***Laudato si’* Week (19-26 May 2024) Creation Mass Suggestions**

The Sunday during this year’s *Laudato si’* week is the feast of Pentecost (19th May 2024).

As this is a solemnity, you could include only some of the suggestions below in the Pentecost Sunday Mass. Alternatively, you could hold a Mass at another time with a specific focus on *Laudato si’*.

This guide has been created by contributions from the Care for our Common Home Committee, Our Lady of the Way Parish, North Sydney annual *Laudato si’* Mass, St Ignatius College, Riverview student Environment Mass and a creation Eucharistic Prayer from Fr Greg Jacobs sj. Some of the suggestions have come from [Season of Creation](https://seasonofcreation.org/) which is rich with liturgical suggestions. Please adapt for your parish community, use some or all.

You may consider using the setting of [Mass: Our Common Home by Christopher Willcock sj](https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/2408-new-mass-setting-evokes-care-for-our-common-home)

**Please feel free to use or adapt any of the following *Laudato si’* Mass suggestions:**

1. **Venue preparation**

A Mass celebrating and connecting people with creation is ideally suited to an outside location. If you have a suitable space, you need to check that the area is few of trip hazards, has adequate weather protection, has seating options (or suitable for chairs that people might bring) a suitable altar is available.

If holding the Mass in a church, you could decorate with additional plants/flowers. You could ask people to bring their favourite indoor plant. If could consider inviting people to bring their pets and hold a blessing within the Mass.

1. **Acknowledgement or Welcome to Country with reference to *Laudato si’*.**

Today we celebrate the Anniversary of *Laudato si’*, Pope Francis’ 2015 Encyclical on Care for our Common Home.

In the spirit of unity and reconciliation, we welcome you to our Mass and Acknowledge the Traditional Owners/Custodians of this place, (the … clan from the … nation [[Whose Country am I on?](https://aiatsis.gov.au/whose-country)])

I invite you to turn to those around you and greet them with the First Nations word of greeting (find the pronunciation of Hello from [50 Words Project](https://50words.online/languages)).

1. **Entrance Hymn**

*“Canticle of Creation”* (Dan Schutte, OCP)

**or**

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"* (OCP),

**or**

*“Christ Be Our Light”* (Bernadette Farrell, OCP)

**or**

*“Gather Us In”* (Haugen, OCP)

**or**

*“Sing to the Mountains”* (Dufford, OCP)

**or**

“You Have Been Baptised in Christ” (Landry, OCP)

1. **Priest welcome with short reference to *Laudato si’***

We gather today as pilgrims as sisters and brothers and with all of creation. Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of *Laudato si’*.

In that letter Pope Francis says*: “It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation.”* (LS#236).

Let us rejoice that we and all of creation are unified and blessed in our Creator.

1. **Opening Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Creator, who gives birth to the entire Universe of creation in love, And of the Word of God, who came among us in Jesus to reveal God’s vision of authentic human development and true success in life,

And the Spirit of God, speaking through the many different voices of creation, calling us to work together for the renewal of Earth.

***All: Amen.***

**or**

We begin our Mass by recalling that we gather in the name of blessed Trinity:

In the name of the Father:

***All: the ultimate source of everything, the loving and self-communicating foundation of all that exists.***

In the name of the Son:

***All: reflection of the Father, through whom all things were created, and who united himself to this earth when he was formed in the womb of Mary.***

In the name of the Spirit:

***All: infinite bond of love, intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways.***

In the name of the Triune Lord, wonderous community of infinite love,

Father, Son and Spirit.

***All: Amen.***

The Lord be with you.

***All: And with your spirit.***

1. **Penitential Rite**

***Sprinkling Rite***

Lord our God,

in your mercy be present to your people’s prayers of thanksgiving

as we recall the wondrous work of creation

and the still greater work of our redemption.

For you created water to make the fields fruitful

and to refresh and cleanse your creatures.

You also made water the instrument of your mercy:

for through water, you gave Noah’s family and all creatures a new start

and made a covenant assuring future generations of your care;

through water you freed your people from slavery

and quenched their thirst in the desert;

and last of all,

through water, Jesus was born of Mary,

and your divine nature was fused with the created world.

