

DIocese of KILLALOE



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13th of August 2024

Letter to Priests, Parish Pastoral Councils and Care of Creation Groups.

Dear Fr/Ministers/PPC Chair/PPC members/Care of Creation Group members,

I write to promote the resources for the **Season of Creation 2024** which begins on September 1st and concludes on October 4th 2024 – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the Patron of Ecology. The Season of Creation theme for 2024 is **'To hope and act with Creation'** rooted in the Pauline image of the Earth as a Mother groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22).

I invite you to view the wide variety of Season of Creation Resources that are available at www.catholicbishops.ie/laudato-si/season-of-creation-2024/

I ask that you consider the following with your Parish Pastoral Council or Care of Creation Group and choose accordingly,

- a new set of suggestions for liturgies and homilies for each Sunday within the Season of Creation,
- a Season of Creation 2024 Prayer calling attention to how we are not caring for creation. It invites us to call on the Holy Spirit to help us groan with creation and on God, our Creator to help us bring the compassion of Jesus Christ to the climate crisis,
- a Biodiversity Leaflet containing useful suggestions for parishes, schools and homes in accord the Return to Nature recommendation of the Irish Bishops Conference of March 2023,
- a Season of Creation resource as Gaelige from Trócaire,
- an exercise entitled Rubbish Graveyard produced by An Tairseach Ecology Centre, Wicklow which demonstrates how long it takes items to degrade,
- Reflections for an Ecological Rosary with the Luminous Mysteries,
- The details for a Creation Walk similar to that opened during Laudato Si' Week on Saturday, 25th May 2024 in the grounds of the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine at Knock.

The Season of Creation Resources 2024 also feature suggestions for Tree Planting, Blessing of Pets on the Feast of St. Francis on October 4th 2024 and a variety of appropriate rituals, meditations and prayer services.

Finally, I ask that you pay attention to the recommendation that we **Return 30% of our Parish Grounds to Nature by 2030**. For additional guidelines on this particular initiative see www.catholicbishops.ie/laudato-si/returning-to-nature/ 10 of the parishes in Clare have already made great strides in this area in cooperation with Trócaire and the County Council.

Yours sincerely,

✠ Fintan Monahan

BISHOP OF KILLALOE: FINTAN MONAHAN

