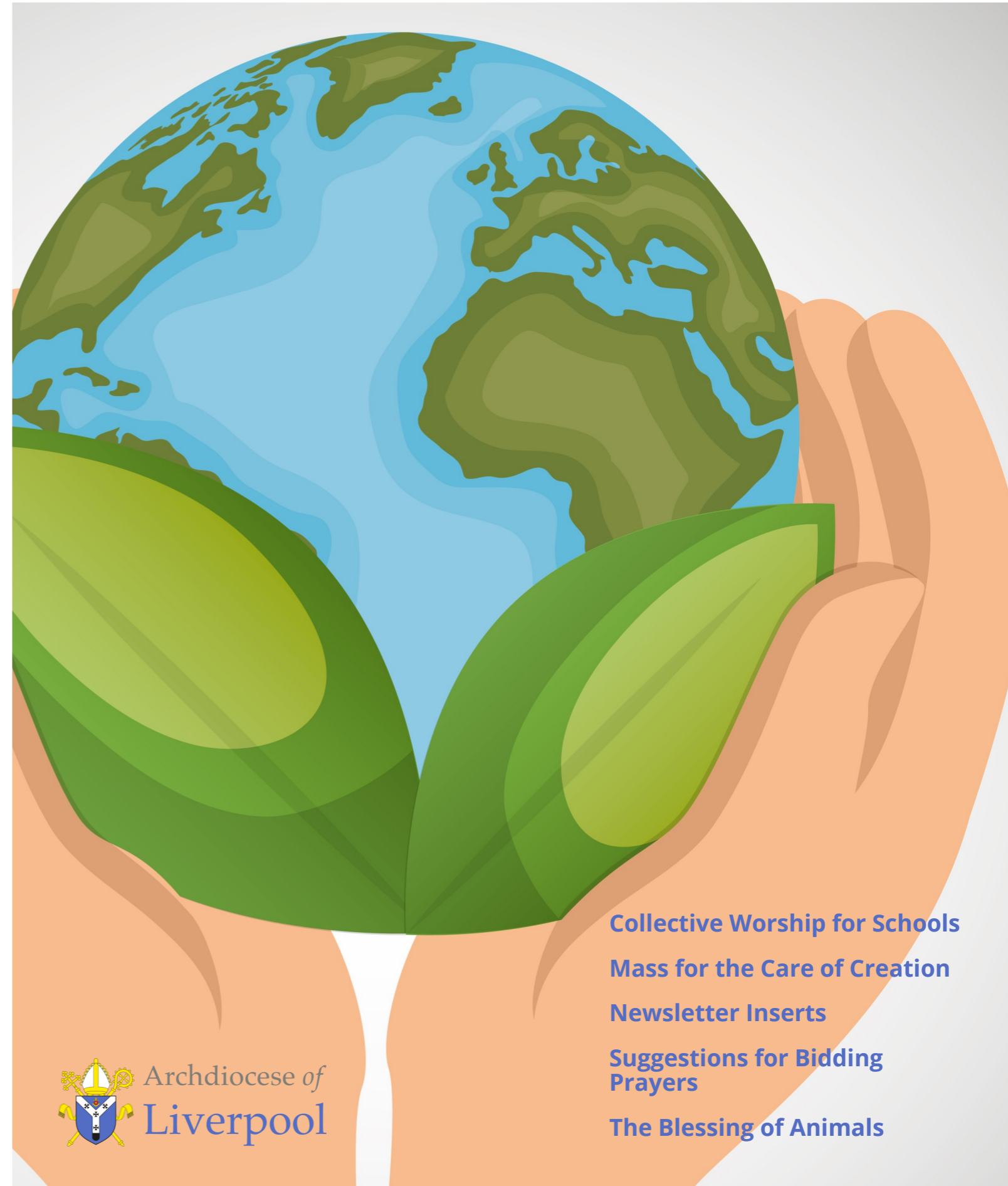


# Season of Creation 2021

Restoring Our Common Home



**Collective Worship for Schools**

**Mass for the Care of Creation**

**Newsletter Inserts**

**Suggestions for Bidding Prayers**

**The Blessing of Animals**

## Suggestions for Prayers

### *For pets that have died*

We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us.

We give thanks for the gift they were to us and the many ways they enriched and blessed our lives. We are confident that our Creator continues to care for them.

Amen.

### *Prayer of Blessing*

N., you were created by God and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### *Prayer for a Sick Pet*

God of healing, please comfort and strengthen N. during his/her illness. Ease his/her fear and pain, and guide the vet and all caring for him/her, that s/he may recover fully.

Comfort us, too, that we may better care for N. and make decisions that are best for him/her.

