# Climate Sunday Mass template

## Introduction

*There is still uncertainty about how Mass can legally and safely be celebrated. Celebrating the Eucharist with the COVID-19 restrictions has left us without many of the material and sensory elements of Creation which are at its heart – song, incense, the common cup, the physical sign of peace, the welcoming of all to the table of plenty where the "fruits of the earth and works of human hands" can be shared.*

*For this reason, in the interests of both safety and with connecting the sacrament to the wonders of God's Creation, we encourage you to celebrate Mass outdoors if this is possible within the rules.*

## Celebrate your Mass

This Mass can take place on any Sunday before the beginning of the Glasgow UN COP26 meeting on 1 November 2021. The Climate Sunday ecumenical project asks that this Mass takes place – if possible – before the National Climate Sunday service in Glasgow on Sunday 5 September 2021. This Mass can be a celebration of any *Live*simply or other Creation Care actions your parish has taken.

If your Mass takes place in person or virtually, you could even invite your MP to make them aware of your commitment to building a better and greener world.

## **Step 1:** Suggestions about how to celebrate the Climate Sunday Mass

### Celebrate your Mass

* Celebrate the Mass outside in nature if possible.
* Celebrate the Mass by candlelight – particularly effective if it is an evening service.
* Have symbolic items around the church or on pews that represent our common home, eg seeds or soil or plants. If online, these could be arranged around or in front of the altar.

In 2018, the UN COP Climate meeting took place in Katowice, Poland. The Catholic Church in Poland encouraged prayers to present the concerns of the Church for creation. *The Ecologist’s Breviary* was first published in 2006 but enriched and updated in 2018 with a Preface by Cardinal Peter Turkson and a Foreword by Archbishop Wiktor Skworc of Katowice.

### Our World is God’s Creation

The sacrament of the Eucharist, holy Mass, is at the very centre of our Christian life. It gives us a unique opportunity to establish deep communion with God and with all material reality. It is a unique place of encounter of the Divine and the earthly. Here, we give thanks for all that is good in us and around us. Here, we express our love for the Creator and Lord of the Universe and for the great works that he unceasingly accomplishes. Here, we ask that our thoughts, our hearts, and our senses be renewed so that we can see our neighbour and nature as God does. Here, at last, we ask forgiveness for the evil and sin that destroy the divine harmony of the world.

*Adapted from* The Ecologist’s Breviary *by Zdzislaw J Kijas OFMConv Katowice 2018.*

### **Opening hymn** **suggestions**: *How Great Thou Art* or *Here I am Lord*

### Announcement before Mass

Welcome to today’s Creation Celebration. We will give thanks for the gift of God’s creation and be reminded that we share it with all. Please join us for an informal parish gathering (with coffee or tea if possible or virtually if face-to-face is still difficult) after Mass.

### Introduction to the Penitential Act

Our earth is not a paradise, but it is not a “valley of tears and despair” either. It is a great gift for us, but also a huge task. Let us ask, therefore, honestly: How do we care for the world in which we live? Do I want to be beautiful and rich in various forms of life? How do I behave towards nature, towards plants and animals? Do I know the dangers that other creatures bring to my mindless, irresponsible behaviour? Let us ask the Good God for His mercy.

Lord, who created the whole world and constantly fill it with your presence, have mercy on us.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, who, through the cross and your saving work, have united heaven with the earth, have mercy on us.

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, who have prepared a new heaven and a new earth for us, have mercy on us.

*Lord have mercy.*

### Collect

*Let us pray:* Almighty God, Creator and Lord of the world, you have blessed the whole creation and made humanity its guardian, let all your children in spirit and truth rejoice with you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Homily optional resource:

Catholic Climate Covenant and the Integral Faith team provide resources for homilists and other materials that will help you integrate the rich insights of *Laudato Si’* and Christian care for creation into Sunday Mass. These include highlights from Scripture, readings of the day, relevant quotations from *Laudato Si’*, brief commentary, illustrations and anecdotes, sample applications, sample petitions and bulletin notes. Integral Faith is a working group of the [Association of United States Catholic Priests](http://www.uscatholicpriests.org/working-groups/).

[catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14](https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/?tid=14)

### Prayers of intercession

#### Option 1

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God’s precious gift of creation.

*Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the world, our common home: that through God’s grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

*Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

*Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time.

