



**Laudato Si Week & The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Week
17 – 24 May 2026**



**THEME:
FROM HOPE TO ACTION;
“THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO THE
ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING”
(Ephesians 4:4)**

Provided as a resource by the Departments for Christian Formation, Ecumenism, Inter-Faith & Religious Dialogue, Commission for Justice & Peace and Marfam.



Introduction

What is Laudato Si' Week? What is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?

Laudato Si' Week and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs concurrently this year. Laudato Si' Week bears the theme "From Hope to Action" focusing on transforming ecological reflection into concrete action for our common home. A theme which emphasizes daily choices, ecological conversion and protecting creation – through giving hope to the environment. The week highlights ecological conversion through reflection, prayer, community initiatives, and practical steps against climate change.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity bears the theme "*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling*" (Eph 4:4). In pursuit of Christian unity, celebrated in the week toward Pentecost, it is a symbolic call for the unity of the whole Christian Church. This week offers a path to strengthen coming together, to pray that the Holy Spirit may help us realize the invisible unity of faith, for which Jesus prayed.

Catholics and ecumenical movements across the globe, in an effort of unity in caring for our common home, can unite in hope and action to learn more about how Laudato Si' offers a blueprint on how to tackle the climate crisis.

In the spirit of the Franciscan Jubilee, we recognize that hope calls us, like St Francis, to recompose ourselves and march with joy, like creation recharging from winter into spring. In our combined spiritual exercise with others, religious and with all creation, in imitation of St Francis of Assisi, we stand together in hope and united in faith to answer questions on the impending crisis. Throughout the world, especially among the poor countries, we are already witnessing serious decay, demographic changes in the family, the impact on individuals and regional climate disasters.

Laudato Si' week and Christian Unity week call us to open ears and hearts, be seeds of hope and signs of life-giving action, encountering brothers and sisters in promoting the values of the family and care for environment. Through various platforms our action should be responding to the "cry of the poor" and "cry of the earth".

Let Laudato Si' week and Christian Unity week be our hope-filled time of reflection and prayer leading up to the fuller celebration of the Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October).

Unity is a divine mandate at the core of our Christian identity, more than simply an ideal. It represents the essence of the Church's calling – a call to reflect the harmonious oneness of our life in Christ amidst our diversity. This divine unity is central to our mission and is sustained by the profound love of Jesus Christ, who has set before us a unified purpose.

The Church must always stand as a visible sign of unity and a beacon of hope in the world!

ECUMENICAL ORDER OF WORSHIP

Light from light

L **Leader R Reader**
A **Assembly**
C **Choir or Cantor**

1. Opening Prayer

L: Gracious Lord, God of all, Guide for the lost, Light for those in darkness. Our eyes turn to you, hear our prayers. May the sun of your glory shine forth, giving life and light to all, from the East to the West, and from the North to the South. Let the morning rays of your eternal spring awaken us who await your coming.

O Jesus Christ, Light from the Light, dwell within us, who have come together to worship your holy and precious name. Let your life-giving radiance kindle within us a deeper love for one another. May your brilliant light stir us to ever more flourishing unity. Like diverse flowers in the garden of your Kingdom, may your divine brilliance cause us to bloom in harmony. And so, all as one, may we always joyfully praise and glorify you, and the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.
Amen.

2. Invocations

R1: May the name of the Lord be blessed forever, for his name is before the sun.

R2: All the nations of the earth will be blessed through him and all generations will extol him.

R1: Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, the only worker of wondrous deeds, the holy name of his glory is forever blessed. The whole world will be filled with his glory.

A: Amen! Amen!

R2: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R1: Now and always and unto the ages of ages.

A: Amen.

R2: Again in peace let us beseech the Lord. Heed our prayers, raise us to life and have mercy on us.

L: Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and always and unto the ages of ages.

A: Amen.

Hymn of Light (*Any choice*)

As the hymn is being sung, a large candle is lit in the front of the church.

3. Litany

R: From Sunrise in the East to Sunset in the West, and throughout the entire Christian world, wherever people call on the name of the Lord in holiness – by their prayers and intercession may the Lord have mercy on us. Let us beseech God to deliver us from sin and from the temptations of the world. May the Lord accept the vows and supplications of our hearts and count us worthy of his faith and his commandments together with all of his saints. Almighty Lord our God, raise us to life and have mercy on us.