Therefore, may this water be for us

a memorial of the Baptism we have received,

and grant that we may share

in the gladness of our brothers and sisters

who at Easter have received their Baptism.

Through Christ our Lord.

***All: Amen.***

*(To keep the length of the Introductory Rite to an appropriate length, the first part (sign of the cross, greeting, prayer over the water) can be done at the entrance (back) of the church. The sprinkling itself then takes place as the ministers process to the sanctuary—so the “processional hymn” and the “hymn accompanying the sprinkling rite” become one and the same. Once he gets to the chair, the celebrant closes the Sprinkling Rite and the Gloria is sung.)*

**Or**

Lord, you are God’s communion with all of creation: Lord, have mercy

***All: Lord have mercy***

Christ, you brought healing and reconciliation: Christ have mercy

***All: Lord have mercy***

Lord, you are God’s response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor: Lord have mercy

***All: Lord have mercy***

**Or**

Creator God, Source of life,

you have given order, light and life to the world around us,

and you have expressed delight in your creation.

You commanded us to till and care for the garden of life.

And yet, we have trampled on the beauty of your creation

and neglected to keep your Word.

As we begin this Mass,

we seek your mercy and forgiveness for the times

that we have offended against the integrity of your creation.

You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth.

We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced, Lord have mercy.

***All: Lord have mercy.***

You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. Through the warming of the oceans and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled, Christ have mercy.

***All: Christ have mercy.***

You created Mother Earth, our common home, who sustains us.

Human activities are causing the destruction of her delicate ecosystems as we contaminate the atmosphere with harmful emissions, Lord have mercy.

***All: Lord have mercy.***

**Closing prayer of the Sprinkling rite or Kyrie**

May Almighty God cleanse us of our sins and reconcile us with you and your creation.

***All: Amen.***

1. **Introduction to the Gloria**

As we sing the Gloria, let us remind ourselves that we are praising and celebrating God as the author of our universe and of our salvation.

*If Mass is celebrated as the Pentecost Sunday Mass, the Pentecost sequence follows the Gloria.*

1. **Collect - Opening Prayer**

*If Mass is celebrated outside Pentecost Sunday, you could consider the following prayers:*

Our loving God, our Saviour, you call us into your service.

May this Eucharist make us wise and resourceful: children of the light.

May we continue your work in this world with untiring concern for integrity and justice for all Earth’s interdependent communities of life.

We ask this through Jesus, the Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

***All: Amen.***

**Or**

Almighty God,

you created the world and acclaim it as good.

May this Eucharist help us to share your delight and love for creation.  
Inspire us to be good stewards,  
and to ensure that creation’s blessings are shared by all.  
We ask this through Christ Our Lord, the Word became flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

***All: Amen.***

**Or**

Blessed are you who live our vocation to care for all creation all life if enriched by your devotion.

Blessed are you whose passion brings changes in structures for earth’s care The waters, the air, the earth cry out in gratitude.

Blessed are you who live water as precious life the rivers and wetlands gift richly all life.

Blessed are you who live energy wise Atmosphere breathes new life for all of us.

Blessed are you who recycle with resolve. The earth rejoices in its re-creation.

Blessed are you who care and tend our planet. Answering God’s call to be stewards of creation.

***All: Amen***

1. **Scripture Readings:**

***Pentecost Sunday*** (Mass of the day (Vigil Mass has different readings)):

Acts 2:1-11;

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34;

Gal 5:16-25

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**Or**

Genesis 1:1-31 (God made the heavens and the earth and it was good) or Genesis 2:15 (Humans are commanded to care for God’s creation) or Leviticus 25:1-7 (The land itself must be given a rest and not abused) or Deuteronomy 10:14 (All of heaven and earth belong to the Lord) or Daniel 3:56-82 (Creation proclaims the glory of God).

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6, 7c, 10b

Romans 1:20 (Creation reveals the nature of God) or 1 Corinthians 10:26 (Creation and all created things are inherently good because they are of the Lord).

Matthew 6:25-34 ( God loves and cares for all of creation).

