

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time (b) 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

### Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)  
Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.  
Remind everyone about refreshments at the end of Mass ???  
Announce the theme of the liturgy ( see next )*

### Theme – **DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**

*leader: The Season of Creation 2024 which begins today, has the theme: ‘Hope and act with Creation’.<sup>1</sup> The season extends from today, 1<sup>st</sup> September; the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4<sup>th</sup> October; the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This latter date marks the beginning of the Second session of the Synod on Synodality in Rome.<sup>2</sup> The designated Lectionary readings for the five Sundays of the season, can be read with ‘ecological eyes’. The world’s current environment crisis requires a pastoral need to address the crisis in prayer. Our Sunday worship is the usual way we Catholics come to know and experience God’s will. This Sunday’s Scriptures call the human family to challenge the injustices creating the ecological crises threatening life on Earth by proclaiming the prophetic Word of God for our times. God’s Word this Sunday encourages us not to lose hope in the face of this complex crisis. God is faithful and is working to open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf.*

*( Announce the opening hymn: . . . . . )*

### Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu: /  
In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose table we share, be with us: . . .*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

### Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

*either (confer with the Projectionist beforehand if you choose the: ‘I confess’.)*

*leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with confidence, for God is gentle and compassionate.*

*all: **I confess: . . .***

*and / or*

*leader: Loving God, we often lose hope in the face of the widespread devastation of climate change; the threats of far worse to come; the urgency of the needs; and the slowness of our response: - ( pause ) - Lord, have mercy:*

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

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1 The 2024 theme is inspired by the text of St. Paul’s letter to the Romans which acknowledges that Creation is groaning in pain (Rm.8:19-25). It identifies the pain as pain brought on by human selfishness and unsustainable ways of living on Earth. And it calls the whole family of Creation to work together actively in hope, to bring about the realm of God’s Justice, for which Creation awaits with eager longing (cf Rm.8.19).

2 Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

leader: *Christ Jesus, You warned us how hard it is for the rich to enter the realm of God, and yet we hold up wealth as a sign of success, and pursue it in ways that are destroying our common home:- ( pause) - Christ, have mercy:*

all: **CHRIST, have mercy:**

leader: *Holy Spirit of God, You call us to be the voice of the voiceless of creation suffering among us:- ( pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

all: **Lord, have mercy:**

leader: *May almighty God, Who gave birth to all time and space and to the vast Web of Life in which we live, have mercy on us, free us from our sins, and guide us into the fullness of divine life:*

all: **Amen**

**GLORIA** *invitation*

*either*

leader: *With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to God.*  
*or*

leader: *With peoples everywhere, let us glorify our God in joyful song.*

### **Opening Prayer**

leader: *( Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ... ) Father of light,  
Giver of every good and perfect gift,  
bring to fruition the Word of Truth sown in our hearts by Your Son,  
that we may rightly understand Your commandments,  
live Your law of Love, and so offer You worship  
that is pure and undefiled.  
Grant this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, now and always:*

all: **Amen.**

**Introduction to the first reading:** *( Deuteronomy 4 : 1 – 2, 6 – 8 )*

leader: *The first reading is a passage from the prologue to the Deuteronomic law and urges the people to; 'Be strong, fear not', because the Lord God is faithful and is engaged in their history to save them. The reading underlines the distinction between commandments of the Lord and human traditions – the main point of today's gospel reading.*

**Introduction to the second reading:** *( James 1 : 17 – 18, 21b – 22, 27 )*

leader: *In the second reading, James focuses upon the widespread human temptation to honour wealth as a sign of success. That temptation feeds greed, exploitation and degradation of the richness of creation. Such exploitation reduces Earth's ability to renew itself and remain a nurturing home for all it's inhabitants.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

all: **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Your Words, Lord, are Spirit and Life;  
You have the Words of everlasting life. Alleluia!**

**Introduction to the gospel reading:** (*Mark 7: 1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 23*)

*leader: In the Gospel, Jesus struggles, groaning, to give healing to a deaf person with a speech impediment. Our work over the next decade of restoring the household of God, our common home, will be difficult and challenging.*

