

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

“TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION”



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The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Every year the global Christian family celebrates the ecumenical Season of Creation which opens with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1st September, and concludes on 4th October, the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi.

The Season of Creation is a time of grace. It is a time when, united in prayer and action, the worldwide Christian community celebrates God our Creator and hastens to care in a special way for all of God’s Creation, our Common Home. We do so in a spirit of ecumenical solidarity as we heed the ‘cry of the earth’ while ever mindful of ‘the cry of the poor’.

The theme of the Season of Creation 2024 is **‘to hope and act with Creation’**. As the organisers of this year’s Season of of Creation point out:

**“It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator
and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act
that summons us as collaborators to love and care
for the gift of all that is created.**

**We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made.
Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.
We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home
and all beings who share it.”**

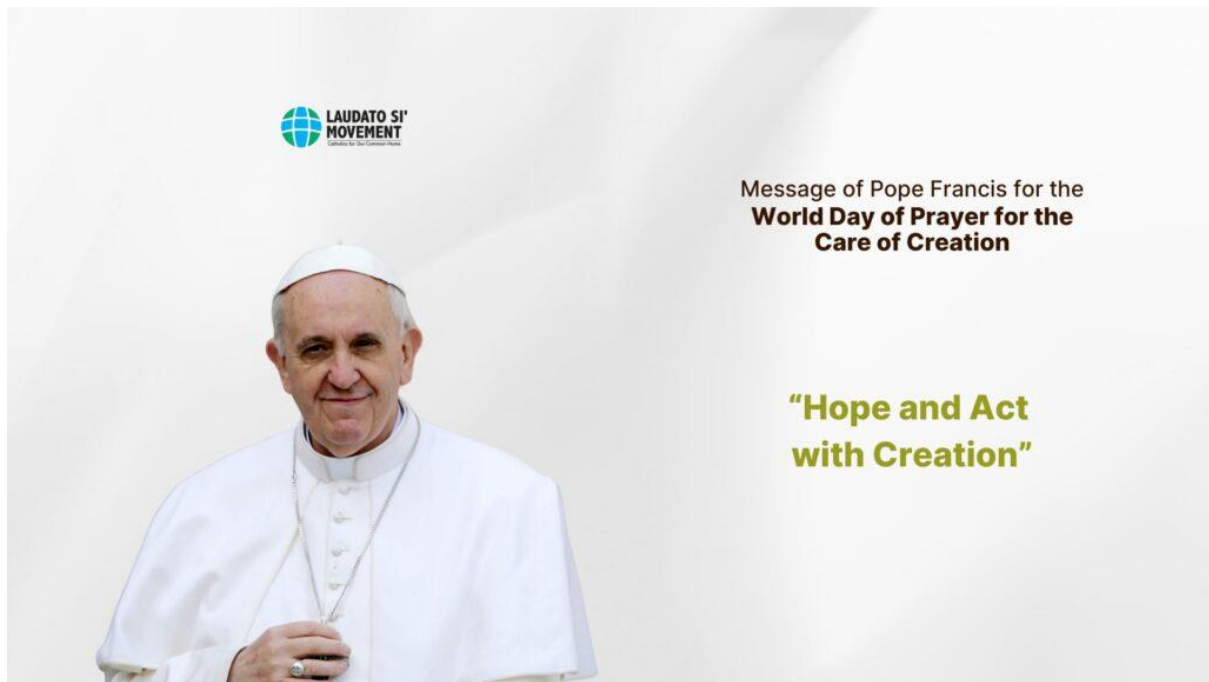
THEME AND SYMBOL OF SEASON OF CREATION 2024

This year, the theme for the Season of Creation is **TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION**. It is a call for us not to succumb to either eco-anxiety and a sense of helplessness and despair in the face of the relentless global acts of violence on our Common Home, nor to pretend that there

is no crisis. For this reason this year's symbol is entitled "**The firstfruits of hope**", and is based on Romans 8: 19 – 25.

