

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation



For your diary:

September 1

*To launch
Mercy Month,
shelter for the
homeless*

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was established last year by Pope Francis, to be celebrated on September 1, as has been the custom in the Orthodox Church since 1989.

According to Pope Francis, the annual Day of Prayer offers individual believers and the community ‘a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvellous works entrusted to our care, invoking God’s help for the protection of creation and God’s mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live.’

‘The ecological crisis summons us to a profound spiritual conversion,’ wrote the pope. ‘Christians are called to an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them.’ (*Laudato Si’*, 217)

For ‘living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.’

Caring for our common home, hearing the cry of the Earth

Join in the worldwide Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 to October 4, feast of St Francis, patron of ecology (see seasonofcreation.com).

Things to do:

Pray, as individuals and communities, the prayer of Pope Francis, *A Prayer for our Earth*. Reread *Laudato Si’* and find a quotation that touches your heart.

Reduce your ecological footprint

- choose alternatives to driving—walk or bike, car-pool; use video-conference tools like Skype
- cut beef and dairy, Join Meatless Fridays, share in the interfaith *Fast for the Climate* on the first day of each month (see www.fastfortheclimate.org)
- advocate—sign the global Catholic Climate Petition, to urge governments that signed last year’s Paris Agreement to honour their commitments and to lift their ambitions (visit CatholicClimateMovement.global/petition/)
- make a worm farm (see mynoke.co.nz/compost.worms ; plant a tree (see www.tfsnz/our-story/)

“There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions... We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world.” Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, #211-212.

- Dennis Horton, He Waka Tiaki mission team

