

Those of you with access to the Internet may wish to look at the Rosary on the Cafod website: The Joyful Mysteries for Care of Creation:

https://assets.ctfassets.net/vy3axnuecuwj/90669800e221ae4fa6cc26dc8fa4b7c7b27774e31bebcd0a9b946975aceca8c6/266f375db4df5eed91e568793190362e/Joyful_Mysteries_for_Care_of_Creation.pdf

If you would like to do something practical too, here are a few things you might want to consider:

- Walking for short journeys instead of using a car, or use a bus
- Could you share your car when coming to Mass?
- Reduce or stop international flights
- Try to buy local food/products to minimise emissions from imports
- If you are not already doing so, abstain from meat on Fridays, and/or reduce the amount of red meat and dairy products you eat.

2025 Season of Creation – Biblical text: Isaiah 32:14-18:

*14 Because the palaces will be forsaken,
The bustling city will be deserted.
The forts and towers will become lairs forever,
A joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks—*

*15 Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,
And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.*

*16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,
And righteousness remain in the fruitful field.*

*17 The work of righteousness will be peace,
And the effect of righteousness,
quietness and assurance forever.*

*18 My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation,
In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.*

If you have any ideas during the coming 5 weeks or after for what else we could do as a parish to recognise/address the problems currently facing our world, please speak to one of the Steering Group members.

On the Sunday after the end of the period, there will be a quick (anonymous) “tick box” survey to see how we have responded to this call to acknowledge the wonderful gift of creation.



2025 SEASON OF CREATION

Tomorrow marks the start of the Season of Creation. This annual ecumenical initiative takes place between 1 September and 4 October. It takes its inspiration from Biblical understanding of creation as a gift from God, and from teachings of figures such as St Francis of Assisi. The biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18

The theme for the Season of Creation 2025 is "**Peace with Creation**". The theme encourages all Christians to reflect on humanity's role in healing a world affected by environmental degradation, conflict, and injustice. It emphasizes the interconnectedness between humanity and the Earth, urging believers to engage in actions that promote ecological healing and justice.

Pope Francis established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'* published 10 years ago, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth; to address environmental issues and to promote sustainable living. In his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025, **Pope Leo XIV writes that "now is the time to follow words with deeds....By working with love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope."**

Please do make an effort to attend our Mass tomorrow – 10:00am at OLSE – it is a Mass written especially for the Care of Creation and will mark the start of this year's Season of Creation.

We will end the period on 4th October celebrating the Feast of St Francis of Assisi with a Coffee morning and Cake Sale on the theme of nature and the environment. Funds raised will go to Ukrainian orphans as we continue to express our solidarity with their ongoing ordeal. This theme also recognises that there is a strong connection between war and the degradation of our planet.

Each week in between, we will focus on one of four issues affecting our world: **Climate change; Damage to our environment; Pollution of our seas and Rivers; and Fighting for the Common Good.** This will include some information on the issues for each area and provide a few ideas for how each one of us can help to make a difference. Also, of course, our programme for the season will incorporate prayers and reflection (including walking the Via Creationis on 14 September), and include a Novena during the last nine days of the period.

Overleaf, you will find the information and suggestions for the first of our issues: Climate Change.

Season of Creation: Week 1

Climate change

Some facts:

Natural causes cannot explain the particularly rapid warming of our earth over the last century. It has been caused by human activity, in particular the widespread use of fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas - in homes, factories and transport systems.

The UK is one of the countries most responsible for climate change having emitted so much greenhouse gas since the start of the Industrial Revolution. **And these historical emissions are still accumulated in the atmosphere today, contributing to the climate crisis.** Furthermore, while the UK has been reducing emissions within our border in the last few decades, a very significant proportion of what are considered “emissions from the UK” is actually generated elsewhere in the world, for example to supply our imports, and through international flights.

Climate change has already had a huge effect on the environment, including:

- more frequent and intense extreme weather, such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall
- rapid melting of glaciers and ice sheets, contributing to sea-level rise
- huge declines in Arctic sea ice
- Warmer oceans, which can fuel more intense storms and hurricanes, and damage wildlife such as coral reef

Across the UK, we can expect to continue seeing:

- Warmer and wetter winters
- Hotter and drier summers
- More frequent and intense weather extremes

Some 4,507 deaths were estimated to be linked to heat in England in 2022 when temperatures topped 40C. That was the highest number of estimated heat-related deaths over the last 35 years -

About 3.3 to 3.6 billion people world-wide are highly vulnerable to climate change. People living in poorer countries are expected to suffer most as they have fewer resources to adapt. An Oxfam study found that the richest one percent of the world's population were responsible for more than twice as much carbon pollution as the world's poorest 3.1 billion people, from 1990 to 2015.

Did you know that food production is responsible for a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions contributing to global warming? An Oxford University study found that meat and other animal products are responsible for more than half of food-related greenhouse gas emissions, despite providing only a fifth of the calories we eat and drink. Of all the products analysed in the study, beef and lamb were found to have by far the most damaging effect on the environment.

It's not all bad news:

- The UK was the first country in the world to create a legally-binding national commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Change Act of 2008 pledged to cut our emissions as a country by 80% by 2050, from 1990 levels. It was updated in 2019 with a target of achieving an effective 100% reduction by 2050. This is known as the “net zero” target.
- The UK met its target to phase out coal power for generating electricity by 2024.
- And the UK is generally doing well on renewables, with each year more and more of our electricity being created by wind power.
- The use of Solar energy is increasing with homes and businesses making use of Solar panels – including our own parish in the last year!

What can I do?

All of us can pray. So even if you are not able to do anything physically, please try to set aside a few minutes each day to reflect on the issues our world is facing and pray

A prayer for our earth

This prayer by Pope Francis appeared at the end of his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si'. It is for all who believe in God who is the all-powerful Creator.

All powerful God, you are present in the 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 your 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.