Amen.



*(The above prayers are adapted from texts by the Rev Barbara Allen, Chaplain at Lort Smith Animal Hospital, Melbourne, Australia)*

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends, the animals.

We pray especially for all that are suffering in any way:

for the overworked and underfed;

for animals in captivity and for those that are treated cruelly;

for any that are hunted or lost, deserted or frightened or hungry;

and for those that must be put to death.

For those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion, gentle hands and kindly words.

Make us all true friends to the creatures you have entrusted to us.

Through Christ our Lord.

*(Adapted from a Prayer by Albert Schweitzer)*

*(David P. Heywood, Parish of Blessed James Bell, Warrington)*

## Resources

### Some ideas for Music

#### Popular

Make me a channel of your peace

All things bright and beautiful

If I were a butterfly

All creatures of our God and King

Morning has broken

#### Choral

For the beauty of the earth – John Rutter

#### Recorded (see Amazon or Spotify)

All of us belong – Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Brother sister creatures (Ps 104) – Richard B Colligan

#### Instrumental

Air on the G String – Bach

Canon in D – Pachelbel

### Some ideas for Scripture Readings

Genesis 1: 20-25

Isaiah 11: 6-9

Matthew 6: 25-26

Luke 15: 3-6

John 10: 11-14



## Collective Worship for Schools



### Our World

God's Creation

#### Aims

To encourage looking after our world and God's creation.

#### Resources you may want to use for display

- Blue display cloth (sea/sky)
- Cross (reminder of God's love for us)
- Bible / God's Story (Word of God)
- Candle (Jesus is the light of the world)
- White board/paper and pen
- Music – *What a Wonderful World* by Louis Armstrong
- Pictures on a PowerPoint or back drop of different elements of creation, similar to that on page 5
- Cut out leaf shapes of different shapes and sizes on card (at least one per child)
- Coloured pencils / felt tips



## Assembly Gather

We gather together, to think about the world we live in, all the beautiful things around us, the trees, the flowers, the animals, each other.

Listen to *What a Wonderful World* by Louis Armstrong.

I'm going to draw a tree (draw a very rushed, messy tree without much care) invite responses:

- What do you think? Did I take my time and do a good job?
- Why isn't it any good?
- What could I do better?

(Take more time, add more detail, look more closely at a tree.)

Do the same for an animal and then a person (stick like and rushed).

Invite responses.

When God made the trees, flowers, sun, moon and stars, the animals, people, he thought so carefully about each one. He put so much care and attention into each thing he was creating, that each one is unique and special. So, so special and important.

Close your eyes and think about your favourite animal, tree or flower – how does it look? Feel? Smell? Sound? Think about the different details it has. God cares so much about everything he created for us to enjoy and love. He created men and women who could love and care for the world. He wants us to look after his creation, to love and care for it.

## Listen

*Based on Genesis 1:26-31*

So God created men and women who could love and care for the world and everything in it and could love and care

for one another; men and women who could know God and love and serve God.

God blessed them and said to them: *"Fill the world with people; look after the world; look after one another; take care of the fish and the birds, the animals and the reptiles, the trees and the flowers and the plants."*

And so it was. God saw all creation and indeed it was very good.

*(Taken from God's Story 3, p10)*



## Response

God made everything the very best that he could – he made it perfect! We can't be perfect, but we can be better and try our best to do as God has asked. He gave us a special job, to love and care for the world and everything in it.

Ask the children for some ideas on how they can help to care for our world.

(Pick up litter, water the plants, share with others, smile, share what we can.)

You will each be given a cut out card leaf shape – on one side draw and colour carefully some of God's creation. On the other side, write out a task that somebody could do to, to love and care for 'God's creation – Our World'.

(Leaves can then be collected and laminated. With a hole punch, thread ribbon or string and hang as tree decorations, to remind others how they can care for our world or they can be given as a gift.)

- Perhaps have some treats for the animals at the end of the service, and some refreshments for their 'servants' (if they've behaved!).
- It's a good idea to place bowls of water at the front and back of church for dogs.
- I usually do this service ecumenically.

