

### 2026 Season of Creation Biblical Text Ezekiel 47: 9 and 12

*"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. [...] Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." (Ezek 47:9,12)*

### Our Prayer for Living Water

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning,  
we gather as part of your community of all creation,  
thirsty for your grace.  
We give thanks for the gift  
of water, the veins of our common home,  
that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city.  
We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow  
creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden,  
every drop is a sacred testament to your love.  
Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity.  
We have choked the seas with our waste  
and watched the warming tides rise in judgment.  
We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken  
and the salty tears of the climate refugee.  
Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow.  
Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows,  
everything shall live.  
Stir in us a calling to care for the waters – to protect the watershed,  
defend the rights of water, and honour the dignity of the thirsty.  
May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations.  
May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert.  
May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us  
for the work of restoration.  
And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace  
until justice rolls down like waters  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
Amen.



## Living Water

### Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER  
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

The Season of Creation is a global ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home, starting each year on 1 September and finishing on the feast of St Francis, 4 October.

This ecumenical season is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. It is a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer.

We give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth our common home.

This year's theme "LIVING WATER", explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

*Ezekiel's vision reframes water — the most basic element of life — as a divine agent of renewal, justice, and hope, a life-giving force flowing from God's sanctuary. In Ezekiel's time, water was a symbol of divine presence and blessing.*

*The vision begins with a small trickle — droplets of water flowing from the place of prayer and sacrifice. From a tiny stream it grows to an unstoppable river — the first marvel. The river grows as it flows from the Temple, nourished by the worship and prayers of God's people. But the second marvel is greater still. The river does not merely sustain life, it restores entire ecosystems. So powerful is this river's water that the salt waters will become fresh and teem with life.*

## FROM WORLDLY DESPAIR TO CHRISTIAN HOPE

In 2000, in a sermon as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Jorge Bergoglio described two “sterile stances” on the crises facing our world.

**Naïve Optimism**  
*Somehow there will be a technical fix; no need to repent; put faith in progress*



**Apocalyptic Pessimism**  
*Foresees only doom, and humanity as intrinsically opposed to nature*

**The future Pope Francis contrasted these with the Christian Way of Discernment**

Our horizon is changed by the Incarnation, the Cross and above all the Resurrection. History has an end and a meaning against which all developments can be measured.

The arc of history is bent towards communion - a future of fraternity, justice and peace - by God's spirit acting in human hearts

We can see that through the suffering of the natural world at this time there is a growing awareness of the agency of creatures. The signs of hope are in projects and activities that show how creaturely life can come back in abundance where we humans not just restrain our own destructive, extractive practices, but when we create space for other creatures to recover co-agency with us. Such a vision of partnership of humans and non-human creatures that is clearly part of the divine plan.

Hope is what creates the space for God's action.

So, in this Season of Creation, we are called to humility, patience and hope, a confident expectation in God's action in spite of the apparent evidence that the powers of this world have triumphed.

In his encyclical, *Laudato Sí*, Pope Francis asks us to

Open our eyes to the crisis we are facing  
**SEE**

Discern where God's action can be seen and what frustrates God's action  
**JUDGE**

Propose and take actions, aligned with the Kingdom  
**ACT**

**See, Judge, Act** - a three-step framework in **Catholic Social Teaching**. Developed by **Cardinal Joseph Cardijn** and affirmed by papal encyclicals, it helps people **examine** social realities, **reflect** on them through faith, and **respond** to injustice with practical, values-driven action.

Far from naïve optimism or apocalyptic pessimism, we can pray and hope and act in confidence.

**INDIVIDUAL**

Our action can be

**COMMUNAL**

**INSTITUTIONAL**

In the leaflets that will be distributed each week during this Season of Creation, we....

Grieve for the harm done to our common home through human use and abuse of water;

Celebrate the hope that projects and activities bring to the healing of our earth and its waters;

Share ways in which we can act individually, communally and institutionally to care and atone for the harm done to the intricate web of relationships between us and the rest of nature.

