2026

Care of Creation

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Care of Creation

In our diocese we have a group that work on bringing **Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation issues** to our attention. Visit their pages on the Diocese of Kerry website www.dioceseofkerry.ie under the heading of Justice to see their monthly calendar and to read their news.

Pope Francis has designated Sept 1st World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. He invites us to pray in gratitude for the world that God has entrusted to us and to act as protectors of God's creation.

On Tuesday, Sept 1st, the Diocese began the renewal our commitment to use wisely the gifts of the earth and stand in solidarity with those whose lives are most affected by climate change

Resources and Curriculum Links

Possible Cross Curricular Links

Art, English and Geography (*Junior and Senior Cycle*)

IT (*Junior and Senior Cycle*)

CSPE (*Junior Cycle*)

Climate Action and Sustainable Development (*Senior Cycle*)

YouTube Links

https://youtu.be/lYI9Ne2t5NI

https://youtu.be/o3Lz7dmn1eM

Useful Websites

Season of Creation 2023 | Latest Updates | Notre Dame - Newman Centre for Faith and Reason | University of Notre Dame

Season Of Creation 2026 | Catholic Climate Covenant

www.aidlink.ie

www.careofcreation.net

www.trocaire.org

www.dioceseofkerry.ie

Textbooks

Junior Cycle *(all have accompanying workbooks with worksheets)*

Beliefs in Our World – Unit 9 – Chapter 45 – Care for the Earth.

Soul Seekers – Module 13 – Care for the Earth.

Inspire – Unit13 – Chapter 29

Religion for Living – Page 509

Senior Cycle

Pathways to Purpose – Chapter 16

Issues of Justice and Peace – Chapter 7

Other Relevant Texts

YOUCAT – What to do

Bible

Laudato SI

Religion: the Irish Experience – Chapter 5

Living Justice and Peace – Chapter 9

Films and Animations

The Lorax

I am Greta (2020)

David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet (2020)

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (2019)

Project Ideas for the Living Water Theme

The Season of Creation theme encourages both prayer and action. Schools might encourage their students to participate by:

- organise a beach or river clean up;
- host a water conservation workshop;
- encourage schools to complete projects on communities lacking access to clean water – these could be displayed in the parish centre e.g. Walk for Water www.aidlink.ie
- plant native trees near local waterways.

School:

Year Group:

Unit of Learning: Care of Creation

Duration 3 weeks approx.	**Relevant Prior Learning** • Overview of World Religions • Sacred Text and Bible Research • Morality • Creation Stories • Compassion and Justice •
Learning Outcomes/SOLs • 1.9 • 2.2 • 2.3 • 2.7 • 3.1 • 3.6 • 3.8 •	**Learning Intentions** • Explain why the climate crisis is an issue of concern for the world today • Describe how and why a major world religion promotes care of creation. • Summarise what a major world religion teachers about care for the planet
Key Skills **Being literate** – exploring and creating a variety of texts and keywords **Managing myself** – self assessment statements **Staying well** – personal reflection and being spiritual **Managing information and thinking** – Reflecting on and evaluating learning with end of unit reflection sheet **Being numerate** – Seeing patterns, trends and relationships, using timelines, putting events in chronological order **Being creative** – imaging, exploring and stimulating creativity using digital technology **Working with others** – Pair and group work which promotes respecting difference, contributing to making the world a better place **Communicating** – listening and expressing myself through discussion, debate and presenting	**Action Verbs** • Explain • Consider • Explore • Examine • Debate
Assessment • Prior knowledge checks e.g KWL or 3-2-1 strategies. • Written questions • Oral questioning in class • Reflection sheet • Worksheets • Group presentation	**Differentiation** • Technology integration • Flexible grouping • Scaffolded learning • Peer support • Team teaching • Varied writing prompts • Project based learning • Use of audio-visual materials
Teaching Methodologies • Think Pair Share – pair and group work • Walking Debate • Higher and lower order questioning • Discussions	**Reflection**

School:

Module: Justice and Peace

Topic: Stewardship

Time Period:

Year Group:

