



# TILLING THE SOIL

BIBLICAL FORMATION RESOURCE

## THE SEASONS OF *Creation*



As spring begins in Australia, we watch nature slowly transform the world around us and even our very selves. Though many of us are still constrained by much needed restrictions to curtail the spread of COVID-19, nature continues to move purposefully to a new season in harmony with an ancient rhythm: the trees sprout new leaves; the birds build nests; the jasmine flowers promise new scent; the wattle bursts forth. In the lengthening days and increasing sunshine we might even feel our own spirits lighten with the promise and hope that nature's cycle and wisdom offers. Ilia Delio reminds us that "the universe is physically impregnated to the very core of its matter by the influence of divine nature." Like those whose spirits are closely aligned and awakened to the land, we too are called to a deeper awareness of creation as gift and revelation of God. We are increasingly aware that "the voice of the Divine comes to us not only from the text and history, but also from the trees, the sky, the waning and waxing moon, and the wondrous and fragile functioning of our bodies". As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the release of *Laudato Si*, we are called not only to celebration and interconnection with 'brother sun and sister moon' but to understand that interconnectedness means our own

flourishing and that of every part of creation is inextricably linked. Our feature article this month by Sr Pat Fox NDS titled *The Seasons of Creation*, explores the Biblical teachings and covenantal responsibilities foundational for *Laudato Si*'s call to act for justice, peace and righteousness as we work together to build the Kingdom.

- Carmel Crawford

FEATURE ARTICLE:

### SEASONS OF CREATION

- SR PAT FOX NDS

Sr Pat Fox, is a Sister of Our Lady of Sion whose work over many years has been in social and ecological justice. Pat spent many years in the Philippines working with communities fighting exploitation of the land and for just wages and working conditions. In *Seasons of Creation* she offers us an insight into the Jewish and Biblical understandings of the seasons of creation.

Her exploration of *Laudato Si* in light of these understandings offers us new insights about interconnectedness and the imperative to take whatever actions we can for a more ecologically sustainable future for Kingdom living.

Click [here](#) to access the full article.



to do justice,  
to love mercy and to walk  
humbly with God.

Micah 6:8

DEEPENING YOUR KNOWLEDGE  
AND SPIRITUALITY FOR ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

There are many resources available in the area of eco-spirituality and ecological justice, the attached document contains some recommendations from Sr Pat Fox and some newly released resources for 2020.

Click [here](#) for the resources page.



PRAYER / REFLECTION RESOURCE:



When I asked Pat Fox for a text and some resources to accompany her feature article *Seasons of Creation* she included a beautiful meditation from the medieval mystic Hildegard of Bingen. I have used the meditation and a piece of chant written by Hildegard as inspiration for the prayer resource.

Click [here](#) for the prayer resource *Seasons of Creation – a meditation* with Hildegard of Bingen.

## JEWISH – CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

The Australian Council for Christians and Jews (ACCI) and the Council for Christians and Jews (Victoria) (CCJVIC) recently hosted a webinar *God's Gamble with Creation & The Greening of Our Theologies*. The webinar featured presentations and conversation from Rabbi Fred Morgan and Dr Emmanuel Nathan (ACU). The recorded webinar is available via YouTube on the CCJVIC website.

Click [here](#) for the webinar.










As mentioned in the last edition the 2020 theme for the journal *Gesher* is *Religion and Ecology*. If you haven't yet had time to look at Issue #1, it contains some helpful insights for our theme with at focus on ecology and faith. Issue #2 recently released takes up the theme *The Common Good in a Time of Crisis*.

Click [here](#) for *Gesher*.





## FEAST DAYS AND EVENTS

	19 -20 September	<b>Rosh Hashanah:</b> Jewish New Year marked by the sounding of the Shofar (ram's horn), prayer and ten days of repentance.
	28 September	<b>Yom Kippur:</b> Day of Atonement the holiest day of the Jewish calendar consists of a 25 hour fast while praying for atonement and repentance.
	3 – 10 October	<b>Sukkot:</b> celebrated 5 days after Yom Kippur: also known as the Feast of Tabernacles / Booths, is an 8 day Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest and commemorating the booths (sukkot) used by Israelites during the 40 years of wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt Sinai.
	11 September	<b>Simchat Torah</b> is a joyous festival in which the annual cycle of reading the Torah is over, and the cycle begins again for the year. The celebration typically includes singing, dancing, and marching with Torah scrolls.
	17 – 26 October	<b>Navaratri</b> , which literally means 'nine nights', is a Hindu festival honouring the Goddess/Divine Mother and her energy/power (Shakti). The festival includes worshipping and dancing as people celebrate various aspects of the feminine.
	20 October	<b>Conferment of Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib</b> , (Sikh) celebrates Guru Gobind Singh Ji's (10th Guru) passing on guruship to the holy scriptures, henceforth known as the Guru Granth Sahib which comprises 1430 pages of hymns, presides the most prominent place and shines the light of Truth to all Sikhs or devotees who seek it.
	25 October	<b>Dussehra:</b> a Hindu festival of special prayer meetings and food offerings to the gods at home or in temples that celebrates the victory of good over evil.
	1 November	Catholics - <b>All Saints' Day</b> honours women and men who have achieved sainthood and the place for all the faithful departed in the Communion of Saints. For many Christian denominations, all Saints Day is a remembrance of departed Christian people of any time and place.
	2 November	<b>All Souls' Day</b> is a holy day set aside for honouring the dead. The day is primarily celebrated in the Catholic Church, but it is also celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Church and a few other denominations of Christianity.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to share this resource or parts of it with interested colleagues, parishioners or friends. When using the resource, we ask that you acknowledge sources for text and links.

This resource is produced by the Mission Coordinator, Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, Australia Region

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