## An Order of Service

*A simple Liturgy of the Word like this works well:*

### I. Introductory Rites

Gathering Song  
Greeting & Introduction  
Collect

### II. Liturgy of the Word

First Reading  
Psalm or Hymn  
Gospel  
Short Address

*(Perhaps invite a local animal charity to share a little about the work they do and have a collection to support the charity)*

Intercessions  
The Lord's Prayer

### III. Liturgy of Remembrance & Blessing

Remembering our Pets

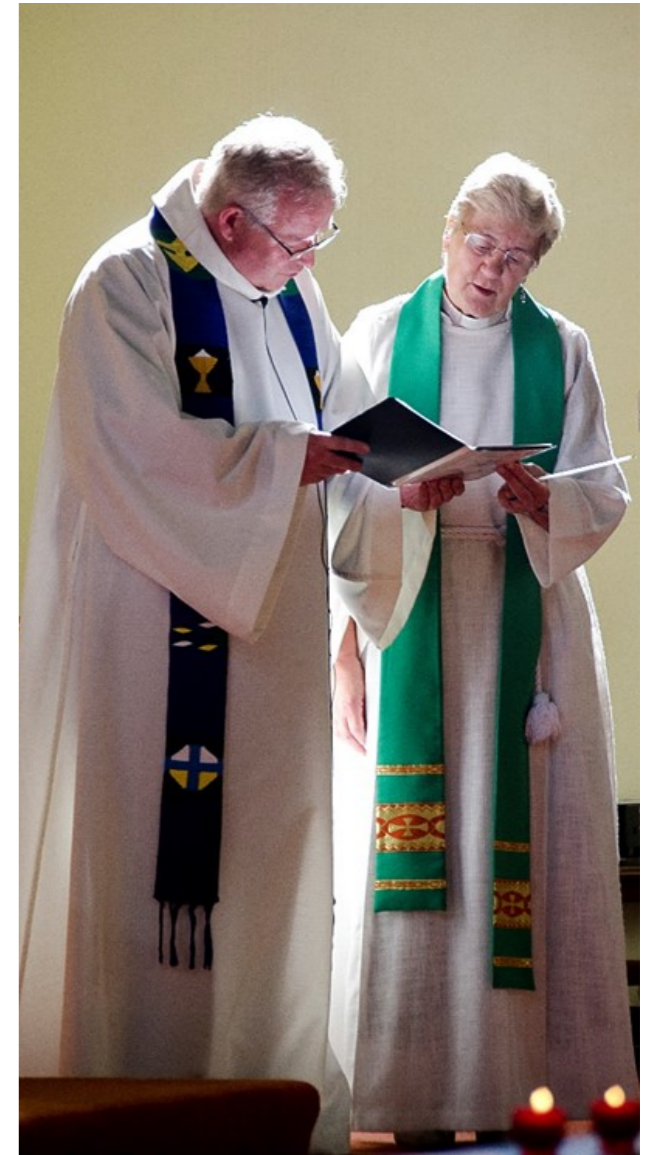
*Invite those present to bring a photo or name card of their pet who has died to a focal point and to light a candle for them.*

Blessing our Pets

*Move among the congregation. Ask the name of each pet. If their pet is poorly, pray a prayer of healing for them.*

### IV. Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal  
Final Song



*(There is an Order for the Blessing of Animals in the 'Book of Blessings', page 325f.)*

# The Blessing of Animals



## Introductory Notes

This liturgy could take place anytime during the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October) or on or near the Feast of St Francis of Assisi (4 October).

Animals are part of God’s creation which he has entrusted to us. We have a duty of care to all God’s creatures. In his encyclical letter, ‘Laudato Si’, Pope Francis says: “We are not God... and every act of cruelty towards any creature is “contrary to human dignity” (92).

- The service could be held in church or outside on parish land (e.g. a presbytery or church garden).
- Advertise the service – in school, the local vets, invite parishioners to drop a flyer in to a neighbour who has pet. In your advert, it is important to advise people to keep their pet safe by bringing them on a lead or in a carrier. You could also invite people to bring a picture of their pet if it has died.
- Quite often, people who never go near a church will come for a blessing of their pet. Just think how pets have been companions for so many during the recent lockdowns.

