

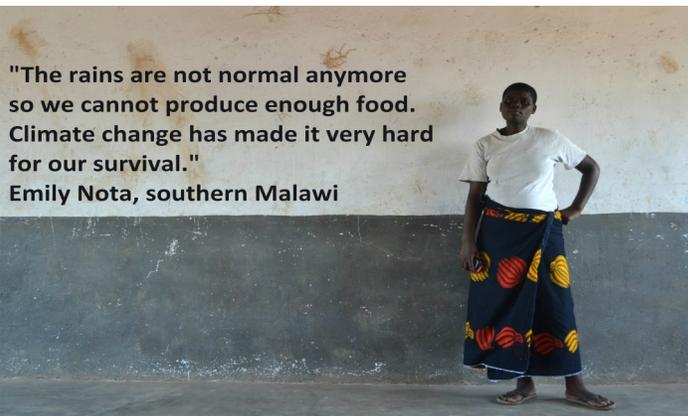
Care for Creation Season 1 September—4 October 2016

Introduction

September 1st has been celebrated as a day of prayer for creation for several Christian churches for many years now. In 2015 Pope Francis incorporated this celebration into the Catholic Church's calendar. This has now evolved into the "Season of Creation" (also known as Creation Time) a period set aside to allow the faithful to pray and reflect on how they can act as the stewards of creation we are all called to be. This time of prayer ends on **October 4th, St Francis' feast day, the patron saint of ecology**. It has been a significant year since the inaugural day of prayer for creation last September. The global impact of Pope Francis' Encyclical '*Laudato Si' On Care for Our Common Home*', continues to grow since its release in 2015 as the faithful take heed of its call to action at a local, national and international level to combat ecological destruction and climate change. Here in Ireland, Trócaire have been busy educating local communities on *Laudato Si'* and its powerful message and implications. The necessity and **urgency of this mission** has unfortunately been clearly seen over the past year. We have recently launched a food crisis appeal as ongoing drought has left millions of people in need of emergency aid across **Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Honduras and Guatemala**; a situation severely compounded by climate change. This newsletter gives some suggestions for parishes and individuals who wish to celebrate and protect the gift of God's creation and learn more about *Laudato Si'* during this special time.

"As Christians we wish to contribute to resolving the ecological crisis which humanity is presently experiencing. In doing so, we **must** first rediscover in our own rich spiritual patrimony the deepest motives for our **CONCERN** for the care of creation."

Pope Francis Laudato Si' 216



"The rains are not normal anymore so we cannot produce enough food. Climate change has made it very hard for our survival."
Emily Nota, southern Malawi

Emily Nota, a farmer from the Chikwawa district of southern Malawi, which is one of the worst impacted by climate change. (Photo: Eoghan Rice / Trócaire)



SEASON OF CREATION

For more information, parish resources and ideas for how to celebrate the season, check out www.seasonofcreation.org

What can your parish do to Celebrate Creation week?



1. Promote the encyclical *Laudato Si'*

A *Laudato Si'* Group Study Resource is available on our website at www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes. Check out the Pope's inspiring Creation Time video here too.

2. Live more simply

Follow Pope Francis' advice and live more sustainably to reduce your own carbon footprint. See [here](#) for some creative ideas and advice.

3. Pray for Creation

Hold a prayer service in thanksgiving for the gift of the earth. See page 2 for useful prayers or use Trócaire's own range of pastoral, liturgical and youth resources for parishes and community groups on Climate Justice available on our website at www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes

4. Take Action!

See our list of 100 things that can be done in the parish and at home to implement *Laudato Si'* [here](#).

What have Trócaire been doing to promote *Laudato Si'*?

- Resource stands at numerous *Laudato Si'* conferences nationwide
- Delivered numerous parish workshops on *Laudato Si'*
- Promoted the GCCM (Global Catholic Climate Movement) Catholic 's for Climate Justice petition in advance of COP21 meetings in Paris in November 2015
- Supported the GCCM's *Laudato Si'* Eco Festival at World Youth Day, Krakow in July 2016
- Held a 'Care for Creation' Day for young people at Knock Shrine in August

It's 3:23 in the morning And I'm awake
 Because my great, great grandchildren won't let me sleep
 My great, great grandchildren ask me in dreams
 What did you do while the Planet was plundered?
 What did you do when the Earth was unravelling?

Surely you did something
 When the seasons started failing?
 As the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?

Did you fill the streets with protest, when democracy was stolen?
 What did you do, once you knew? (**Drew Dillinger**)



“...how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.”

Pope Francis Laudato Si' 10

Intercessions:

- I. Father, you created humans in your own likeness. As stewards within your economy of creation, help us manage for earth's long term good, all people's common home. **Lord hear us**
- II. Father, your messengers accepted abuse and your Son was misunderstood. Let our ways be corrected so we become authentic prophets and disciples. **Lord hear us.**
- III. Father, you bathe us in the peace of Christ. Through promoting the good of others and your earth, may we not feel alienation but the freedom of living the gospel. **Lord hear us.**
- IV. Father, you bathe us in the peace of Christ. Through promoting the good of others and your earth, may we not feel alienation but the freedom of living the gospel. **Lord hear us.**

A Christian prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
 They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
 they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
 Praise be to you!
 Son of God, Jesus,
 through you all things were made.
 You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
 you became part of this earth,
 and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
 Today you are alive in every creature
 in your risen glory.
 Praise be to you!
 Holy Spirit, by your light
 you guide this world towards the Father's love
 and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
 You also dwell in our hearts
 and you inspire us to do what is good.
 Praise be to you!
 Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
 teach us to contemplate you
 in the beauty of the universe,
 for all things speak of you.
 Awaken our praise and thankfulness
 for every being that you have made.
 Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
 to everything that is.
 God of love, show us our place in this world
 as channels of your love
 for all the creatures of this earth,
 for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
 Enlighten those who possess power and money
 that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
 that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
 and care for this world in which we live.
 The poor and the earth are crying out.
 O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
 help us to protect all life,
 to prepare for a better future,
 for the coming of your Kingdom
 of justice, peace, love and beauty.
 Praise be to you!
 Amen

Autumn Prayer

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, May the earlier setting of the sun, remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

For more information on Climate Change and resources on creation, please visit the following websites from *Trócaire* and *Eco Congregation of Ireland*

www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes

ecocongregationireland.com