A: **Raise us to life, O Lord.**

(If celebrated in the morning)

That the Lord may usher forth this sunlit morning and guide the day ahead in peace; with faith, let us beseech the Lord.

or (*If celebrated in the evening*)

That the Lord may usher forth this coming evening and the night ahead in peace; with faith, let us beseech the Lord.

A: **Grant it, O Lord.**

R: For an angel of peace to be our guardian, let us ask the Lord.

A: **Grant it, O Lord.**

R: For the pardon and forgiveness of our transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

A: **Grant it, O Lord.**

R: For the great and mighty power of the holy Cross to help us, let us ask the Lord.

A: **Grant it, O Lord.**

R: Once again, for our true and holy faith, all together, let us beseech the Lord.

A: **Lord, have mercy.**

R: Let us commit ourselves and one another to the almighty Lord our God.

A: **We commit ourselves to you, O Lord.**

R: Have mercy on us, Lord our God, in your great mercy. Let us all say together as one:

A: **Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

4. Prayer and sharing Peace

The Leader may face East for the following prayer, which is prayed with arms outstretched:

L: From Sunrise in the East to Sunset in the West, blessed are you, O Lord, because you are King, and your name is revered throughout the universe. Let our psalmody resound sweetly in your hearing. Let justice dawn from your righteousness and rise over our frailty, and may your most holy name be glorified. Let us become worthy to abide by your commandments and to sing praise and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

A: **Amen.**

The Leader faces the people and may make the sign of the Cross, while saying:

L: Peace to all.

A: **And with your spirit.**

The people may exchange a suitable greeting of peace.

R: Let us bow down to God.

The people bow down to God in worship, saying:

A: Before you, O Lord.

The Leader may turn to the East and prays again, saying:

L: Everlasting God, Eternal God, you dawned as light in this world and you illumined us from the darkness of our sin. Infinite God, you came into our finite existence, abundantly pouring out the gifts of the Holy Spirit on your creatures. Now and for all eternity you are extolled, most great God, with the Father and the most Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

A: **Amen.**

5. Scripture readings

R1: **This reading is from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Ephesians. (4:1-13)**

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one

another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

6. Responsorial Psalm (Ps 97)

The two sides of the assembly recite or chant verses of the psalm alternately, with all joining together in the response. As the psalm is being recited/chanted, candles are distributed to the people.

R: Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.

A: **Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.**

Side1: The Lord is king. Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

Side2: Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

A: **Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.**

Side1: Fire goes before him,
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

Side2: His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.

A: **Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.**

Side1: The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.

Side2: The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.

A: **Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.**

Side1: All servants of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;
all gods bow down before him.

Side2: Zion hears and is glad,
and the towns of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O God.

A: **Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.**

Side1: For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

Side2: You who love the Lord, hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

A: **Our eyes turn to you, O God of all. Have mercy on us and hear our prayers.**

Side1: Light dawns for the righteous
and joy for the upright in heart.

Side2: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

A: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

C/A (*chanted*) **Alleluia. Alleluia!**

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

R: **Alleluia. Rise to your feet.**

The Leader faces the people and may make the sign of the Cross, while saying:

L: Peace to all.

A: **And with your spirit.**

L: Listen attentively to the holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John. (12:31-36)

A: **Glory to you, Lord our God.**

R: Attention! God is speaking.

Jesus said to the crowd: 'Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

C/A: **Glory to you, our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon/Homily

7. Creed

L: Bathed in the light of the Wisdom of Christ,
together, let us confess our common faith.

A: **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us all, and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
On the third day he rose from the dead in accordance with the scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
Who, with the Father and the Son,
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the age to come. Amen.**

8. Intercessory Prayers

- L: Again, in peace, let us beseech the Lord.
Let us glorify Almighty God, who has shined his light upon his creatures. Now, may he once more shine his abundant mercy upon those who glorify his name in song. Almighty Lord our God, raise us to life and have mercy on us.
- A: **Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
- L: Gracious and almighty Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, you are the true Light, who cast out the darkness of sin, and shined into our hearts the joy and hope of your eternal Kingdom.
- A: **Lord, have mercy.**
- L: Loving Lord, accept the prayers of all your faithful children throughout the world, who call out to you with one mind, one voice, and one heart. Through your beloved disciple John, you

promised that if we walk in your light, then we will have communion with one another, and your precious blood will cleanse us of all sin. Bring us that blessed communion, O Saviour!