**Or**

consider the readings from the Feast of [St Francis of Assisi](https://www.liturgies.net/saints/francis/readings.htm)

1. **Homily notes**

[Jeffrey Greathouse](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/bayviewlutheranchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Sermon-Notes-May-23-2021.pdf) or [Terrence Ehrman](https://catholicscientists.org/articles/loving-creation-a-pentecost-homily/) or [Jeffrey Greathouse](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/bayviewlutheranchurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Sermon-Notes-May-23-2021.pdf) or [Liturgy notes Season of Creation](https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/)

1. **Creed**

**Introduction to the Creed**

As we stand to recite the Creed, notice that we are speaking to God who is the ‘Creator of heaven and earth’.

***Alternative creeds:***

A Creation Care Creed

We believe and trust in God, all-powerful Creator and Sustainer

Who fashions the heavens and the earth and all that is in them

Who gazes on his handiwork in love, pronouncing it ‘very good’

Who crafts men and women,

calling us to partnership with him in caring for His world

Who provides in generous abundance all that is needed for the whole of Creation to thrive

Who grieves at the way we neglect and spoil his masterpiece, and calls us to Account

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ

who was born like us, choosing to share our humanity with its joy and its pain

Who lived an earthly life, affirming and celebrating the goodness of the physical world

Who modelled for us a pattern for living with integrity even though it cost him everything

Who died and came back to life to show us that in sacrifice lie the seeds of

freedom and hope

Who returned home to his father – his earthly work complete

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit

Who danced at the dawn of time to bring light and life

Who breathes life and purpose into all living things

Who opens our eyes to injustice and points us truthwards

Who calls us to join in the work of sustaining and renewing the earth

We commit ourselves to live day by day in the light of these beliefs, cherishing

The earth and labouring for its healing and renewing, Amen.

1. **Prayers of the Faithful- Universal Prayer**

Presider:Today, we celebrate the gift of Pope Francis’ Encyclical, *Laudato si’*, “Care for our Common Home”. He reminds us of our responsibility for Gods great gift and how we can live with our God, our neighbour, our earth indeed the universe itself.

With this in mind, we bring our prayers to our, loving creator God:

Reader: FOR ALL CREATION. Threatened, abused and uncared for be it: air, tree, ocean, animal, human or other. That respect for and love of creation may be restored with urgency so that we may join in God’s great and ongoing work. Let us pray to the Lord,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: FOR ALL HUMANITY. That we learn from our past irresponsibility, be filled with a spirit of concern for our environment and be gifted with the courage needed to change. Let us pray to the Lord,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: FOR POPE FRANCIS AND OTHER FAITH LEADERS WHO CARE FOR CREATION. That their inspiration, prayers and unity may move our world in ways unimaginable. Let us pray to the Lord,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: FOR ALL COMMUNITY LEADERS, GOVERNMENTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS. That they speak out and act strongly against the exploitation our Earth, that they develop economic strategies that protect and repair creation for current and future generations. Let us pray to the Lord

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: FOR ALL THOSE WHO WORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. May we be filled with such gratitude for their tenacious action and advocacy that we become their allies and co-workers. Let us pray to the Lord

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Presider:Lord of life, open our hearts to the gifts of your Spirit that we may have the wisdom to find creative ways to protect and renew all of creation for the benefit of the Earth, and its people, today and forever.

***All: Amen.***

**Or**

Presider:Today, we celebrate the gift of Pope Francis’ Encyclical, *Laudato si’*, “Care for our Common Home”. He reminds us of our responsibility for Gods great gift and how we can live with our God, our neighbour, our earth indeed the universe itself.

