



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



1st September – 4th October

Jubilee of the Earth

*“You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you”
(Leviticus 25:1–4, 8–10,)*

September 1: World Day of Prayer for Creation

During this time when we, as a Region, are celebrating Jubilees, reflecting and giving thanks for blessings in our lives, the global, ecumenical community calls upon us to celebrate the blessings of Creation. In the Old Testament, Jubilee was intrinsically linked with taking care of the poor. Here at home we also celebrate the fruits of the earth and the importance of sharing them through our harvest festivals.

This year the theme for the Season is ‘Jubilee for the Earth’. Pope Francis in **Laudato Si’** calls for a new dialogue on how we are shaping the future of our planet.

We are invited to consider the integral relationship between caring for the Earth and ecological, economical, social and political ways of living. This particular year, the need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Recent photographs of the mighty Himalayas have revealed a hidden beauty and majesty made visible by the reduction in carbon emissions – a consequence of a new way of living, albeit imposed by the restrictions of ‘lockdown’.



According to the Old Testament the Year of Jubilee was like a year-long Sabbath, a time for thanksgiving but also of rest, reflection and renewal. This month, this Season of Creation provides us all with an opportunity to share in a global reflection and personal renewal of the small but significant ways in which we can care for our shared earth.

For many of us we do not know what more we can do but we can be sure of one thing: in a recent interview, the actor Tamsin Greig who is an ambassador for the charity Tear Fund, was explaining the need for donations and support. In response the interviewer reminded her that many viewers would not be in a position to make a donation. The reply was:

“Prayer is an invisible form of generosity that is life changing.”

During this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a jubilee for the Earth, send your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground.

From the 'Season of Creation' 2020 celebration Guide
(Sister Pat Murray is a member of the Advisory Committee)