A: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Grant us peace, O Loving Lord, and remove the scourge of civil unrest and violence from the face of the earth. Change the hearts of all who make war and touch the wounds of all who are afflicted by war. Comfort all prisoners of war and speedily bring them home. Let the light of your love shine in all the dark places of our world and hasten the day when all peoples may dwell in peace with justice.

A: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: O Refuge and Shelter, Lord Jesus Christ, look with compassion on refugees throughout the world, who suffer the agony of displacement and the loss of their homes. Move us to manifest our communion with you, with them and with each other through gestures of hospitality and loving help.

A: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: O Christ, our Saviour, we pray for the people of Armenia and Artsakh, Russia and Ukrain, Iran, Pakistan, Israel, Sudan and Congo, and region inflicted with violence, who long ago turned to your light and peace.

A: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Shine the light of your righteousness and wisdom on all your creatures. Make us children of light and children of the day, so that we may always live our lives reverently, and become for all the world, worthy lampstands for your life-giving light.

A: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For you are our Saviour, and to you be glory, dominion and honour, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

A: **Amen.**

Hymn of Glory (*Any choice*)

9. The Lord's Prayer

L: Blessed is our Lord Jesus Christ.

A: **Amen.**

A: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

10. Benediction

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

A: **Amen.**

Day One.

Sunday, 17 May 2026

Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23; Mt 26:16-20

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord



One Action. A Global Catholic Response

Laudato Si' 213. *“Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, catechesis and elsewhere. I would stress the great importance of the family which is the place in which life, the gift of God, can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures. Integral education enables us to grow harmoniously in personal maturity.”*

Reflection

The Ascension proclaims restoration of hope for all creation in Christ Jesus. Today, in the Acts of the Apostles we learn that the ‘time for fulfilment has come’ and the ‘restoration of the kingdom’ will not be like we expect, but in recognizing the hope-filled restoration of all created things groaning for redemption in Christ (cf Rom 8:22). The ‘good news’ is that once we receive the Holy Spirit, we turn to be witnesses of divine hope for the hopeless and a voice for the voiceless. Our action is to set the downtrodden free, set free the environment enslaved to pollution and save the earth’s resources. In this hope-filled action, we make all creation realize that “I am with you always; yes, to end of time.”

This divine calling invites us to embody God’s values within the fellowship of believers. By aligning our conduct with this calling, we not only reflect Christ’s teachings but also contribute to the unity and growth of the Body of Christ. Recognizing and embracing this calling is essential for living out the true essence of Christian community and nurturing a harmonious, supportive fellowship.

A question to consider

How does reflecting on the “calling to which you have been called” as described in Ephesians 1:17-23 inspire you to actively contribute to unity within your local and wider church communities?

The power is not in perfection. The power is in participation.

Prayer for Families and Ecological Life

God our Father, give us the grace to know you more deeply, to love with all our being. Grant us a pure heart, to love our neighbor as Mary loves all her children. May the gift of your Holy Spirit enable us to see you present in our sisters and brothers. Let us, as families, be seeds and signs of hope in the world of nature. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Two

Monday, 18 May 2026

7th Week of Easter A

Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

Kingdoms of the earth, sing to God



Laudato Si' 231. "Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones. Social love is the key to authentic development and is part of our spirituality."

Reflection

In the Gospel passage there is the sudden realization, the disciples now believe that Jesus came from God. This is divine inspiration, calling us not merely to a personal journey but is vividly expressed in our interactions with others and the environment. This is a call to a new world where we see Jesus as the Messiah united to His Father and summoning all creation to redemption. It is this beatific vision that caused St Francis of Assisi to sing praises in the Canticle of Creation, in the realization that all this is made by God. Our Christian obligation compels us to resist the evil forces through love, promote peace over ego mercy over judgment and simplicity over prestige. Each individual person and family is called to be responsible for transforming communities and restoring life, creating a better world through love, justice and truth. During this Franciscan Jubilee, let us do so with hope and readiness for action.

A question to consider

How can the virtues of humility, honesty and tolerance, as indicated in Acts 19:1-8, help us recognize our blind spots in our relationship with other, creation and inspire believers to navigate and overcome divisions within our local Christian communities, inspiring collaborative action?

The power is not in perfection. The power is in participation.