Learning Intentions Students will: • Explore the ways in which changing our attitude and behaviour can have a positive impact on the environment • Outline the idea of stewardship in different world religions • Explain how care of creation is important and significant in major world religions • Examine care for creation in action locally and globally	**Learning Experiences** Students will • Watch a respond to the Kerry Diocese short film https://youtu.be/lYI9Ne2t5NI • Read and respond to accounts of environmental issues. • Answer questions about how world religions view stewardship • Watch and respond to a YouTube clip about Laudato Si • Read and respond to Pope Francis' letter Laudato Deum • Take part in a walking debate on care for creation • Discuss the importance of care for creation • Create a collage based on their knowledge •
Teaching Methodologies • Think Pair Share – pair and group work • Walking Debate • Higher and lower order questioning • Discussions	**Differentiation** • Technology integration • Flexible grouping • Scaffolded learning • Peer support • Team teaching • Varied writing prompts • Project based learning • Use of audio-visual materials • Collages •
Assessment • Read and respond • Watch and respond • Oral questioning • Written responses • Collage	**Reflection**



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Introduction

The Season of Creation is celebrated each year from 1 September to 4 October, bringing Christians throughout the world together in prayer, reflection and action for the care of our common home.

The theme for Season of Creation 2026 is "Living Water", inspired by the prophet Ezekiel's vision of a life-giving river flowing from the Temple:

"Wherever the river flows, every living creature shall live." Ezekiel 47:9

In Ezekiel's vision, the river begins as a small stream but grows deeper as it flows. It brings life to barren places, heals damaged waters and allows trees and plants to flourish. It is a powerful vision of hope, healing and renewal.

We are invited to reflect on how God's living water flows through our own lives, our communities and our world. Water is not simply a resource to be used; it is a precious gift from God, essential to all life.

During this Season, schools are invited to pray, reflect and act for the protection of water and the whole of creation, recognising our shared responsibility to care for God's gift and ensure that it continues to bring life to generations to come.

Preparing a Sacred Space

A simple visual focus can be created in the classroom, prayer room or school foyer for the duration of the Season. The display can develop throughout the Season.

- a large bowl or glass vessel containing water;
- a Bible opened at Ezekiel 47:1–12; or a sign with the scripture verse written on it.
- stones or pebbles;
- shells;
- a branch or small plant;
- photographs of a local river, lake, stream or coastline;
- a blue cloth representing the river of living water.

Schools are encouraged to use local water imagery wherever possible. A photograph of a nearby river, lake, well, stream or coastline can help people recognise that the biblical message is connected to the place where they live.

Prayer Service

Preparation

6 readers.

5 people to bring forwards gifts to place in the sacred space.

Jug of water, plant, shell and an image of a local river or beach.

Background music/Instrumental Music



Opening Prayer read by:

Good and merciful God, you have given your creation to humanity. You have put it into our hands so that we might conserve and look after it. If we take care of this precious gift we can hand it on to our children in all its beauty. Give us the grace to protect his gift and to be grateful for all things we receive from the earth. We think especially ways in which we can protect our waterways and seas this year. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Celebration of Nature – *symbols of living water are brought forward as*_____ *reads the following:*

The following could be read as some instrumental music is played:

Reader:

We bring forward water, God's precious gift, upon which all life depends.

We bring forward a stone, representing the earth and the places through which God's living water flows.

We bring forward a plant, a symbol of new life, remembering the trees beside the river whose leaves bring healing.

We bring forward a shell, remembering the oceans and all creatures who live within them.

We bring forward an image of our river/beach, reminding us that the care of creation begins here, in the place where God has planted us.

Prayers of intercession read by:

We pray for all who guide leaders and government that they may put policies in place that protect and conserve the natural world. *Lord hear us.*

We pray for communities throughout the world who do not have reliable access to clean and safe water, that they may receive the resources and support they need to live with dignity. Lord hear us.

We pray for the earth, its rivers, lakes, seas and oceans; for every creature that depends upon water; and for all the ecosystems that sustain life. Lord hear us.

We now pause for a moment to reflect on ways in which we can be stewards of creation conserving water and protecting waterways in our own community.

Music may be played in the background here.

Closing Prayer ready by:

Season of Creation Prayer 2026

God our Creator, source of all life,
We thank you for the gift of living waters that flow through the veins of our Earth,
sustaining every living creature and quenching the thirst of our common home.
Forgive us for the times we have polluted our rivers, oceans, and streams,
and for the ways we have turned away from the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.
Pour Your healing grace into our fractured ecosystems,
that these living waters may restore barren lands and renew all of creation.
Guide us to step into the river of Your justice,
granting us the wisdom and courage to protect the vulnerable waters of this world.
May your Spirit flow through us as a force of healing, peace, and reconciliation.
We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.