



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

## LITURGY FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*(Adapted from liturgical resources available online by the  
Archdiocesan Office for Environment of the Archdiocese of Bombay)*

### Introduction

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical initiative that is celebrated from 1st September (the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October (the Feast of St Francis of Assisi) every year. The Season celebrates God as Creator, God's revelation in Creation, and our calling to care for Creation. The theme for the 2024 Season this year is "To hope and act with Creation". To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather to actively strive for new life amidst the struggles.

At this Eucharist, we will mark the Season of Creation through a special liturgy. With deep faith, we place our hope in the renewing power of our Creator God. At the same time, we commit ourselves to concrete action in service of our common home.

### Penitential Rite

Lord God, you are the source of all life and of all that exists, and you have expressed delight in your Creation. You directed us to till and care for the garden of life.

And yet, Lord God of Creation:

We have become alienated from each other and from the Earth, plundering the resources of this planet. Lord have mercy.

You offer yourself to us in Bread and Wine, gifts that are given to us by the Earth. But we have been blinded by greed and have failed to recognise your divine presence in the gift of Creation. Christ have mercy.

During your ministry on earth, you raised your voice in defence of the powerless. We have chosen to remain in our comfort zones, closing our ears to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. Lord have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

### Introduction to the Gloria

Let us now, with joy and wonder, join all of Creation in giving praise to God as we sing the Gloria.

*(Please refer to pages 3-5 for points to consider in 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'.

### Prayer of the Faithful

Celebrant: Conscious of our role as Stewards of God's Creation, we lift up the needs of the world as we pray ...

Response: Strengthen us Lord with your power and grace / Lord hear our prayer

1. The world is charged with the grandeur of God. We ask that the Church be strengthened her mission of leading people to experience the presence of God in Creation; for this we pray ...
2. There are many who risk their lives to ensure that the poor receive a fair share of the earth's resources. May they be given the courage to face the challenges that confront them; for this we pray ...
3. We pray for the leaders of nations and ask that they put aside personal interests and work for the common good; for this we pray ...
4. All of us have been entrusted with the mission of caring for our common home. May we be granted the wisdom to know what to do and the courage to put it into practice; for this we pray ...
5. For the special prayers we make in the silence of our hearts ...

Celebrant: Accept O Lord these petitions we place before you and grant what you know is best for us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OR** *(Kindly insert the Pope's prayer intention for September 2024 if a single intercession is preferred)*

For the Cry of the Earth: We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of the victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

### **Preparation of the Gifts**

*(The celebrant may choose to say the blessing prayers aloud, in recognition of the Lord God of all creation, the fruit of the earth / vine and the work of our hands, i.e., an integral ecology)*

### **Season of Creation Prayer 2024**

*(On page 5; may be recited after Communion)*

### **Final Blessing**

May God the Creator grant you the grace of living your life in harmony with all of creation. Amen.

May Jesus Christ who partook of our human condition inspire you to care for the weak and the most vulnerable.

Amen

May the Holy Spirit guide your every action so that your whole life may become a blessing for the earth.

Amen.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, ✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

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

## APPENDIX 1: Points to Consider / Reflect for Homilists

### *At Marian-themed Masses:*

- Pivotal role of Mary: At the moment of incarnation in her womb, God / Jesus united not only to all of humanity but also to the material world and all creation
- Redemption made possible through Incarnation; therefore, we celebrate Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth, thus Mary may be considered Queen of Creation

**1st September:** The scriptures of the *22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time* confront us with the truth that the severe and dangerous socio-ecological crises beginning to engulf us are coming from within us, from the selfishness, greed, and apathy deep in our hearts. We need to instead embrace the “word of truth” that is planted within us and come together to be “doers of the word,” acting to change our destructive ways of living.

- Deut 4:1-2.6-8: Possession of the land from God comes with upholding the Lord’s commandments (the very first directive in Gen 2:15 is to care for the earth)
- Jas 1:17-18.21b-22.27: Receive the implanted word with meekness (we are stewards not masters) and be doers
- Mark 7:1-8.14-15.21-23: Powerful teaching by Jesus that the source of defilement is from within – Pause and reflect on the human-induced sources of the ecological crisis

**8th September:** The scriptures of the *23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time* encourage us not to lose hope in the face of this complex socio-ecological crisis. God is faithful and is working to open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf. God has chosen the poor who suffer most, and we need to listen especially to them. Spread the good news of those who do come to see and hear, whose ecological conversion is appearing around and among us.

