**Planning the Liturgy: Mass for the Care of Creation**

*For parishes and schools in the Season of Creation 2025 (1st Sept. – 4thOct.)*



*‘In the Eucharistic sacrifice the whole of creation loved by God is presented to the Father through the death and the Resurrection of Christ.’*

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**Introduction**

Tucked away in Chapter VIII of the Roman Missal is a section sometimes forgotten about in the busyness of daily liturgy, Sunday Mass, and Holy Days: the ‘Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions’.

In June 2025, this section of the Roman Missal was extended to include new intentions, as reflective of the needs and challenges of our present time. The *Mass for the Care of Creation* is one of these additions; a Eucharistic celebration that draws us to consider our responsibility to the sacred gift of creation, inviting us to spiritual conversion for the protection of our common home. It is published on the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si’*.

Catholic communities around the world have for a long time been finding meaningful ways to uplift creation within the context of the Mass through special intentions, symbolic gestures, and moments of reflection on our role as stewards of God's creation. Now, with the formal inclusion of the *Mass for the Care of Creation* in the Roman Missal, the Church offers a new path to celebrate the goodness of creation and commit ourselves to the call to ecological conversion.

As Cardinal Michael Czerny reminds us, ‘with this Mass, the Church is offering liturgical, spiritual and communal support for the care we all need to exercise of nature, our common home. Such service is indeed a great act of faith, hope and charity.’ Through this celebration, we are invited to deepen our awareness of creation as gift, to repent of the harm we have caused to the planet and its people, and to renew our call to be stewards of God’s creation.

In 2025, the formulary has been approved for use in England and Wales during the Season of Creation (1st September- 4th October). Archbishop John Sherrington encourages us to celebrate the Mass for the Care of Creation in parishes and schools during this season. This document offers some suggestions and resources for helping to plan a liturgy for a Mass for the Care of Creation.

**Contents**

FAQs …………………………………………………………………………………………………… P.4

Choosing a Location: Some Considerations………………………………………………. P.6

Example Bidding Prayers ………………………………………………………………………… P.7

Music …………………………………………………………………………………………………… P.8

Prayer Resources ..…………………………………………………………………………………. P.9

Laudato Si’ Prayer ………………………………………………………………………………….. P.10

**FAQs**

**When should the Mass be celebrated?**

Priests across the Archdiocese of Liverpool have been sent a copy of the formulary for the Mass for the Care for Creation, authorised for use during this year’s Season of Creation (1st September- 4th October 2025). We are encouraged to celebrate the Mass during this season.

**Can we choose our own readings?**

A selection of appropriate readings are recommended for the Mass for the Care of Creation. The celebrant can choose between one of these readings or, where the Mass readings of the day are appropriate, these may be selected instead.

**Can we incorporate nature into the liturgy?**

There are plenty of ways that you can incorporate creation into the liturgy. The offertory procession can be a powerful way of integrating these elements into the Mass as, in addition to the bread and wine, the Church encourages offering gifts for the Church and all those in need.

For example, you might carry seasonal vegetables to be donated to your local food bank (this might be especially meaningful if your parish grows its own produce or as part of a creation for care initiative, or if members of your parish community grow in their private gardens/allotments).

**Can we include music and hymns with a creation focus?**

Creation-focussed music and hymns are appropriate choices for the Mass for the Care of Creation. If you would like some inspiration, this booklet has some suggestions located on Page 8.

**How do we prepare Prayers of the Faithful (bidding prayers) for the Mass for the Care of Creation?**

To prepare the Prayers of the Faithful, you might choose to write or select prayers that include intentions for environmental justice and care for those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In this booklet is a set of sample bidding prayers from CAFOD that you might like to use, adapt, or read for inspiration.

**Can we include local cultural expressions of care for the earth in our liturgy?**

Including prayers in local languages, celebrating the Mass for the Care of Creation during times of year with cultural or seasonal significance, or incorporating traditional music and symbols might help to reflect the unique identity of your community and members of your parish. These expressions can be discussed with your parish priest to ensure they are integrated in a way that respects the liturgical norms of the Church and also the cultural heritage of those involved.

**Choosing a Location: Some Considerations**

Outdoor liturgies are not uncommon in the life of the Church. The Mass often takes places like St. Peter’s Square or nature spots at pilgrimage sites- and World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon saw 1.5 million people attend an outdoor Mass with Pope Francis.

