

# Celebrating the Season of Creation

A Resource for Parishes





#### TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration that calls us together each year to pray and respond jointly to the cry of Creation.

The "Celebration" begins on September 1st, the Feast of Creation, and concludes on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - the patron saint of ecology.

This year the theme "Hope and Act with Creation" and the symbol "The first-fruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25, will be our guiding inspiration.

The following ideas act as a guide, in your preparation and participation during the Season of Creation.

Let us unite as one community to care for our common home!

### **ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY**

- Make Sundays during the Season of Creation "Walk to church Sundays."
- Host a Season of Creation Mass during the month of September.
- Decorate the church altar with native plants/fruits and nuts/water, celebrating the symbol "first fruits of hope."
- Give out seeds or rosemary with an attached prayer.
- Create "prayers of the faithful" to be offered at mass.
- Take a spiritual walk through nature and the local bushland.
- Learn the "Prayer of Praise" for the 2025 Year of Jubilee.

#### **ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

- Host a community viewing of the movie, "<u>The Letter: A</u>
   <u>Message for our Earth</u>," which discusses Pope Francis'
   encyclical letter Laudato Si.'
- Reflect on a music video entitled, "<u>A Prayer for the Earth,</u>" by Steve Klaper.
- Undertake an "<u>Ecological Examen</u>" to help deepen your commitment to care for creation.
- Encourage poetry submissions on creation, that can be displayed in your community.
- Discover a variety of resources available on the <u>Caritas-Catholic Earthcare</u> website or the <u>Season of Creation</u> website.





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATORY ACTION

- Visit an established local community garden, as an initiative to socially network and care for the environment.
- Undertake a 'waste clean-up' at a local park or beach.
- Form a local Ecological Group.
- Host a plant give-away after mass or encourage sharing of local produce.
- Gather a small group to visit an outdoor shrine e.g. <u>Rosary</u>
  <u>Garden</u> at Mount Barker.
- Host an outdoor morning tea with a guest speaker from the local council, <u>KESAB</u>, or an ecological organisation.

#### We would love to hear from you!

As you celebrate the Season of Creation, we would love for you to share your actions/ initiatives/ experiences in promoting a better world.

#### Email us at:

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