Click on the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBj1VjZ05Ys> to inform yourself about the theme and symbol of the Season of Creation 2024.

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION 2024



Our Holy Father's Message for 2024 is a reflection on St Paul's Letter to the Romans 8:19 – 25 in which the Apostle Paul describes what it means to live by the Spirit.

In Romans 8:22 the Earth, or Creation, is depicted as a mother who is groaning as if in giving birth. And indeed, Mother Earth groans because humankind's selfish behaviour has caused untold harm to the entire Creation. This wanton human behaviour is directly responsible for the climate crises encompassing our entire planet Earth. Thus it is directly responsible for both the suffering of Creation as well as the ensuing suffering of humankind.

The Holy Father organises his reflection with a series of questions. The first question is, '**if we are truly believers, how did we come to have faith?**' The answer to this question leads to a discussion on what it means that the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

Pope Francis continues with questions such as:

Why is there so much evil in the world?

Why so much injustice, so many fratricidal wars that kill children, destroy cities, pollute the environment and leave mother earth violated and devastated?

To read and reflect on Pope Francis's Message, simply click on <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/cura-creato/documents/20240627-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE OPENING OF THE SEASON OF CREATION 2024



Prayer Service for Creation Day

1 September 2024

09:00 New York | 15:00 Geneva/Brussels | 16:00 Istanbul | 21:00 Manila



Rev. David J M Coleman
Environmental Chaplain
of Eco-Congregation
Scotland



Rev Sally Azar
Pastor in the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Jordan
and the Holy Land



Rev Rachel Mash
Co-chair of the
ecumenical Season of
Creation Steering
Committee
Green Anglicans



**Rev. Bishop Gerardo
Alminaza**
Catholic Bishops'
Conference of the
Philippines



**Rev. Bishop Anba
Thomas**
Coptic Orthodox
Church



Rev Pumla Nzimande
Presiding Bishop of the
Methodist Church of
Southern Africa



Sr Alessandra Smerilli
Secretary of the Vatican
Dicastery for Promoting
Integral Human Development



Suzana Moreira
Co-chair of the ecumenical
Season of Creation
Steering Committee
Laudato Si' Movement



Rev. Archbishop Marinez Bassotto
Anglican Diocese of the
Amazon, and Primate Bishop
of the Episcopal Anglican
Church of Brazil

Join the Christian family in this beautiful ecumenical Prayer Service for Creation Day by clicking on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MUb-DT4x_Y.

WEBINAR SERIES DURING THE SEASON OF CREATION



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

Webinars

3 Sep Prof Loren Landau - Climate change and migration

10 Sep Dr Martin van Nierop - The imperative of air quality

17 Sep Prof. Horman Chitonge - Financing the green transition in Africa

24 Sep Prof. Peter Knox SJ - Biodiversity loss

1 Oct Fr. Grant Tungay SJ - The spirituality of Laudato Si'

19h00 SAST

Meeting ID: 844 0991

Password: 235782



JESUIT INSTITUTE SOUTH AFRICA



Prof. Loren Landau



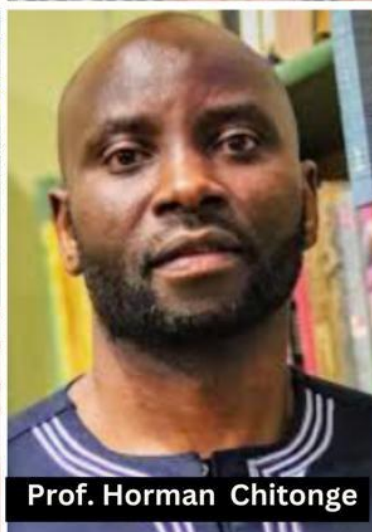
Dr Martin van Nierop



Fr. Grant Tungay SJ



Prof. Peter Knox SJ



Prof. Horman Chitonge

The link for the Webinar Series is

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84409919449?pwd=8M7h7Qlww0WRfFj8WEI6Xv0WQOQR3S.1>