

Catholic Parish of Napier
Prayer Service
for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

September 1, 2017, 7 pm; Saint Patrick's Church, Napier
Priest: Fr. Paul Byers SM

Opening hymn All Creatures of Our God and King, vss 1,4,5 (Trad.)

Please stand

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Bright burning sun with golden beams,
soft silver moon that gently beams,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Dear mother earth, who day by day,
unfold your blessings on our way,
O praise Him, Alleluia,
All flow'rs and fruits that in you grow,
let them His glory also show;
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, Alleluia,
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one;
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: *Amen*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: *Amen*

Please sit

Welcome by a member of the parish' Care of Creation group

Reflecting on the wonder of God's creation

When and where are we aware of the beauty and blessing of God's presence in all creation?

'What a wonderful world' - sung by Azhure Durston (Sacred Heart Girls);
Personal response from Fred Devereux (St John's).

Litany of praise

Priest: We thank you and praise you, all powerful God, you are present
in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

Response: *We praise and thank you*

You embrace with tenderness all that exists.

Response: *We praise and thank you*

You pour out upon us the power of your love.

Response: *We praise and thank you*

You invite us to discover the worth of all you have made.

Response: *We praise and thank you*

You teach us that we are connected with every creature.

Response: *We praise and thank you*

You fill us with awe and contemplation.

Response: *We praise and thank you*

Priest: Praise and bless our God and give thanks to Him; and serve Him with great humility.
All: *Amen.*

(text based on Pope Francis' Laudato Si' prayer)

Reflecting on our sins against God's creation

Where do we notice breaks in our relationship with creation?

“Indifference” by G Studdert-Kennedy, read by Madeleine Archer, Bridget Kelly-Lowe and Sarah O'Malley (Sacred Heart Girls);

Personal response from Jayden Gordon (St John's).

Prayer of repentance

Please kneel

Priest: We turn to this bountiful and merciful God, our loving Father, who awaits the return of each one of us, and we acknowledge our sins against creation.

Response: *Lord forgive us*

We have grown comfortable with our wasteful lifestyles.

Response: *Lord forgive us*

We have been careless in our abusing the earth's resources.

Response: *Lord forgive us*

We have caused pollution and destruction of planet earth.

Response: *Lord forgive us*

Priest: We know that God's mercy is greater than our sin, than all our sins, including those against the environment. We have confessed them because we are sorry and desire to change. Therefore, may God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

All: *Amen*

(text based on Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 2016)

Gospel Matthew 5:1-10

Please stand

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
How happy are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown to them.
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the course of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Please sit

Gospel reflection by a member of the parish' Care of Creation group

Presentations on signs of hope

What challenges or joys do we experience when caring for our common home?

Personal response from Joseph Mooney (St John's);

College initiatives shown and explained by Ella White-Shaw (Sacred Heart Girls).

Renewal of commitment to look after God's creation

Priest: We are sometimes unaware of how deeply we have hurt God's good earth with its marvelous gifts and diversity of life. Let us recommit ourselves to reverence and care for God's creation as a gracious gift entrusted to us.

All: *Help us, O God, to be grateful and caring for the earth. We promise anew to be stewards and not pillagers of what you have entrusted to us. Amen*

Conclusion

Please stand

All say: *May the mystery of God enfold us,
may the wisdom of God uphold us,
may the fragrance of God be around us,
may the brightness of God surround us,
may the wonder of God renew us,
may the loving of God flow through us,
may the peace of God deeply move us,
may the moving of God bring us peace. (text: Joy Cowley)*

Final blessing

Priest: The blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life, be with you and remain with you forever.

All: *Amen*

Closing hymn Bring Forth the Kingdom, vss 1,2, 4 (Marty Haugen)

You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Shine the flavour of life, O people,
Life in the Kingdom of God.

Refrain:

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God.

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the Kingdom of God.

Refrain:

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God.

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God.

Refrain:

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the city of God.

You are warmly invited to the Hannigan Centre for refreshments and fellowship

With special thanks to the parish Care of Creation group, Luana Durston (Sacred Heart Girls' College) and Chris Marwick (St John's College) and the following students: Madeleine Archer, Fred Devereux, Azhure Durston, Jayden Gordon, Bridget Kelly-Lowe, Joseph Mooney, Sarah O'Malley and Ella White-Shaw.

*For more information about the Care of Creation group go to:
www.cpon.org.nz/careofcreation.htm*

Care of Creation Prayer Day, 1 September 2017 - a simple life of praise

Pope Francis through his teaching in letters such as *Laudato Si'* asks each disciple to follow Jesus by leading a simple and grateful life: "My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever." (Ps 145). To give us an idea of what this may mean the Global Catholic Climate Movement has listed the following ten ways that may assist a disciple to live such a life (adapted).

❖ Pray with and for creation

"Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God." - Laudato Si' (119)

1. Include a prayer of thankfulness for creation, and pray we will protect our environment, in your daily prayers.
2. "Pray with the news" or incorporate people impacted by climate or ecological issues into your daily prayer.
3. Pray outside.

❖ Live Simply

"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions." - Laudato Si' (211)

4. Before you purchase something ask, "Do I need or want this?"
5. Go without meat one day a week.
6. Drive less: consolidate errands, or decide to walk or use a bike for short trips.

❖ Advocate to protect our common home

"There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced." - Laudato Si' (26)

7. Connect with local organizations advocating for the climate. Join the Care of Creation Group.
8. Organize a symbolic action highlighting a local ecological issue as part of the Season of Creation.
9. Consider what is making it more difficult for you to change your lifestyle - lack of public transportation, no recycling or compost in the community, or no options of clean energy - and bring the community together to ask for change.

❖ Spread the word

"Truly, much can be done!" - Laudato Si' (180)

10. Let friends, family, the local church and other organisations know what you are doing.