- Isa 35:4-7a: Take heart – waters break forth in the wilderness...burning sand shall become a pool; there is always hope
- Jas 2:1-5: God has chosen the world’s poor to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom – how do we listen to the cry of the poor which is united with the cry of the earth?
- Mark 7:31-37: Community at work – “they” brought a person to Jesus for healing; relationship – Jesus worked the miracle with touch and by looking up to heaven – how is our approach to care for creation?

**15th September:** The scriptures of the *24th Sunday in Ordinary Time* warn that when God opens our ears and we hear, we must expect to suffer opposition. When we act on the call that we hear to care for Earth, we will face resistance and conflict, as Isaiah did, as Jesus did, and as Jesus called his disciples through the ages to, even down to our own day. Through the pain and tragedy, God is our help.

- Isa 50:5-9a: The Lord God helps me
- Jas 2:14-18: Faith by works – can we demonstrate our faith by our work for the poor and for the earth?
- Mark 8:27-35: Set your mind on the things of God – what are the things of God – love expressed in the goodness of creation

**22nd September:** The scriptures of the *25th Sunday in Ordinary Time* again raise up the opposition of the wicked and focus on the suffering to be expected by those God is calling. The passage from the letter of James identifies the roots of this conflict and violence in

jealousies, passions, desires. The apostles' competition over who is the greatest among them is an illustrative case in point. Christ calls us to a wisdom that recognises greatness and finds peace through service and childlikeness.

- Wis 2:12.17-20: Disturbing passage, but let us ask ourselves, are we being the ungodly ones when we do not care for creation and oppose ecological actions because they are inconvenient to us?
- Jas 3:16-4:3: We quarrel because we do not obtain what we covet – can we overcome the scarcity by finding sufficiency in God's grace; how can we place the economy at the service of humanity and of all creation
- Mark 9:30-37: Jesus does not tell the Twelve to stop competing, but to channel their competitive energies into service (the child being an exemplar for service of the least; the least, service in the "kin"-dom of God)

**29th September:** The scriptures of the *26th Sunday in Ordinary Time* urge all to be prophets, speaking out. They encourage openness to all who are not explicitly against us, though they warn us against the rich whose wealth and luxury are effectively stolen from the poor of the world. They include prayer for cleansing from our unknown faults and insistence that we take those faults and the dangers and evils we are engaging with utmost seriousness.

- Num 11:25-29: Can we be prophets who reinforce our God-given role of ecological stewardship (cf. Gen 2:15) in our times and be open to others as found in Moses' response to Joshua?
- Jas 5:1-6: If we cannot be ecological stewards and prophets, if we only extract and exploit, we will surely weep and howl
- Mark 9:38-43.45.47-48: Openness to all encouraged; radical living of our faith – how well do we collaborate in, and live out our response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor?

## GENERAL

### *Season of Creation timeline*

- Response to the signs of the times; 5-week Season established by the World Council of Churches in 2007
- Pope Francis designates 1st September as a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation for Catholics in 2015, twenty-six years after Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios did so in 1989
- In 2016, Pope Francis urges Catholics to join the celebration of the Season of Creation, the Vatican reiterated this invitation in 2019
- Since 2020, the Archdiocesan Office for Environment, Mumbai has been marking the Season in the Archdiocese of Bombay – and in 2024 one parish in every deanery is celebrating a Season of Creation mass throughout the diocese

### *Inspiration for the Season of Creation Masses in our Archdiocese*

- 1) From the Message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024:
  - The protection of creation, then, is not only an ethical issue, but one that is eminently *theological*...At stake is not only our earthly life in history, but also, and above all, our future in eternity, the *eschaton* of our blessedness, the paradise of our peace, in *Christ, the Lord of the cosmos, crucified and risen out of love.* (#8)

- To hope and act with creation, then, means to live an incarnational faith, one that can enter into the suffering and hope-filled “flesh” of others...In this way, our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness. (#9)

2) *Laudato Si'* 236:

- It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours. Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. 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 unification with the Creator. Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.

3) The *Laudato Si'* Goal – Ecological Spirituality – on our journey as a *Laudato Si'* Diocese enrolled with the Vatican's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform

## Appendix 2: **Season of Creation Prayer 2024**

Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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References for this document:

1. [Season of Creation 2024 Catholic Liturgical Guide](#) available from [seasonofcreation.org](#)
2. [Recommendations for Sunday Liturgies during the Season of Creation 2024](#) by the *Laudato Si'* Working Group of the Irish Bishops' Conference