The first celebration of the Care for Creation Mass by Pope Leo XIV in July took place in a garden (a ‘Cathedral to Nature’) at the Laudato Si' Village in Castel Gandolfo. You might wish to follow Pope Leo’s example by celebrating the Care for Creation Mass outdoors. However, keep in mind some considerations from Canon Law when deciding on the location of your liturgy. Your parish priest should be able to help you to decide where the Mass should take place.

To consider:

* Some parishes have blessed or dedicated altars for liturgical celebrations in gardens and outdoor spaces. These altars can be either fixed in place or moveable. If you wish to celebrate the Mass for the Care of Creation in an outdoor space, check if your parish has one of these altars, or if any parishes nearby could make one available for your celebrant. (Can. 1237).
* If a blessed or dedicated altar, or sacred outdoor space, is not accessible and you wish to celebrate the Eucharist outside, speak to your parish priest to discern the most appropriate course of action to your particular set of circumstances.

If you are unable to celebrate the Mass outdoors, there are plenty of ways that you can integrate the beauty of nature into your indoor liturgy. Flowers, seasonal fruits and vegetables, seeds, water- all of these can be brought into your church building to be used as powerful visual aids that can help prompt your prayer and reflection.

**Example Bidding Prayers**

For the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God’s precious gift of creation. Lord, in your mercy...

**Hear our prayer.**

For the world, our common home: that through God’s grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy. Lord, in your mercy...

**Hear our prayer.**

For those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate. Lord, in your mercy...

**Hear our prayer.**

For our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. Lord, in your mercy...

**Hear our prayer.**

For the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given. Lord, in your mercy…

**Hear our prayer.**

For world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy…

For our local community: that through God’s grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made. Lord, in your mercy…

**Hear our prayer.**

**(***Bidding prayers shared from CAFOD’s Creationtide Intercessions:* [*https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/creationtide-intercessions*](https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/creationtide-intercessions))

**Music**

Hymn books such as Laudate have a ‘creationtide’ section, with suggested music for the Season of Creation period. You may choose to use your own creation-themed music as a way to praise God by drawing focus to the goodness of his creation. Here are some suggestions that might be helpful in your prayer during the Season of Creation.

**Traditional Hymns:**

* All Creatures of our God and King
* How Great Thou Art
* Here I Am, Lord
* Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
* Praise the Lord ye Heavens Adore Him
* Sing to the Mountains, Sing to the Sea

**Hymns for celebrating with children:**

* All Things Bright and Beautiful
* He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands
* Laudato Si’ O Mii Signore

**Contemporary Praise and Worship:**

* Praise the Lord ye Heavens Adore Him (Young Oceans)
* Doxology (My Epic)
* So Will I (100 Billion X)

**Prayer Resources**

Rosary for the Care of Creation

The Season of Creation offers us a time to consider how our concern for the environment can be integrated into daily prayer practices in the life of the Church.

Cafod have prepared a Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary for the Care of Creation, making a brilliant resource for prayer on Monday 1st September, the World Day of Prayer for Creation. Follow the link or QR code beneath to explore:

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(<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary/care-of-creation-rosary>)

Laudato Si’ Centre Parish Resources

The Laudato Si’ Centre, Salford, have been publishing resources to help parishes prepare for reflection and prayer, including resources for Prayer Walks and Stations of the Cross for the Care of Creation, as well as tips on more practical action.

For inspiration, you might wish to look at parish resources webpage: A qr code on a white background

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(<https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/parish/parish-resources/>)

**Laudato Si’ Prayer**

*(Based on the Canticle of the Sun by St Francis of Assisi)*

Praise be to you, O my Lord, for all your creatures!  
For Brother Sun, who shines with your light.  
For Sister Moon and the stars, set clear and lovely in the sky.  
For Brother Wind and the air that fills our lungs-  
each breath a gift that belongs to you.  
For Sister Water, so pure and precious.  
For Brother Fire, who, even in the darkness of night,  
brings warmth and light.  
And for Sister Earth, through whose fruits you nourish and sustain us.                                                                                                                          
In all their beauty, they point to your goodness.

With all your creatures, we praise and bless you, Lord.  
We give you thanks,  
and we serve you in the chorus of all creation.  
**Amen.**