

SEASON OF CREATION

1 September–4 October



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CREATION



IRISH CATHOLIC
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE
EAGLESTOWN, DUBLIN



Trocaire
TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

'Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord.'

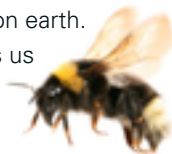
Psalm 96

AN GLAOCH: we are called to:

- **join** the river of justice and peace
- **act for** climate and ecological justice
- **speak out** with and for the most impacted communities

BIODIVERSITY is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of **the loss of biodiversity** and **a changing climate**.

The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with earth and on earth. At the same time justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. Let us join the river of justice and peace with others, then hope, *dóchas*, is created instead of despair.



'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.'



Laudato Si', 217

Return to Nature: Irish Bishops' Spring Statement, 8 March 2023

'In response to the impending loss of nature to our world, the call of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, and agreements made at the recent UN Conference on Biodiversity (COP15), bishops ask parishes, through their parish pastoral councils and diocesan trusts, as a first step, to identify and care for 30 per cent of parish grounds as a haven for pollinators and biodiversity, so that it can be enjoyed in perpetuity by the whole community.'



'Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children.'

Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury

'Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change.'

Laudato Si', 202

So what can we do in our parishes, schools and homes?

Spend time in nature, *sa nadúr*, listening, looking, feeling; come to know and appreciate God's Book of Nature.



'Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation ...'

(*'A Prayer for our Earth', Laudato Si', 246*)



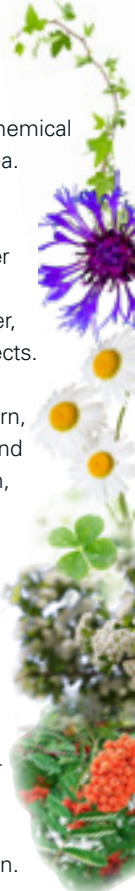
Encourage the parish, and **offer** to be part of a 'care of creation' group; then with parish approval, a part of the garden/parish can become a haven for pollinators and biodiversity.



- Walk the grounds with your group, and draw a simple map of it.



- **Take note** of existing plants and habitats; for example, hedge, damp area, shrubs, bushes, a wall, ivy.
- Agree to **avoid** the use of harmful chemical sprays or pesticides in the whole area.
- In year one, **change** some of your mowing regime; mow only every six weeks. By doing this, you will discover existing wild flowers in the lawn area, like daisies, *nóiníni*, self-heal and clover, providing food for bees and other insects.
- **Consider** what you could add; for example, native hedging like hawthorn, *sceach gheal*, which provides food and shelter for birds and insects, a bench, some herbs, a native tree.
- Are your grounds all concrete or tarmacadam? Add some pollinator-friendly pots of heathers, herbs or even a raised bed.
- **Pray** outside. If setting up a new biodiversity area, bless it during the Season of Creation.
- **Add** some *Laudato Si'* quotes to your parish bulletin and to parish grounds.
- **Include** a general intercession every Sunday during the Season of Creation.



Useful resources: For guidance on how to begin in your parish and how to map your grounds, go to catholicbishops.ie/laudato-si. More information on pollinators.ie

Pray

Creator God, we thank you for the wonder and beauty of all you have created. You have created us humans to be protectors and carers of creation. Yet we are the ones now spoiling the works of your hand. Your son Jesus Christ is still suffering and dying in the suffering earth and suffering poor. Forgive us our sins against your creation and against the poor of the world. We join with all of creation in thanking you and praising you. We thank you, Creator God, for all

the good things we enjoy. Help us to live more simply. Give us the courage you gave to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost to proclaim and advocate for the care of our common home and the poor. Amen.



Fr Tim Galvin, Brosna, Co. Kerry, Kiltegan Missionary Priest and Laudato Si' Animator, South Sudan. Died in 2023. Taken from Laudato Si' Prayerbook.

Diocese of Kerry JPIC: see www.dioceseofkerry.ie/justice