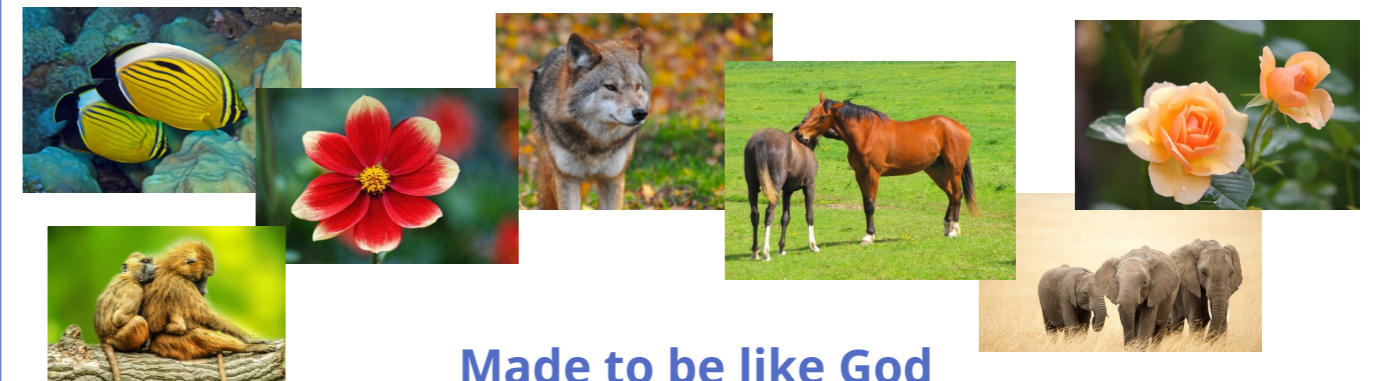


## Go Forth

We are all part of God’s creation, just like the trees, animals, fruits and flowers. God made us all to enjoy everything that he has created. He has asked us to love and care for the world and everything in it.

Dear God,  
We thank you for all that you have given to us.  
Thank you for your creation, the food we grow, the beauty we see.  
Help us to do a better job at looking after our world – your creation.  
Help us to love and care for the world and everything in it, and help us to love and care for each other, as you asked us to.  
Amen.

Sharon Orwin  
(St Oswald’s Catholic Primary School, Warrington)



## Made to be like God Based on Genesis 1:26-31

So God created men and women who could love and care for the world and everything in it and could love and care for one another; men and women who could know God and love and serve God.

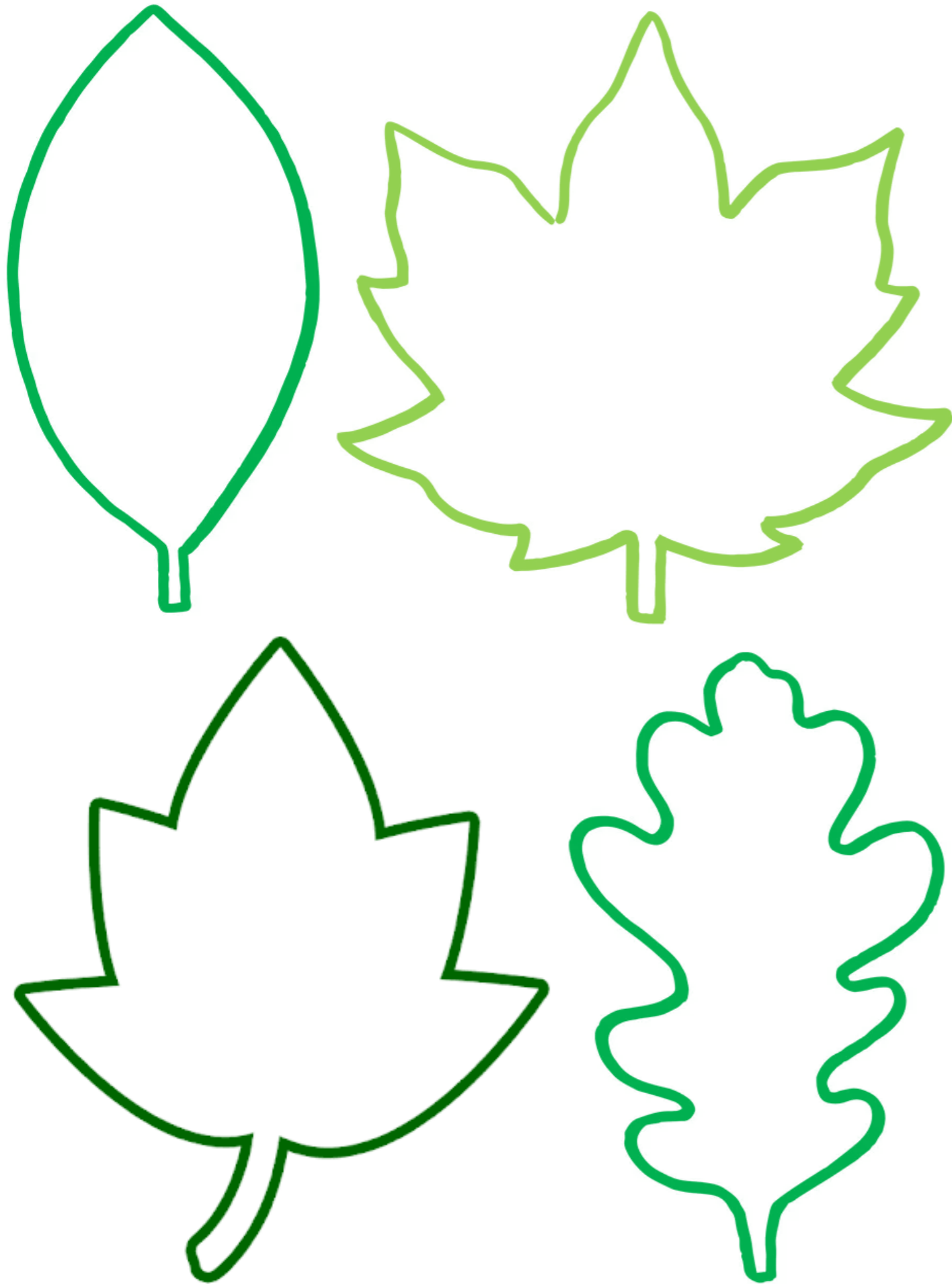
God blessed them and said to them:  
*“Fill the world with people; look after the world; look after one another; take care of the fish and the birds, the animals and the reptiles, the trees and the flowers and the plants.”*

