

## Going Forth Prayer (5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Laudato Si')

Loving God, Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
you created us in your own image and called us to care for your creation.  
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land  
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we may attend to your gift of creation  
Help us to be conscious that our common home  
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures  
and to all future generations,  
and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.



May we help each person secure the food and  
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,  
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.  
Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity  
so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity  
in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.  
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed  
in search of the common good.

Now more than ever may we feel  
that we are all interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to listen and respond  
to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs  
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.  
Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,  
we make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen

### LIVELY SONG

**Webinar** 17 September @8pm. To register email [desbailey@dioceseofkerry.ie](mailto:desbailey@dioceseofkerry.ie)

## Season of Creation

1 September - 4 October 2020

### Cultivating Hope

Special Anniversary Year of Laudato Si'

**Music to welcome.**

**Introduction to your outdoor space:**

local park/parish garden/green area.



### Laudato Si'

Everything is interconnected (#138). Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it #139. Ecosystems have an intrinsic value independent of their usefulness. Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself. #140. An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence must not be contrived but found, uncovered. #225 *Pope Francis*

### Earth Charter

"We stand at a critical time in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. . . . To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. . . . we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature."

**Invitation:** Name a concern and a positive action of caring for Our Common Home

**A Prayer of Sorrow** *UN Environmental Sabbath Service*

We have forgotten who we are  
We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos  
We have become estranged from the movements of the earth  
We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

***We have forgotten who we are.***

We have sought only our own security  
We have exploited simply for our own ends  
We have distorted our knowledge  
We have abused our power.

***We have forgotten who we are.***

Now the land is barren  
And the waters are poisoned  
And the air is polluted.

***We have forgotten who we are.***

Now the forests are dying  
And the creatures are disappearing  
And the humans are despairing.

***We have forgotten who we are.***

We ask forgiveness  
We ask for the gift of remembering  
We ask for the strength to change.



**Music.**

**Beginners** *Denise Levertov*

But we have only begun to love the earth.  
We have only begun to imagine the fullness of life.  
How could we tire of hope?  
—so much is in bud.  
How can desire fail?  
—we have only begun to imagine justice and mercy,  
only begun to envision how it might be  
to live as siblings with beast and flower,  
not as oppressors.  
Surely our river cannot already be hastening  
into the sea of nonbeing?  
Surely it cannot drag, in the silt, all that is innocent?  
Not yet, not yet—  
there is too much broken that must be mended,  
too much hurt we have done to each other that cannot yet be forgiven.  
We have only begun to know  
the power that is in us if we would join our solitudes in the communion of  
struggle.  
So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture,  
so much is in bud.

Show a bowl of soil



**“Soil** is a remarkable substance that turns unusable material into plant food; it stores carbon, filters water and protects us from floods. Soil is formed from thousands of years of physical and biological processes and, as it takes so long to re-form, it is effectively non-renewable. Because it is not renewable and we rely so heavily on it **we need to protect it.”**

[environmentalpillar.ie/people/4soil](http://environmentalpillar.ie/people/4soil)