



Parish of Greencastle, Co. Tyrone (Diocese of Derry)
 St. Patrick's, Greencastle Our Lady of the Wayside, Broughderg
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A] (4th October, 2020)
 Parochial House, 164, Greencastle Road, Sheskinshule, Omagh, BT79 7RU
Website: greencastleparish.com • **Email:** greencastlepp@yahoo.com • **Tel:** (028) 816 48474

Thought for the Week: "It is only in prayer that we can communicate with one another at the deepest level of our being. Behind all words and gestures, behind all thoughts and feelings, there is an inner centre of prayer where we can meet one another in the presence of God... If we could learn to live from that centre we should be living from the heart of life and our whole being would be moved by love."
Dom Bede Griffiths OSB Cam

Saturday 3rd October Blessed Columba Marmion	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Sheskinshule
Sunday 4th October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Mass: John Gerald Conway (10 th) Broughderg, Crock 11.00am Mass: Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road
Monday 5th September	Gortin Parish (YouTube)	10.00am Mass

There will be NO MASS on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th October

Thursday 8th October	Gortin Parish (YouTube)	10.00am Mass
Friday 9th October St. Denis and Companions	Gortin Parish (YouTube)	10.00am Mass
Saturday 10th October	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Vigil Mass: Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy
Sunday 11th October Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time [Year A]	St. Patrick's	11.00am Mass: Formil

Weekly Collection: £735

Thank you for your generosity

Remembering Our Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Bridget Conway (Broughderg)** who was buried last weekend and for her husband **John Gerald Conway (10th)** as well as **David Morris (24th)** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Webcam Masses from St. Patrick's Church: On the morning of Friday 25th September we live streamed our first Mass from our parish church of St. Patrick's on Greencastle Parish's YouTube channel, followed by the First Holy Communion Mass and weekend masses. Hopefully you will agree the picture and sound quality are excellent!

We now need you to spread the word and get people to subscribe (for free) to the channel, to do so you will need your own YouTube account. In due course we will add the Wednesday Adoration to Live Streaming and will be able to live stream baptisms, weddings and funerals if a family wishes. If you miss any particular ceremony you can watch it again at any time you want.

This service will be of benefit to people who are confined to their home, natives of the parish living elsewhere across the globe and if we were to find ourselves in the situation of six months ago when public mass was not possible.

Masses and services will continue to be advertised on our Facebook Page with a link to the YouTube service and our Parish website where a link to the most recent mass will be at the top of the homepage.

We look forward to this service enhancing our outreach to parishioners

Series of Presentations on Mission Today: Throughout October (Month of Mission) the Derry Diocesan Mission Team is offering a series of presentations on what mission means in today's society. Each presentation is free and will be available online through Zoom. They will consist of a short film, discussion on the topic and a chance to ask questions. Guest speakers are Martina Purdy, Elaine Kelly, Noel Bradley, Oliver Barrett and Marriage Encounter Ireland.
For more information visit derrydiocese.org

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10 • Psalm 22, R/ v 6 • Philippians 4:12-14
 Matthew 22:1-14 • Lectionary 1:711 **Sunday [Year A] • Weekday [Year 1]**

Family Rosary Crusade: Archbishop Eamonn Martin is asking families to pray the Rosary together for the month of October in what is called the Family Rosary Crusade.

Radio Maria Ireland – Hail Holy Queen Conference: Live and exclusive on Saturday 10th October, beginning with the Rosary from 12.30pm. Guest speakers include Dana, Marino Restrepo, Fr. Damian Polly, Fr. Ruairi O'Domhnaill, Fr. Marius O'Reilly and more.

Rosary on the Coast for Life and Faith in Ireland: Sunday 11th October at 2.30pm. This year we will again join in with many other countries from around the world. We will gather on our coasts, at our grottos, our churches, our riverbanks, our homes or wherever we can to pray the Rosary safely together. Please do remember to observe COVID-19 guidelines.
Visit coastalrosaryireland.ie to see locations near you or to register a location

Sperrin Family Practice – Flu Vaccines Now Available:

Flu vaccines are for all patients registered with the Practice aged 65+ (born before 31-03-1956), those under 65 who suffer from a long standing condition such as Asthma, COPD, Diabetes, any Heart condition, Immuno compromised, Liver disease, Neurological problems, Kidney problems, patients with a BMI over 40, pregnant women, registered carers and all 2 to 3 year olds (born between 02-07-16 and 01-09-18). Also included this year are the household contacts of shielding patients. If you are unsure if you fall into one of the above categories, please contact the Medical Centre for advice. Please note that Primary School children and Year 8 children in secondary school will receive their flu vaccines in school. *The Practice will contact the 2 to 3 year olds with regard to appointments*

Initial drive through flu vaccine clinics will be held on Saturday 10th and 17th October at Sperrin Family Practice, Plumbridge, between 10.00am and 1.00pm (no appointment necessary). Alternatively, you can contact the surgery on (028) 8164 8292 or (028) 8164 8216 to prebook an appointment with The Practice Pharmacist for your vaccine.