Prayer for Families and Ecological Life

God of love, who inspires sustainable livelihood, instill in us the courage to look beyond ourselves. Let us, as families, be seeds and signs of hope and first fruits in the world. Open our hearts and eyes to recognize the valuable existence of every living creature, redeemed by the blood of Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Day Three

Tuesday, 19 May 2026

Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11

Eternal life is this, to know you, the only true God and Jesus whom you sent.



Laudato Si' 202 "Every act of cruelty towards any creature is 'contrary to human dignity'. We can hardly consider ourselves to be fully loving if we disregard any aspect of reality: 'Peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually without once again falling into reductionism'. Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth."

Reflection

Jesus's first section of his priestly prayer is for all creation, especially humankind, that upon recognizing the Son they may have eternal life. He prays that through humankind the universe may be saved. David sings of God's goodness toward humankind, that when '*people were starved, you gave them new life. It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.*' (Ps 68:10-11) Perhaps, like Paul, we have turned prisoners not in spirit, but in reality of destruction and devastation.

Peace is a crucial factor in maintaining unity within the Church. In the "bond of peace" (Eph 4:3) signifies a vital and active principle that not only connects but also sustains the unity of the Christian community. Christ, the Prince of Peace (cf. Isaiah 9:6), and St Paul preached peace, reconciliation and innocence in the face of witnessing to truth.

Peace fosters meaningful relationships, allowing believers to interact harmoniously and more readily forgive one another. Paul highlights the fact that innocence requires ongoing commitment to peace and truth. It calls for active cultivation and promotion of truth. We need to educate, advocate, campaign, be informed and reform our ways of focusing on the urgent actions required for change. We need to understand and know that our actions are what we hope for - a better life for all.

A question to consider

How does St Paul's teaching that innocence and peace as fruits of the Spirit impact our daily interactions and relationships within our communities, especially where there is injustice, cruelty and fear?

The power is not in perfection. The power is in participation.

Prayer for Families and Ecological Life

God our Father, as we long for a better life, let our eyes be wide open to the suffering in the world. Let us, as families, be seeds and signs of hope and first fruits in the world. As we travel through life, may we not engage in corrupt activities but be just people who seek your will in everything. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day Four

Wednesday 20 May 2026

Acts 20: 28-38; Jn 17:11-19

Father, keep them true to your name.



Laudato Si' 227 "One expression of the attitude of serene attentiveness to others and to everything is when we stop and give thanks to God before and after meals. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom. That moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation; it acknowledges those who by their labours provide us with these goods and it affirms our solidarity with those in greatest need.

Reflection

Wars, political intolerance, and violence through evil attitude or behavior have defamed and removed God's blessing completely from many hearts. St Paul addresses the elders of the church in Ephesus; *'Be on your guard for yourselves...lest fierce wolves invade you and have no mercy on the flock'*. Political ego, conflicts, greed for power and wealth have harmed many lives, damaged the environment and caused everyone to suffer, especially the vulnerable.

Jesus prays that we be protected from the evil one. Our shared hope in salvation through Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of this unity, drawing together diverse peoples into one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. As Christians, we are defined by this singular hope and the one Spirit through whom we are baptized and renewed. Our task is to ensure that this unity is not just a concept but a lived reality, reinforcing our shared mission and love for one another.

May we not turn evil upon one another and the environment. After the example of St Francis of Assisi, we are called to be different, have a conversion of heart, change our actions toward humanity and all creation. We must stop, think, pray and for a new world order where disunity is weakened, human values and the environment restored to their original dignity.

A question to consider

In what ways can we, as a church or community, embrace the challenge of our one calling, while maintaining our unique identity and traditions?

The power is not in perfection. The power is in participation.

Prayer for Families and Ecological Life

Gracious God, Spirit of Truth and Counsellor, you are the source of all love and goodness. Enable us to see the needs of others. Show us what we can do to bring about healing. Change us, so that we can love others as we love all of creation. Let us, as families, be seeds and signs of hope and first fruits in the world. Help us overcome the obstacles of division and injustice that we may build a just society, through Jesus who is Lord of all, yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

Day Five

Thursday, 21 May 2026

Acts 22: 30; 23:6-11; Jn 17: 20-26

One body and One in Spirit



Laudato Si' 221 God created the world, writing into it an order and dynamism that human beings have no right to ignore... How can we possibly mistreat them or cause them harm? I ask all Christians to recognize and to live fully this dimension of their conversion. In this way we will help to nurture that sublime fraternity with all creation which Saint Francis of Assisi so radiantly embodied. The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge. Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God's art.