**Homily Notes** (*presider*)

- *Today's gospel focuses on the first essential step that must be taken: an acknowledgement of the sources of the crises. Scribes and Pharisees want to know why Jesus' disciples don't follow the customs of their elders, but eat their meals with unclean hands. In anger Jesus summons the crowd tells them (and us) clearly: 'Hear me, all of you and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come from within are what defile – from within the people – from their hearts.*
- *This is important in facing ecological crises today. James Gustave Speth, an environmental lawyer and advocate, known for his important work at the UN and in co-founding and leading the Natural Resources Defence Council in the United States, said in an interview on the BBC in 2013: "I used to think the top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems – but I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy. And to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that." . . . .*
- *What kind of spiritual and cultural transformation can help us respond effectively to our contemporary climate crises? In the Laudato Si Action Platform, launched at the Vatican in 2021, the Catholic community identified seven practical goal. One of them is foundational and is important for our reflection and prayer here and into the future: Ecological Spirituality.*
- *The goal of Ecological Spirituality aims to recover a religious vision of Creation and urges more contact with Nature in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude. Actions could include Creation-centered liturgical celebrations, retreats and formation programmes, praying in Nature.*
- *How can we help each other grow in what Pope Francis calls, "integral ecological conversion?" Can we trust that God is with us in these times, working to save us and our planet? How are we being invited as individuals and as communities, to share in this saving work? What is God inviting us to do?*
- *There's a basic principle of spirituality implicit here. When we experience God as loving us and surrounding us with the gifts of Creation, stirring wonder, gratitude and joy in our hearts; those are the*

*times that we will find the peace and security to face and acknowledge our sinfulness; and to want to begin significant change.*

- *How might we embrace a deeper ecological spirituality? How might we incorporate that spirit more – in our person prayer; in our liturgies; in retreats and formation programmes available to us? Does the awesome beauty and greatness of Creation and the generosity of God, open us to our failures to care for Creation? How do they invite us to change how we live?*

### Statement of Faith

***all:* I believe in God, who through billions of years has evolved Earth as a nurturing home for all creatures; all members of the Earth family.**

**I believe in God who is bringing forth all Creation, cherishing every creature and inviting us to care for each other wisely and with love.**

**I believe in Jesus, God become flesh and blood; a human part of the Earth, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross.**

**I believe in Jesus, who through his dying and rising bears faithful witness to God's loving care for all human beings and for all Creation.**

**I believe in Jesus, the risen Christ, who is at the heart of the new Creation, reconciling all things to God.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit who renews life in Creation, groans in empathy with suffering Creation, and is working with us, to renew the face of the Earth.**

**This is our faith; through it we see God's revelation emerging in new ways among us.**

**Through it we embrace the promise of God's saving Love and our mission to restore our Common Home. Amen**

**Intercessions - 22<sup>nd</sup> Week Ordinary Time** [ Sun 1<sup>st</sup> – Sat 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 ]

*invitation to pray:*

*leader: Let us pray with confidence to God-with-us, for the needs of the human family and for our common home:*

*1: Open our minds and hearts to understand the laws that govern and guide all Creation, that we might live Your law of Love wisely, with undivided hearts: - (pause) - God of Wisdom, hear us:*

*all: **God of Wisdom, hear us.***

*2: For ever-deepening trust in the faithful presence and loving work of God in us among us, and through us: - (pause) - God in Creation, hear us:*

*all: **God in Creation, hear us.***

*3: For success of the work of ecumenical and interfaith communities to promote global unity, by stirring hope and restoring Earth as a nurturing home for all its inhabitants: - (pause) – God of Presence, hear us:*

*all: **God of Presence, hear us.***

*4: That we may grow strong in hope and active in efforts to heal and renew Earth: - (pause) – God of Hope, hear us:*

