



## JUBILEE for the EARTH

*What a wonderful theme chosen for the Season of Creation 2020:  
a Jubilee, a Sabbath, a rest for our Earth, our beautiful Planet, our Common Home.  
We only have to listen to the news from around the world to realise  
how urgently this rest is needed for our exhausted Planet Earth.*

As many of you will be aware, we are at present celebrating the 'Season of Creation', an annual celebration of prayer and action for creation that is observed by Christians around the globe.

The 'Season of Creation' is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion and commitment together. During this season, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed the 1<sup>st</sup> September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox. In fact, the Orthodox Church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making this special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October, Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

In 2015 Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in connection with the publication of 'Laudato Si'. He said at the beginning of last year's Season of Creation: "...*this is the Season for letting our prayer be inspired anew, ... a season to reflect on our lifestyles, ... and a season for undertaking prophetic actions ... calling for courageous decisions ... directing the planet towards life, not death*".

Following Pope Francis' invitation we could make this season a time of prayer and reflection, asking ourselves questions like 'What might a Jubilee, a rest for the Earth look like?' 'How do I/we understand this?' 'How can I/we, my family, community, Parish community ... contribute to giving our Planet the urgent rest in order to recover, to replenish and thus to continue to sustain all forms of life, including the life of our children, grand-children ... in the future?'

I print below the 'Prayer for the Season of Creation 2020', which you may like to pray, meditate and reflect upon during this season. You will find more information, resources (including a 'Prayer of Confession' based on Leviticus 25:1-25) ... on [www.seasonofcreation.com](http://www.seasonofcreation.com)

## **Season of Creation 2020 Prayer**

*“Creator of Life,*

*At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.*

*In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production.*

*But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.*

*During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.*

*In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.”*

Wishing you a holy ‘Season of Creation’ with times of awe and wonder as you enjoy the beauty of the Earth.

*Regula Hug  
Sisters of St Andrew*