Help is available for the Unemployed: Have you recently been made redundant or are unemployed? If so, SUSE+ can help you, we are currently offering help and support with job searches, CV building, interview preparation. mentors work 1:1 with participants to help secure a job in the local area. An online course provision is also available which includes mindfulness and meditation, money management, holistic therapies, self-care, employability, confidence and motivation, job club and much more.

Face Coverings in Church: Several weeks ago the leaders of the four main Christian Churches in Ireland strongly recommended that face coverings be worn in places of worship. Many of you have been doing so since then and I wish to thank you sincerely for doing so and strongly encourage all to continue to do so. Of course, as stated before this does not apply to those under the age of 13. The priest will only wear his face covering during the distribution of communion as he is many metres away from the congregation in the sanctuary area during the mass. We continue to acknowledge that this raises issues for some who for a medical reason cannot wear a face covering. Once more I look forward to your help and understanding in this matter. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for all those in authority who continue to have to make very difficult decisions during these turbulent times. *Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP*

Saturday 3rd October	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Sheskinshule
Sunday 4th October	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Broughderg, Crock 11.00am Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road
Saturday 10th October	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Binnefreaghan, Crockanboy
Sunday 11th October	St. Patrick's	11.00am Formil
Saturday 17th October	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Cashel, Leaghan, Brackagh South
Sunday 18th October	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Teebane East, Carnanrancy, Aughminacroy, Coneyglen 11.00am Sheskinshule
Saturday 24th October	St. Patrick's	6.00pm Muninamale, Alworries, Aughascribba Road
Sunday 25th October	Our Lady of Wayside St. Patrick's	9.00am Broughderg, Crock 11.00am Binnefreagha, Crockanboy

Rural Support: We could help you with financial stress by
 Providing free, confidential face-to-face support • Easing the burden of dealing with debt
 Helping you identify a way forward • Supporting you to take action
Email: info@ruralsupport.org.uk **Website:** ruralsupport.org.uk
 To speak with someone in confidence call our helpline on 0845 606 7 606

Pope Francis' Intention for October (please remember this in your personal prayers)

The Laity's Mission in the Church: We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

Prayer for the End of the Virus: Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for an end of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities, that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. *Amen*

Towards Peace: A spiritual support service designed for those who have experienced sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland. Support is also available for family members of abuse survivors. The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time. Towards Peace provides spiritual support through one-to-one spiritual direction sessions, with a qualified spiritual companion. Up to 9 sessions are offered and they are free.

Website: towardspeace.ie • **Tel:** 01 505 3028 • **Email:** towardspeace@iecon.ie

Drink Wise, Age Well: Are you over 50? Are you worried about your own or someone else's alcohol use?

For confidential information, advice and support call (028) 8283 9240

Trócaire – Recruiting Volunteers: To support their fundraising, campaigning and education work in Ireland.

If you are interested in volunteering visit trocaire.org/getinvolved/volunteer or call (028) 9080 8030 for more info

A Prayer for Now: God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God and we need you. *Amen*

Red Cross: Can you spare 1 hour a week? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed.

Call Julie White on (028) 7186 3764 / (078) 0302 4011

Online Youth Programmes: To access a wide variety of initiatives and activities by Derry Diocesan Youth, visit:

Facebook: DerryDiocesanYouth **Instagram:** derryyouth

The Millennium Forum – Changing Place Facility: This is a space which provides a private area for people who require an adult changing bench, hoist and toilet. Over ¼ million people need Changing Places toilets to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities many of us take for granted. The Millennium Forum Changing Place is open to all members of the public, not only people attending the theatre.

Call our Access and Inclusion Officer Lisa Heaney on (028) 7126 4455 (choose option 1) or email lisah@millenniumforum.co.uk

Join the Derry Youth Community (DYC) Adventure: If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 and considering a Gap Year experience why not consider one with a difference? The DYC are a community of faith and service located in the heart of Derry City and serving the young people of the Diocese of Derry.

If faith is important in your life, and you are attracted to the ideal of service, you can find more information by visiting derryyouthcommunity.com or emailing dyc@derrydiocese.org

Alcoholics Anonymous: Can't stop? There is a solution.

