

# POPE FRANCIS HAS INITIATED A SEASON OF CREATION FROM 1 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER

Below is Bishop Nolan's Letter Initiating the Season, and overleaf some of the opportunities offered to celebrate it.



## BISHOP OF GALLOWAY

It is now five years since Pope Francis published his encyclical *Laudato Si'* urging us to care for our common home. The encyclical highlights the urgent need for us to heal our relationship with creation and with each other.

As Scotland eases out of lockdown, may I remind you of the Season of Creation which runs from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for Creation) to 4 October (Feast of St Francis of Assisi).

This is an opportunity for all of us to pray, reflect and respond to the challenging words of Pope Francis: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" (LS, 160)

As the pandemic and the climate crisis rage on, now more than ever we must respond to the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (LS, 49), conscious that our brothers and sisters in the world's poorest communities have done least to contribute to the ecological crisis but are already bearing the brunt of its consequences.

Liturgical resources for Mass, bulletin announcements and other useful materials to assist you are available online at <https://seasonofcreation.org/catholic/>

SCIAF, Justice and Peace Scotland and SCES have prepared a series of online events to engage with Catholics across Scotland on the themes of *Laudato Si'* and Creation. You will find a full list of the programme overleaf (also available at <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/events/513-season-of-creation>) and I would encourage you to help spread the word in your parish.

In order to overcome the coronavirus pandemic we have been forced these past few months to change our way of life, may we now be prepared to make the deep and long term changes that are necessary to avoid ecological disaster and to care for our common home.

May we remember each other in our prayers, particularly the poor who are already suffering the consequences of climate change.

Kind regards,

+William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway, President of the Bishops' Justice and Peace Commission

## Season of Creation Events

Please visit [www.sciaf.org.uk/events](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/events) to register for one of the online events or contact Jonathan McAveety, Senior Campaigns Officer at SCIAF, on [jmcaveety@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:jmcaveety@sciaf.org.uk) for more information or technical support.

### **World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation**

*Tuesday 1 September 2020 2.00pm  
- 2.30pm*

A reflection led by Fr Jim Lawlor of Immaculate Conception, Maryhill on the lessons we can learn from Laudato Si to mark the Season of Creation.

### **CLPL Module 1: What is Laudato Si'**

*Wednesday 2 September 2020 4.00pm -  
4.30pm*

This Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) module for teachers and educators will provide an introduction to Laudato Si' with a specific focus on how to connect key principals to your classroom and young people.

### **Caring for our Common Home in Your Parish**

*Tuesday 8 September 2020 6.30pm  
- 8.00pm*

A practical workshop full of examples from SCIAF and Justice & Peace volunteers who have brought Laudato Si' to life in their parishes by registering as an eco-congregation.

### **CLPL Module 2: Laudato Si'- More than the environment!**

*Wednesday 9 September 2020  
4.00pm - 4.30pm*

An exploration of intersectional themes covered by Laudato Si' that go beyond the basics of climate change. We will look at case studies to explore the connection between care for our common home and the underlying causes of poverty.

### **What is Climate Justice?**

*Wednesday 16 September 2020  
2.00pm - 3.30pm*

This session will hear from Caritas Kabwe, an official development agency of the Catholic Church in Zambia about the devastating effects of climate change already being felt by the world's poorest.

### **CLPL Module 3: Laudato Si' and our Christian responsibility**

*Wednesday 16 September 2020  
4.00pm - 4.30pm*

This third CLPL Module will look at the new Laudato Si' Schools Scotland programme and the ways that our Christian identity informs social justice action.

### **CLPL Module 4: Laudato Si' and our children**

*Wednesday 23 September 2020  
4.00pm - 4.45pm*

This session introduces practical resources available to support Laudato Si' learning for both primary and secondary school pupils.

### **Celebrating our kinship with the earth and every living creature**

*Sunday 4 October 2020  
2.00pm - 3.00pm*

Marking the end of the Season of Creation on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, this session will be presented by Liz Snodgrass and Sister Mary Kilpatrick from "For the Love of Creation Project".