With this in mind, we bring our prayers to our, loving creator God:

Reader: That the Churches and ecclesial communities may respond to the signs of the times expressed in the cry of nature, wounded by humankind’s inability to recognize its vocation to be the custodian of all that exists, Let us pray to the Lord

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: That international organizations may speak out strongly against the exploitation of the resources so generously offered by Mother Earth, and for those many brothers and sisters who live in need due to waste and abuse on the part of individuals and nations, Let us pray to the Lord

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: That those involved in political life, and every citizen as well, may grow in the awareness that any behaviour that does not respect the environment damages human coexistence and undermines the foundations of peace, Let us pray to the Lord

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: That those who believe in God may promote in their own religious traditions a spirituality and practice that is consistent with a recognition of the goodness of creation, thus contributing to the growth of a world of love, justice and peace where all living things praise the Creator, Let us pray to the Lord

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: That young people may be inspired by the example of Saint Francis to make mature lifestyle choices that are selfless and sustainable, promote the care and safeguarding of ecosystems, guarantee access to all basic resources, and encourage practices that respect the fundamental rights of the human person and of every creature, Let us pray to the Lord

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: That we who participate in this Eucharist, offering God the gifts that earth has given and human hands have made, may be ready and willing to respond to God’s word that calls us to be prophets of a creation made new in the Passover of Jesus, Let us pray to the Lord

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Presider:Lord of life, open our hearts to the gifts of your Spirit that we may have the wisdom to find creative ways to protect and renew all of creation for the benefit of the Earth, and its people, today and forever.

***All: Amen.***

**Or**

Presider: LovingGod, Creator of the universe. This community seeks to turn our feelings of love for creation into actions of love. So, with great trust in your power working within and beyond us, we offer our prayers to live the seven *Laudato si’* Goals.

Reader: We pray for the stillness within to listen to **the cry of the earth** so that we might consider how our choices impact the earth and its precious resources. Lord hear us,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: We pray for the compassion to listen to **the cry of the poor** so that we might consider how our choices affect all forms of life, especially those most vulnerable. Lord hear us,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: We pray for the wisdom to see the significance of **ecological economics** so that we might support sustainable, ethical and fair production, consumption and investment. Lord hear us,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: We pray for the humility to commit to a **sustainable lifestyle**, considering ways in which we can use less resources and energy as we go about our daily life. Lord hear us,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: We pray for an awareness of the importance of **ecological education** so that we might grow in our understanding of integral ecology, mindfully promoting ecological awareness and action to others. Lord hear us,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: We pray for our faith to evolve into an **ecological spirituality** that joyfully praises God in creation, encouraging greater contact with the natural world, bringing others into an awareness of creation, and promoting a spirit of wonder, awe, praise, thanksgiving and joy. Lord hear us,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: We pray for the courage to **empower our communities** to act for social and environmental justice at the local, regional, national and international level. Lord hear us,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Reader: We pray for those who have died recently especially … and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time: … . May they rest in the peace of Christ. Lord hear us,

***All: Lord, hear our prayer***

Presider:Lord of life, open our hearts to the gifts of your Spirit that we may have the wisdom to find creative ways to protect and renew all of creation for the benefit of the Earth, and its people, today and forever.

***All: Amen.***

1. **Offertory Hymn**

“One Bread One Body” (Foley, OCP) AOV129

1. **Alternative Eucharistic Prayer of Creation**

[Adapted from *‘A Springtime Eucharist’* in Scott McCarthy, Celebrating the Earth: an earth-centred theology of worship with blessings, prayers, and rituals (Nevada City; Pelican Pond, 2018), 86-91.] Rev. Gregory Jacobs SJ (2018)

The Lord be with you.

***All: And with your spirit.***

Lift up your hearts.

***All: We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***All: It is right and just.***

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

O Lord, Creator and loving Saviour.

At the dawn of creation You stretched out the heavens like a tent;

You separated the waters into clouds and rivers and oceans to replenish the earth.

You brought forth bacteria, moss, grass and wild-flowers,

cedars of Lebanon and great forests

that now provide habitats and food for all kinds of creatures.

You brought forth animals, both great and small,

to wander the vast stretches of ocean and land.

In the fullness of time, you brought forth humanity to care and till the earth,

and by your providence You continue to work in our midst.

But God, we are a sinful people. We sometimes hurt each other and do not love.

We destroy our land and disturb the rivers and the sky

with pollution of our own doing.

We kill without reason; and are often very selfish.

But you did not abandon us to our sin,

but you continued to accompany us by the fullness of your Spirit,

and renew us through the teachings and example of your only son, Jesus Christ.

We especially recall how You renew the earth with your loving care,

and You renew our hearts too as we call to mind all that You do for us.