Call AA on (028) 9035 1222 or email csoofaa@btinternet.com. alcoholicsanonymous.ie.

Kindercare Fostering NI: Could you help a child in need? Northern Ireland is currently experiencing a severe shortage of foster carers and particularly carers from the Catholic Community. We are a not-for-profit organisation which works to find safe, secure and loving homes for children and young people in need in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in finding out more:

Tel: (028) 90941690 • **Email:** gillian.devlin@kindercare.co.uk • **Website:** kindercareni.co.uk

Eucharistic Adoration Prayer Intentions for each hour of weekly Adoration

12noon – 1.00pm Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life

1.00pm – 2.00pm Married couples and those preparing for Marriage

2.00pm – 3.00pm Sick and the Housebound • **3.00pm – 4.00pm** Strengthening of Faith in our young people

4.00pm – 5.00pm Parish Unity • **5.00pm – 6.00pm** Protecting life and the Earth

6.00pm – 7.00pm The Holy Souls and the Bereaved

Commercial Free Catholic Talk-Radio Station for Ireland – Radio Maria Ireland (RMI):

Commercial free prayer, catechesis, uplifting music, talks, interviews and testimonies

Listen via the app 'RADIO MARIA IRELAND' on mobile devices, streaming on radiomaria.ie or listened to on the phone via a live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply)

Guidelines on Use of Modern Technology when Working with Children – Use of Photography and Video:

The use of photography and video is an issue of great concern among those working with children. The Diocese recognises that every parish has their own arrangements in relation to its use in schools, youth groups and for the sacraments however the guidelines have been devised below to aid parishes and diocesan groups:

- It is always good practice to seek *written* permission from a parent or guardian before taking any photographs or video footage of children. This written permission must be sought from the parent/guardian or the person who owns the photograph before it can be displayed on promotional materials or websites. This can be incorporated in the registration form when a child joins a group (template permission Resource 10);
- Neither names nor any personal information should be displayed alongside any photographs;
- Special consideration should be given where taking photographs or video footage might be misinterpreted, or the images could be seen as provocative (e.g. beach trip or gymnastics display etc.). It is not to say, however, that with the right planning, these events cannot be recorded and enjoyed.

Photography and video recording are important methods of recording social activity and providing an historic record – illustrating and validating important moments in people's lives. This process is a powerful and personal one, and therefore we must respect the rights of all to make the choice whether or not to be photographed.

From Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, published on behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee

Child Safeguarding: If you or anyone you know has a concern or wishes to report an allegation directly to the statutory authorities, please contact the PSNI / local Health and Social Care Trust. If you are contacting the latter, ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker. Alternatively, if you have a child safeguarding concern in relation to any member of Church personnel and wish to report it to Church authorities, please contact one of the diocesan designated persons, who will in turn report your concern to the relevant statutory authorities. *See poster at entrance*

The Spiritual Benefits of Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

It helps us to grow in holiness. Jesus is ready to lavish on us, many extra graces and blessings, when we come and spend time with Him in Adoration. It helps us to appreciate Priesthood. Remember, "No Priests, no Eucharist". It is an established fact that where Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is worshipped and adored vocations flourish. When we spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration each week or more often, we experience a great peace and contentment.

"...of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments themselves". Pope St. John Paul II

Mid Ulster Agewell: Are you over 50 years old? Do you live in the Mid Ulster Council area? Would you like a free phone call in the morning to reduce the feeling of loneliness and isolation, reassurance and a listening ear and help keep you up to date with social activities in your local area? A phone call can be arranged between 8.30am and 12.30pm from Monday to Friday.

For more info call Marie Devlin on (028) 796 32170 or email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org.

Accord Counselling Services: Ireland's leading agency supporting marriage and relationships, nationwide through its 60 Centres. Our aim is to help couples prepare for, achieve and sustain their marriage and family relationships, offer ongoing support and assist them in times of difficulty or crisis. Available to couples regardless of their faith, denomination or none. *To avail of this service call (028) 8224 2439 or email omagh@accordni.com*

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection: O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine. Love to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Community Coordination Hub: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Covid-19 Community Coordination Hub will respond to requests received from the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline to assist residents who may have become isolated and vulnerable due to the impacts of Coronavirus and the associated mitigation measures. The Hub will work with the local community and voluntary sector to ensure those most at risk will have access to support services such as food, medication, practical and emotional support. **Access to Food Parcels** provided by the Department for Communities are available for anyone who can't leave their home to access food due to Covid-19 restrictions, don't have support through family, friends or access to food deliveries from local suppliers, or face food insecurity. Please complete the Food Parcel Request Form and a member of the Council's Community Coordination Hub will contact you. We aim to respond to requests within 24 hours. Referrals to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Coordination Hub for other support services are directed through the NI Covid-19 Community Helpline:
Freephone 0808 802 0020 Text ACTION to 81025 Email covid19@adviceni.net
 Support and advice is available from 9.00am to 5.00pm, seven days a week.