And so it was. God saw all creation and indeed it was very good.

(Taken from God’s Story 3, p10)



## Leaf shapes



## Newsletter Inserts



With Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of ecologists, let us bring before the Lord our requests for all of us gathered here, for the Church and for the whole world:

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 for 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...

Conclusion to intercessions:  
Let us bring before the Lord the prayers that lie in each of our hearts as we listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. [Pause]  
Lord, in your mercy...

We ask for the prayers of Mary, our mother and Queen of Creation, as we say: Hail Mary...

*(Taken from CAFOD's Mass for Climate Sunday)*

## Suggestions for Music

All creatures of our God and King

Laudato Sii – Damian Lundy

Bless the Lord my soul – Taizé

Let us with a gladsome mind

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness

Make me a channel of your peace

For the beauty of the earth – Rutter

Morning has broken

For the healing of the nations

O Lord my God (*How great thou art*)

Laudate omnes gentes – Taizé

This day God gives me

## Other thoughts

### Symbols

Perhaps invite parishioners to bring something from nature to Mass and place it in a display or on a table near the sanctuary.

### Visuals

Why not invite children to dress up or face paint themselves to represent one of God's creatures, and then to greet people as they arrive for Mass!



(David P. Heywood, Parish of Blessed James Bell, Warrington)

## Mass for the Care of Creation



*This liturgy could be celebrated on the 1st September which has been designated by Pope Francis as 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation', or on the nearest Sunday to 1st September, or anytime during the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October).*

## Background

When Pope Francis instituted the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2015, he said: *"The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvellous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live."*

*The following may assist your celebration:*

## Theme for 2021 – "Restoring Our Common Home"

We gather during a global pandemic and two months prior to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) due to be held in Glasgow in November. The pandemic and the environmental crisis are interconnected – both are global emergencies, both are having a disproportionate affect on the poor and the vulnerable, both are highlighting the injustices that exist across the world, and both threaten the future of humanity and the earth.

During the pandemic, many people have encouraged the wealthier countries to share the vaccines with poorer countries. After a hopeful start, the wealthier countries have focused on themselves and left the poorer countries to struggle. This is not only selfish but foolhardy because the pandemic will only be over when everyone has access to the vaccines. The same is true for the environment. Our 'common home' will only be protected if we all work together.



### Penitential Act

Lord Jesus, our sister, Mother Earth, cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, we have come to see ourselves as the lords and masters of our sister, Mother Earth, entitled to plunder her at will.

Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of Mother Earth, our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air, and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

*(Adapted from Justice & Peace, Scotland)*

### Collect

God of the universe,  
you graciously give us all good gifts.

Teach us to care for the earth:

to till the soils responsibly, to keep the air pure,

to free the waters from pollution,

to harvest the warmth of the sun,

to protect the climate and to respect the rights of all species.

May we share the gifts of your goodness with all.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

*(Adapted from Churches Together in Britain & Ireland)*

### Scripture Readings

Use the readings of the day given in the Lectionary. Alternatively, there is a selection of texts in Lectionary III (p 635 - 658).

### Homily

If you feel a little out of your depth, perhaps have a look at the Pastoral Letter for Pentecost 2021 issued by the Bishops of England and Wales. It's a good starting point.

### Bidding Prayers

There are some suggestions within this pack for the Season of Creation.

### Prayer over the Offerings *(original text)*

Creator God,

may these gifts,

the fruits of the earth and the work of human hands,

become for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ,

who is Lord for ever and ever.

### Prayer after Communion *(from Laudato Si' by Pope Francis)*

All-powerful God,

you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,

that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned

and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognise that we are profoundly united with every  
creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love and peace.

Through Christ our Lord.

