

"Peace with creation" is the theme and invitation of this year's Season of Creation, which draws its inspiration from Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet begins with a portrayal of a desolate creation, wounded by human injustice. Yet there is still hope that creation will find peace and flourish when justice is restored.

Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Nine brief reflections asking St Francis of Assisi to pray for us and our world, based on his beautiful Cantic of the Sun.

This novena is a song of penitence and praise, guiding us to care for the earth and for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially the Amazon peoples. They are currently under grave risk from coronavirus, given their fragile situation, often in remote locations far from government services.

Communities with whom we work are reporting a sharp increase in predatory attacks on land. People smugglers are also active and those being trafficked are in more danger than ever, having no access to healthcare.

The pandemic shows us that "we have not heard the cry of the poor and our seriously ill planet," warns Pope Francis, describing this as "a time to choose what matters and what passes away". (Urbi et Orbi, 2020)

Use these prayers over nine days or at nine moments of personal prayer. Each has four phases: Cantic; Amazon voice; penitential prayer; plea for intercession.

(This CAFOD Novena to St Francis overleaf is presented in a design created by the Diocese of Brentwood, freely available at <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/laudatosi/seasonofcreation/>)