And so, with Angels and Saints,

we, too, join in the hymn of your glory,

as without end we acclaim:

***All:******Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.***

***Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

You are indeed Holy and to be glorified, O God,

who delights in all you have created.

Jesus loved the world and delighted to wander in the desert,

to climb mountains, to bathe in the cool waters of the rivers.

He taught us through his parables and stories to love and to share his love.

Therefore, Father most merciful and creative,

we ask that you send forth your Holy Spirit

to sanctify these gifts of bread and wine,

that they may become for us

the Body and **+** Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With a love born of heaven and earth,

Jesus gathered his friends together the night before he died,

and shared with them a meal from the fruits of the earth.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat of it,

For this is my body,

Which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,

he took the chalice, gave you thanks

and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it,

For this is the chalice of my blood,

The blood of the new and eternal covenant,

Which will be poured out for you and for all

For the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in memory of me.

This is the mystery of faith:

***All: Save us, Saviour of the world,***

***for by your Cross and Resurrection***

***you have set us free.***

O Spirit of God, O Giver of life, present in all your creation,

we celebrate the living presence of Jesus

whose Passion and Death on the Cross, and Resurrection to life

proclaims your love for all creation.

Transform us into your holy people around your Son,

in whose Body and Blood we have communion.

Confirm us in the bond of communion,

together with Francis, our Pope and N. our Bishop,

and with all of those who lead our Church and society.

Give to all of them, and to us, a wisdom to create a new world

where all may share the fruits of the land and the waters.

Give us knowledge to develop what is lying fallow,

to bring forth what is as yet only a seed in our minds.

May we learn to respect life wherever we find it.

And fill up, O Lord, what is lacking in our lives.

Lord, when you turn away your face we panic;

when you take back your breath we die and return to dust.

Remember all our brothers and sisters

who have died in the peace of Christ,

and all the dead whose faith you alone have known.

We acknowledge that the death of many plants and animals

is for our good food and health;

but much else of our killing and clearing of habitats

have harmed your creation.

Admit all your creation to rejoice in the light of your face,

and in the resurrection give to Creation the fullness of life.

Grant also to us, when our earthly pilgrimage is done,

that we may come to an eternal dwelling place and live with you for ever;

there, in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,

with Joseph her loving spouse, with the Apostles and Martyrs,

with St Francis Assisi, and with all the Saints,

we shall praise and exalt you through Jesus Christ, your Son.

Through him, and with him, and in him,

O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

***All: Amen***

1. **Communion Hymn**

*“God Of Day and God of Darkness”* (Haugen, GIA) AOV56

**or**

*“Come to the Feast”* (Haugen, GIA) AOV151

1. **Reflection after Communion**

Consider PowerPoint slideshows: [Seescapes Reflections](https://seescapes.com/library) (5-7 minutes)or [Quotes from *Laudato si’*](https://1drv.ms/p/s!AnK8VlhlVvxIgcw4CIi5FM8RZe5X_A?e=j6lcyb) (5 min)

**or Thanksgiving Hymn**

*“For The Fruits of This Creation”* (Green, OCP) GA426

1. **Prayer after Communion**

Loving Creator God, we have shared this

Eucharist in thanksgiving for this sacred creation

in which we live

and for Your invitation to discipleship in caring for it.

May the power of Christ’s body and blood,

which we have received, find a home

deep into our hearts, our minds, and our bodies.

May we be transformed in and through Christ

and bring healing to all of Earth’s communities.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus and

in the power of your Holy Spirit where we live

and move and have our being now and forever.

***All: Amen.***

1. **Dismissal and Blessing**

May the Risen Lord, be with you.

***All: And with your spirit.***

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

***All: Amen.***

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!**

1. **Final Hymn**

*“How Great Thou Art”* (Hine) AOV94

**or**

*“Send Down the Fire”* (Haugen, GIA)

**or**

*“Shine Jesus Shine”* (Kendrick, Hope Publishing)

**or**

*“All the Ends of the Earth”* (Hurd, OCP) AOV4

**or**

*“And the Father Will Dance”* (Landry, OCP) AOV113