Trócaire: Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. This year, of course, it was not possible to return Trócaire boxes through schools or parishes in the usual way. This is the worst possible timing coming just as the world's poorest people need us most. Therefore, Trócaire are appealing to you to return your Lenten donation. Simply count or estimate what is in your box and donate in the following ways:

1. Online at trocaire.org
2. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)
3. By post to Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare (ROI) or Trócaire, 10 King Street, Belfast, BT1 6AD (NI)
4. As with your parish envelope please leave at Broughderg Post Office, St. Patrick's Church Sacristy outside door postbox or the Parochial House. No boxes please.

Please also fill in Gift Aid details on envelope. The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Scripture Saturday with Bishop Donal: Created by Derry Diocesan Youth, Bishop McKeown presents a series of short lessons on the Gospel in easy-to-understand, short (3-4 minute) videos, with tips and references of where and how to use these lessons in your daily life. *View the series at derrydiocese.org/scripture-saturday*

An Caisleán Glas agus Sperrin Óg GAA / Greencastle Community Association: Like all communities at the minute Greencastle is about to enter into unfamiliar territory as we face the influx of the Covid-19 coronavirus. No one knows what the incoming days and weeks bring, however, what we are sure of, is that we as a community will be supporting each other. We have a number of volunteers within our community who have already put their names forward to help where needed. If you, your family or someone you know is currently in self isolation and require some help please contact any of the individuals below. We would encourage everyone to make a call to your neighbour as they may need help and again please contact any of the individuals below. We have a team of volunteers willing to help where required, it may be something like picking up some shopping, posting some mail, lifting a prescription or just a friendly phone call. *For up to date info and advice visit www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus*
 Collie Touhey: 07970 379 741 Fiona Teague: 07813 935 996 Brieghe Beggs: 07799 058 273

Epilepsy Action NI: Are you, or someone you care for, living with epilepsy or brain injury? Epilepsy Action NI and Headway work in partnership to deliver a community-based counselling service in Omagh. The Counselling service is for people over the age of 18 who are affected by epilepsy and / or brain injury or are caring for someone with epilepsy / brain injury and would like some emotional support.

Seeing your life through the lens of the gospel: *John Byrne OSA (jbyrneosa@gmail.com)*

1. The target audience of this allegorical parable are the Jewish chief priests and elders portrayed here as rejecting Jesus and his teaching and, as a consequence, losing out on what God was offering them. It is a story of opportunity for life presented and rejected, and they lose out in the process. How important have you found it to recognise and accept opportunities for growth, development and new life when these were presented to you?
2. The parable is also a cautionary tale about the destructive effects of greed – doing violence to the rights of others and eventually destroying the greedy themselves. What attitude towards possessions has helped you to be at peace in yourself and at peace with others?
3. The vineyard of the Lord is an image for God's people. As we look at the vineyard we have been given, we can ask ourselves 'are we good tenants?' Recall times when you have been a good tenant, and reached out caringly for those around you.
4. 'It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it was wonderful to see'. Sometimes a person not highly regarded plays a key role in a project, and it is wonderful to see. Can you recall examples of this?

This Week's Calendar of Feasts and Saints:

Sunday 4th October – St. Francis of Assisi (priest) [1181/1182-1282] Abandoned all things for the love of Christ. Founded the Friars Minor and with St. Clare, the Poor Clares. For the last two years of his life he suffered the stigmata. Patron Saint of ecologists.

Tuesday 6th October – St. Bruno (priest) [1033-1660] Born in Cologne where he became professor of theology in Rheims university and later its head. But his desire was to found a monastery where poverty, manual work, silence and worship were the basics. At La Grande Chartreuse he founded the Carthusians and later died there.

Wednesday 7th October – Our Lady of the Rosary Today's celebration urges all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary who was in a special manner associated with the incarnation, passion and glorious resurrection of the Son of God.

Friday 9th October – St. Denis and Companions Beheaded and thrown into the Seine in 258, later buried at Montmartre. Denis, the first Bishop of Paris, one of the Patron Saints of France.

