. These range from prayer services to litter clean-ups to advocacy actions.

"During the Season of Creation, we unite as one family in Christ, celebrating the bonds we share with each other and with *"every living creature on earth."* (Genesis 9:10) The Christian family celebrates the season by spending time in prayer, considering ways to more sustainably inhabit our common home, and lifting our voices in the public sphere," the letter says.

During the Season of Creation, let us reflect on the web of life itself, in the hope that they might provoke richer contemplation and deeper responses among us in Blackwood to care for God's creation as called for by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. We acknowledge that Creation is given as a gift to all of us and that we are called to shared responsibility for its protection."

History

The Philippine bishops proposed in 2003 to celebrate creation in this Sep 1 to Oct 4 timeframe, with a pastoral statement:

"In September 1, in many parts of the world Christian churches celebrate "Creation Day." They have also set the period from this day to October 4 (the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi) or the Sunday after October 4 as "Creation Time." We wish to introduce this period to our Catholic faithful and acknowledge "Creation", that priceless gift of the Almighty and Loving Creator who has made us into his own image and likeness."

The Archdiocese of Manila institutionalised the Season of Creation in 2013 by integrating creation spirituality in the liturgies, raising awareness about the ecological crisis and encouraging action to protect God's creation.

September 1 was proclaimed as a day of prayer for creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. It was embraced by other major Christian European churches in 2001, and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015.

In recent years, many Christian churches have begun celebrating the "Season of Creation" (also known as Creation Time) between September 1 and October 4, the Feast of St. Francis that is observed by some Western traditions. St. Francis is the author of the Canticum of the Creatures, and the Catholic saint of those who promote ecology.

<https://catholicearthcare.org.au/2015/08/season-of-creation-september-1-october-4/>

Blackwood Catholic Parish

Parish Priest Fr Tony Telford-Sharp
Deacon Tee Ping Koh
Parish Co-Ordinator Charlie Borda

The Season of Creation

1 September – 4 October

A Spiritual Exercise

The global reach of Covid19 has revealed our shared human nature and the inter-connectivity of our economies, political structures, health care systems, food production chains, energy and transportation systems in devastating ways.

The pandemic also demonstrated that the entire

web is rooted in the earth and limited by earth's capacity to sustain our economic and ecological

demands. The unjust effects of climate change are a consequence of our inability to find a sustainable balance of this web.



The invitation of the Season of Creation is to engage in a conversion of heart and consciousness across our planet so we can all live in right relationship and harmony with earth and creation.

The following spiritual practice is offered as a way of strengthening this connection for us.

- *Read the Poem: The Waiting Wonders (Mark Burrows) a couple of times and take some time to ponder the images evoked for you, (read it at least once out loud to yourself or to a companion).*

THE WAITING WONDERS — Mark Burrows

If I speak of Nature it's not because I know what it is but because I love it. – Fernando Pessoa

*The door of morning opens gently each day,
not demanding a thing of us but hoping*

*we'll have eyes to catch some measure of
the waiting wonders and their delights –*

*like the glistening jewels gathered at
the tips of the spruce's glistening arms,*

*left behind by rains that pounded all
night long, or the buzz of the hummingbirds*

*who've come searching for honeyed gold
hidden in the peonies' soft uncurling heads,
while a flock of clouds wanders slowly out
across the wide blue meadows of the sky.*

*All these are only what they are, and yet
they offer us glimpses of a gift stronger*

*than our longest losses and deeper than
what we know of sorrow and grief,
glances of the shining that still might save us
who know to listen, lingering, and to gaze.*



Having read the poem, The Waiting Wonders, pause and take a few deep breaths and then very slowly and mindfully begin your walk in your local area, your backyard, the nearby park or beach and as you do so, say these mantras one by one to yourself:

"I am walking mindfully

Treading consciously in Earth

I am part of all that is

Watching out for signs of grow

Heeding all the sounds around

Mercy Grove, Belair National Park

We are indeed blessed to have a small patch at Belair National Park dedicated as sacred ground. A garden bench donated by Clem and Barb Colla will be installed with a commemorative plaque on 24 Sep 2020 for the dedication of the grove by Archbishop Philip Wilson in 2018. Thank you to the visionary leaders making this possible and the army of dedicated carer of the grove. A job well done! Come and enjoy the Mercy Grove and also help to nurture the growing trees.

Slow your pace, feel the breath of air, notice any colour, look up to the sky and be aware of plants, shrubs, trees, waves, soil. Pause and soak in the beauty. Tread consciously. Stop from time to time and touch one of the plants, internally acknowledging Great Mystery present in you and in them.

[Adapted from Cosmic Sparks: Igniting a Re-Enchantment with the Sacred by Marie Abbott RSM]

Season of Creation 2020 Prayer

Creator of Life,

At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.



In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RANyrrjoHYzNzFL5N1fg5H8Y4RvglUbe/view>

Special invitation from Rome

2020 Season of Creation takes place within the context of the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*. "As the world experiences deep uncertainty and suffering in the midst of a global emergency, we are called to recognize that a truly healthy recovery means seeing that 'everything is connected' and repairing the bonds we have broken." Msgr. Bruno-Marie Duffé, the Dicastery's Secretary

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-05/vatican-climate-season-of-creation-laudato-si.html>

Quotations from Laudato Si'

Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God.

#119 Laudato Si'

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 creature.

#92 Laudato Si'

to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God.

#8 Laudato Si'

a sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.

#91 Laudato Si'

INVITATION

to Celebrating the Season of Creation

Jubilee of the Earth

"Season of Creation" Outdoor Mass

Thursday 24 September 2020 at 2.00pm

Main Celebrant Archbishop Patrick O'Regan

Commissioning of the Council of Integral Ecology

Join Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and the Catholic Council for Integral Ecology for an Outdoor Mass to celebrate the **'Jubilee of the Earth' in this Season of Creation.**

Set to take place in Mercy Grove, the Catholic Garden within the picturesque Belair National Park, the Mass will take place at 2.00pm Thursday 24 September 2020

Bookings are essential to comply with National Park capacity limits. Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BLLHO> to register your place.

Further enquiries, please contact
Deacon Tee Ping, Charlie, Terry Tierney, Tracey Tessitore, Barb & Clem Colla.