



# focus on sunday

## World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. Only when we work together with Creation can the first fruits of hope be born.



### “Hope and act with Creation”



In today's Gospel Jesus is once again questioned about the actions of his followers who this time are accused of eating with 'unclean hands'. He responds with a quote from the prophet Isaiah criticising those who honour God in word but not in their hearts. We may notice that he doesn't speak out against the laws about ritual cleanliness but

focuses instead on interior disposition. Jesus has a powerful message for us about the tension between outward appearances and what's going on on the inside. It is not rigid laws or rituals that are important but the true nature of our hearts.

Today marks the beginning of the Season of Creation where we are called into an awareness of our planet's growing ecological crisis. Humans have impacted the natural world most negatively in the past 200 years. Yet the crisis also conveys a deeper message of humanity's fractured relationship with God's creation. At the heart of the ecological crisis is a spiritual crisis. We have become disconnected from the earth, our relationship with God's creation has become fractured. Pope Francis reminds us, 'We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it' (LS, §139). We cannot separate our relationship with God from our relationship with God's creation.

A radical change of heart, is essential if we are to begin to repair our relationship with the natural world. In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to examine our relationships with ourselves and others. What human traditions or worldly things do we 'cling' to? Do we recognise our inherent connectedness with the world around us, not separate from it but a part of it? Our interior awareness, the love we cultivate in our hearts for creation and humanity, will be evident in our relationship to other creatures and to the world around us. May we use this time to rekindle a sense of awe and wonder for God's creation and discern where we are being called to in order to protect it.

Jane Mellett

Adapted from "The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew" (Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2002).

### Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

The Advert says 'Before you make up your mind open it.' Jesus tells us today that it is the spirit inside our hearts that opens our minds and gives wisdom. Our minds are wonderful. They take things apart, like the human body, engines and ipods, to see how they work. But it is the spirit of heart, the inside mind, that puts things together. All life, all nature, all breath, are God's gifts, superabundant blessings of A LOVING FATHER.

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, .....  
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power. Through Christ our Lord.

### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.* Lift up your hearts.  
*We lift them up to the Lord.* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right and just.*

### SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

*The mystery of faith.* Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, .....  
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

### CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. *And with your spirit.* May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. *Thanks be to God..*

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal: © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & or Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Main image by Laura Sillero. Published by Logos Publications, 26 Tolka Valley Business Park, Ballyboggan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.**

### GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and prince of peace:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us....

### THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father,

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### OPENING PRAYER

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ....



as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM P.S. 14:2-5

**R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart. [R]

2. He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord. [R]

3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever. [R]

### SECOND READING

**James 1:17-18. 21-22.27**

**A reading from the letter of St. James**

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoil religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! By his own choice the Father made us his children by the message of the truth, so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he created. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL Mark 7:1-8.14-15.21-23

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from

the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