Sunday 11th October – St. Canice [527-603] Born in Co. Derry. Though his people were poor he studied at Clonard under Finnian and at Glasnevin under Mabhi. A deep friendship developed between himself and Columba with whom he worked for a time in Scotland where he set up a number of churches. In Ireland his principal foundation was in Aghaboe in Ossory but this was replaced centuries later by his Church in Kilkenny.

Arrangements for other Sacraments and Ceremonies:

Baptism: If you have a child for baptism contact Fr. Gallagher and a date and time for baptism will be organised.

Marriage: Most weddings for 2020 have been rearranged for 2021. Any weddings in church in 2021 will follow government capacity regulations.

Confession: In the short-term during summer months (weather permitting) Fr. Gallagher will be available for Confession in the graveyards on Saturdays from 5.30pm to 5.50pm in St. Patrick's Church and Sundays from 8.30am to 8.50am in Our Lady of the Wayside. Confession with social distancing and privacy in the church building is quite difficult to achieve, hopefully this will resume in near future.

Funerals: According to present regulations only 30 people are permitted in the church or cemetery at any one time.
Please note that as regulations change we will either extend or roll back on these arrangements

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: For those in need of assistance please call 07738 837 992

	2018	PARISH STATISTICS	2019
	(16) 7 Boys • 9 Girls	Baptisms	(19) 8 Boys • 11 Girls
	(14) 8 Boys • 6 Girls	First Communion	(25) 12 Boys • 13 Girls
	(17) 10 Boys • 7 Girls	Confirmation	(16) 9 Boys • 7 Girls
3 within parish • 3 outside parish		Weddings	1 within parish • 6 outside parish
	10	Deaths and Burials	11

Deanery of Tyrone Statistics

17 Parishes in West Tyrone and East Donegal. An estimated Catholic population of 65,670 people are currently served by 20 Derry Diocesan priests under retirement age with assistance of 3 priests in residence and a chaplain to the Polish community.

8 parishes (47%) have a Catholic population of less than 3,000

6 parishes (35%) have a Catholic population of 3,000-7,000 people

3 parishes (18%) have a Catholic population of greater than 7,000 people

The largest parish serves an estimated 11,500 Catholics

7 parishes have 1,500 parishioners or less (7,900 combined) each with a resident priest. Is this sustainable?

In 2008 there were 27 diocesan clergy under retirement age ministering in the Tyrone Deanery, as of 2018 that number is 20. 7 Parish Priests currently serving in the deanery will reach 75 before 2025.

The maximum number of ordinations across the Derry Diocese by 2025 is 3.

Age profile: 1 priest is in his 30s, 1 in 40s, 7 in 50s, 6 in 60s and 5 in 70s

The clergy population has dropped 26% between 2008 and 2018 and by 2025 will have dropped by 52%

The Deep End – Creation:

Jane Mellett (mellettj@gmail.com)

Today marks the end of the Season of Creation, a time to remember that we are protectors of this earth and have been given responsibility to care for it, not to plunder and destroy it. The parable told in the Gospel today also speaks to this as we hear that the workers of the vineyard have lost sight of their original agreement with the owner and, consumed by greed, have lost their way.

Today is also the feast of St Francis of Assisi. He experienced all of God's creation as family: 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water'. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who saw how intimately connected everything in this world really is. The COVID 19 crisis has reminded all of us of this deep interconnection; what happens in one part of the world affects us all as we share one common humanity and live together on a common home.

During the days of lockdown many of us became more aware of simple things like birdsong, trees, flowers, the earth resting. Pope Francis says that this deeper awareness, 'takes us to the heart of what it is to be human' and gives us an opportunity to regain a sense of awe and wonder for creation. 'Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever St Francis would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song.' (Laudato Si', 11). The roots of the environmental crisis are deeply spiritual. As we bring this Season of Creation to a close, let it be a spring-board into contemplation and action where our relationship with God's creation is concerned. This is an urgent call. And one which faith communities have a responsibility to respond to.

Truly much can be done! (*Laudato Si'*, 180)

The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1st September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

Season of Creation 2020: The Season of Creation or Creation Time is marked throughout the Christian world from 1st September to 4th October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. The following resources are offered for use in dioceses, parishes and in the home, during the Season of Creation 2020. Please note that the resources will be updated regularly so do please check back in with this page from time to time.

catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020/

This year's resource pack includes podcasts, liturgical resources, a leaflet, prayers and reflections, recommended reading and information on the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*.

The resources have been prepared by the CCO, the Laudato Si' Working Group of the Council for Catechetics, Trócaire, the Council for Justice and Peace and the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development