*all: **God of Hope, hear us.***

*5: For the sick: we pray for: . . . (see parish newsletter)*

*Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering:  
- (pause) - God of healing, hear us:*

*all: **God of healing, hear us.***

*6: For those who have died: . . . (see parish newsletter)*

*and those whose anniversaries occur about now: . . . (see parish newsletter)  
Number them among your saints: - (pause) - God of new Life, hear us:*

*all: **God of new Life, hear us.***

*Concluding Prayer:*

*leader: May we take up our prophetic responsibilities in this time of urgent crisis, to speak God's Truth to each other; to call each other into ways of living on the Earth sustainably, and reverently. We ask this through Christ, the Way the Truth and the Life:*

*all: **Amen***

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*( If no priest, the leader introduces Lord's Prayer. )*

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**Prayer over the Gifts**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ... ) Loving Creator,  
through Your Love, this universe  
and every universe beyond, flared forth  
in fiery birth billions of years ago.  
Through all time, You have patiently prepared for us  
these gifts of bread and wine and community.*

*We offer them in gratitude as signs  
of Your faithful care for all our needs.  
Through them we offer ourselves  
to care for all in need on the Earth  
and to work for the renewal of our Common Home.  
Receive and transform our gifts and our energies  
into Your true Bread of Life for our world.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord:*

*all: **Amen***

**Preface** (creation)

*presider: The Lord be with you.*

*all: **And also with you.***

*presider: Lift up your hearts.*

*all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

*presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,  
always and everywhere to give You thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
All things are of Your making,  
all times and seasons obey Your law.  
But You fashioned the human family in Your own image  
and set us over the world in all its wonder,  
that we might be stewards of Your creation,  
praising You day by day  
for the marvels of Your might and wisdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And so, with all the angels and saints,  
and with the whole of Creation  
we sing the joyful hymn of Your praise:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – IV**

**Memorial Acclamation**

*( the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN' )*

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**Introduction to the Lord's Prayer**

*either*

*presider: With trust in God, who nourishes us in the hour of need,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

*or*

*Let us pray for the coming of God's realm as Jesus taught us.*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil;*

*graciously grant peace in our days,  
that by the help of Your mercy,  
we may be always freed from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.***

**Sign of Peace**

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:  
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.  
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church  
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,  
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

*presider: The peace of the Lord be with you:*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

*presider: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:*

**Lamb of God**

*all: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us (x2)  
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.***

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
who by the will of the Father  
and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
through your death gave life to the world;  
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood  
from all our sins and from every evil:  
keep us always faithful to your commandments  
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*either*

*presider: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of  
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

*or*

*presider: This is the bread come down from heaven;  
whoever eats this bread will never die.  
This is the cup of eternal life;  
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*all: **Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof,  
but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.***

### **Holy Communion**

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:  
( Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti: )*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ... ) God of blessings,  
we have been fed at this table with the Bread of Heaven.  
We have celebrated this Eucharist in thanksgiving  
for Your sacred creation in which we share  
and where we find our common home.  
Now may the power of Christ's Body and Blood  
reach deep into our hearts, our minds and our bodies  
to heal our wounds; to open our eyes, our ears and our hearts  
to renew all of Earth's communities.  
We make our prayer in Jesus' name:*

*all: **Amen.**  
( an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . . )*

### **Dismissal**

*leader: We are sent; in the name of God,  
Who awakens our praise and thankful-ness for every creature;  
and blesses us with the grace of being profoundly joined  
to everything that is: all: **Amen***

*leader: We are sent in the name of Christ,  
Who blesses us with eyes to see him alive  
in every creature in his risen glory: all: **Amen***

*leader: We are sent in the name of the Holy Spirit of God,  
Who dwells in our hearts and inspires us  
to do what is good – to care wisely and with love  
for the Earth, our Common Home: all: **Amen***

### **The Blessing**

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,  
e te Matua, ✠ e te Tamaiti e te Wairua Tapu. /  
May the blessing of God, the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with us now and always:*

*all: **Amene***

*leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
all: **Thanks be to God.***