*Lord, in your mercy...*

We ask for the prayers of Mary, Queen of Creation, as we say… (Hail Mary)

*Adapted from* The Ecologist’s Breviary *by Zdzislaw J Kijas OFMConv Katowice 2018*

#### Option 2:

With Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of ecologists, let us present to God’s good our requests for all of us gathered here, for the Church and for the whole world:

Let us pray for the Holy Father and all our pastors, that their apostolic activity may contribute effectively to the edification of the civilisation of love.

For all those who hold power that may be filled with wisdom and, through their decisions, serve the good of man and nature.

For all Christians, that, together with all creation, they may glorify God the Father and give thanks to Him for all the good in the world.

For those who are in danger and suffering from ecological catastrophes for their health and their faith in the victory of good in the world.

For us gathered now in prayer, that every encounter with God may help us to persevere in our care for the purity of the earth, water, and the sky.

Good God, we call Your Creator; you have made our wonderful world out of nothing and constantly keep it alive, help us be full of care and grateful for our home received from you as a gift, and my it always be filled with peace and justice.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Option 3:

Called to create a better world, let us address our prayers to Christ, the Saviour, through the intercession of Saint Francis, patron of ecologists. Putting hope in him, let us pray:

Christ, supreme pastor, protect the Holy Father, the bishops and priests that their apostolic activity may effectively contribute to the construction of the civilisation of love.

Lord, king and ruler of the peoples, hasten to help nations and all those who govern them, that they may seek good and love in the world according to your law.

You are the God of order and harmony, make people live in peace with nature around them, care for the purity of the earth, water, and the sky.

You give us the power to overcome evil, help us to understand that environmental production is not only an economic and technical problem but also a moral and ethical one.

Look at our weakness and help us to trust in Divine Providence, and to joyfully serve our brothers and sisters in love.

Receive, O God, our humble prayers, and surround with gifts the people and you have created and redeemed. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Offertory Hymn suggestions: *O Lord, all the world belongs to you* or *One Bread, One Body*

### Symbolic items for the offertory: if taking place online, these can be explained by the priest of a member of the liturgy team

A bowl of soil and a bowl of seeds represent the gift and abundance of creation.

A plant from a community garden, allotment or school garden project

A globe to represent the earth, our common home

Photos of your community already helping to tackle the climate crisis. For example, through being a livesimply community or by twinning with another parish overseas who are directly facing the challenge of the climate crisis.

### Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God, accept our gifts: the fruit of the earth and work of human hands and teach us to be humble and grateful for the great things you do among us.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Introduction to the Our Father

Together with all creation, which in its own way loves its Lord and Creator; together with the whole Church celebrating the Eucharist in different places around the world, let us pray as Christ the Lord has taught us.

### Invitation to Exchange the Sign of Peace

Peace is God’s gift, both peace with God the creator and peace with all creation. May our gesture be the expression of this gift. Let us give one another a sign of peace.

If taking place outdoors, a bow and a touch of the earth, ‘in absence of physical sharing of peace, we invite you to touch the common ground on which we stand’

### Communion Hymn suggestion: *Blessed be God* or *My Jesus, My Saviour*

*Adapted from* The Ecologist’s Breviary *by Zdzislaw J Kijas OFMConv Katowice 2018*

### Prayer after Communion

Good God, may the grace of the Sacrament we have received remain in our hearts, so that we, strengthened by it, we may accomplish your plan to renew all Creation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen. (StanislawJaromi OFM Conv)

### Prayer of Commitment

*By Canon Michael Fitzsimons*

**Lord, I come to do your will**

Lord, allow my ears to listen to the cry of the earth

the voices of my sisters and brothers,

those who face the harsh reality of climate change.

**Lord, I come to do your will**

Lord, allow my eyes to see the beauty of creation,

in flowers, creatures, forests, and cities alike.

**Lord, I come to do your will**

Lord, allow my voice to speak out for justice

and ensure people living in poverty are heard.

**Lord, I come to do your will**

Lord, allow my hands to care for the earth

to toil, to reap, to celebrate.

**Lord, I come to do your will**

Lord, allow my feet to take the path less trod,

to walk the extra mile,

to take your message out to the world.

**Lord, I come to do your will.**

### Recessional Hymn suggestion: *Praise my soul the King of heaven* or *You shall go out with joy (Trees of the Field)*

## Step 2: Share food and chat about climate if possible

After Mass, gather people together to share food. Catholic parishes are often home to diverse communities, so we encourage you to invite different parish groups to the event. If you can’t find a time or venue after Mass, try booking your event on a different day and advertising it during a Mass!

If Mass takes place online, think about organising an online parish social perhaps with a climate quiz after Mass or at another more convenient time.