



BE OPENED!

Mark 7:31-37

SEASON OF CREATION

Following the publication of *Laudato Si'* in 2015, Pope Francis announced a World Day of Prayer for Creation to be celebrated annually on the first of September, this has always been celebrated in the Orthodox church. The day begins a Season of Creation throughout September concluding on the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th of October.

A HOME FOR ALL? RENEWING THE OIKOS OF GOD

this is the theme for the 2021 Season of Creation. *Oikos* is the Greek word for home or household. Our common home, the Earth belongs to God. The word ecology (*oikologia*) describes the web of relationships that sustains the wellbeing of the Earth. Human relationships also have ecological significance. Economic (*oikonomia*), social and political relationships affect the balance of creation.

...our common home is also God's own house, permeated by the Spirit of God from the dawn of creation, where the Son of God pitched his tent in the supreme event of the incarnation.

Fr Josh Kureethadam

BE OPENED

In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus' actions to heal the man who could not speak or hear are echoed in the ritual of Baptism:

The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May he soon touch your ears to hear his Word and your mouth to proclaim his faith.

Jesus opens our ears to hear the Word of God spoken to us by others and revealed to us through all of creation.

ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

Pope Francis calls everyone to a change of attitude to care for our common home, which he names as an ecological conversion.

This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness. First, it entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called to quietly imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works ... It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. *Laudato Si'* 220

TEN GREEN COMMANDMENTS OF LAUDATO SI'

Fr Josh Kureethadam leads the Vatican Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development. In 2019 he published *The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si'* where he has gathered together the main ideas of *Laudato Si'* and has arranged them according to the social justice methodology of see, judge act.

Columban priest, Sean McDonagh is quoted in this book: 'If this generation does not act, no future generation will be able to undo the damage that this generation has caused to the planet.'

SEEING

1. Earth, our common home, is in peril. Take care of it.
2. Listen to the cry of the poor who are disproportionate victims of the crisis of our common home.

JUDGING

3. Rediscover a theological vision of the natural world as good news (gospel).
4. Recognise that the abuse of creation is ecological sin.
4. Acknowledge the deeper human roots of the crisis of our common home.

ACTING

6. Develop an integral ecology as we are all interrelated and interdependent.
7. Learn a new way of dwelling in our common home and manage it more responsibly through a new economics and a new political culture.
8. Educate towards ecological citizenship through change of lifestyles.
9. Embrace an ecological spirituality that leads to communion with all God's creatures
10. Care for our common home by cultivating the ecological virtues of praise, gratitude, care, justice, work, sobriety and humility.

As I see the pattern of creation unfolding, over and over, complexity from the simplest of rules, beauty from the surprising interplay of basic forces, I begin to get a closer appreciation of the personality of the Creator.

Guy Consolmagno SJ, Vatican Astronomer



Listen...

Listen

**the universe is singing.
Silver whispers from star to star,
the roar of the golden sun,
the blue Earths' dance in the darkness.**

Listen

**the great drum, the solemn sea
pulsing under the moon,
the heartbeat of the sleeping land,
the crackle and snap of air.**

Listen

**the living creatures are singing:
each little life lifts its voice,
sings, swells and stutters to a stop,
passes its song to children's children.**

Listen

**we who have ears to hear, and the gift of speech,
love the song, gather it up and sing it.
bring words of worship and wonder,
sing for the sun and stars,
sing for the earth and all its creatures.
tell out - shout - the beauty and bounty of it!
sing creation's song to God our Creator!**

Marnie Barrell
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