Reflection

When Paul was brought before the council, he perceived that they were divided and stirred dissension among the Pharisees and Sadducees; “Brethren, I am Pharisee, a son of a Pharisee; with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead....” Jesus prays that all people of goodwill may become perfectly one, in him and with all creation. St Francis of Assisi recognize this and inspired action towards unity of creation in the Canticle of the Creatures.

As we approach Pentecost, may we be made one from every nation of men to live all over the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, in hope and that they might seek him and find him (cf. Acts 17:26). Baptism creates the collective identity of the Church since we are one in the Body of the Lord. This sacrament serves as a powerful reminder that, while members may come from varied backgrounds, their unity in faith and baptism transcends all divisions. By focusing on these unifying elements, the Church can celebrate its diversity while remaining steadfastly united. This challenges us to prioritize our shared identity in Christ over our differences, reinforcing the bond that unites all Christians.

It is this forgotten unity we must pray and seek, to re-inculcate the values of moral living and behavior. It is in the family that we can best recognize and treat each member with respect and dignity.

A question to consider

What collaborative initiatives can our various communities undertake to celebrate our shared faith in Jesus Christ and the unity established through baptism?

The power is not in perfection. The power is in participation.

Prayer for Families and Ecological Life

Lord God, who searches every human heart, your will is that we should be a family in creation. Lead us with your Spirit to recognize and respect the dignity of each human child and all the young of creation begotten by your Word. May we learn to always embrace the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi and Mary, Mother of Jesus, and in humility surrender in all things to your will. Let us, as families, rooted in faith and love, be seeds of hope, and signs of hope and first fruits in the world, Amen.

Day Six

Friday, 22 May 2026

Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19

Let the Holy Spirit take hold of everything



Laudato Si' 222 "Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. We need to take up an ancient lesson found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that less is more. A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment. Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little."

Reflection

The family constitutes the basic unit of every society. Families need to revive active participation in all efforts of uniting people and rehabilitating the environment. It is in the family where first the 'seeds of hope' needs to be sown and the journey 'from hope for action' will begin. Families rooted in the Scriptures are the hope of a society free of manipulation, suffering, consumerism and greed.

This foundational truth calls the Church to embody and live out unity, rooted in the shared belief in one true God who is the Father of all believers. "All" signifies that every person created in God's image falls under God's authority. Worshiping one God creates a strong bond of unity among Christians. Just as family members find common ground through their love for a parent, Christians are called to be united in their devotion to the same Father.

St Francis of Assisi attested to a revolution against social ills, like Paul, who attests that Jesus who was dead and now is alive, what is cast down has been restored, the outcast brought in, strangers find welcome. Jesus commands Peter to "*Feed my lambs, tend my sheep*", an action of love in the Holy Spirit. The family of the Church is the all-embracing vision of a Mother who tends and feeds the flock of God's creation. Laudato Si' encourages unity of all families to participate in "Care for our Common Home" as its title states.

A question to consider

In what ways can the image of God as the loving and caring Father of all be integrated into the mission and ministry of our different church communities so as to promote a more unified Christian witness in the world?

The power is not in perfection. The power is in participation.

Prayer for Families and Ecological Life

Blessed Trinity, Father and Spirit of love, in Jesus and Mary, you showed us the meaning of hospitality, recognizing the divine presence in all living creatures. Help us to become a family that welcomes those who feel abandoned and lost, building a home where all are welcome. Through Mary, may we come closer to one another and experience your unconditional love. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day Seven

Saturday, 23 May 2026

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

Earth is God's city



Laudato Si' 100 *“The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout creation by his universal Lordship...This leads us to direct our gaze to the end of time, when the Son will deliver all things to the Father, so that “God may be everything to everyone” (1 Cor 15:28). Thus, the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is mysteriously holding them to himself and directing them towards fullness as their end. The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.”*

Reflection

The wonder of creation bears the footprints of the God. St Francis of Assisi recognized this fact. But we find ourselves like Peter, turning and looking at others with the question; What about this man or woman? Yet, our mission is to take responsibility and make the world a better place for all. Like Paul, setting free the captives of mind and stereotype. St Francis, in the Canticle for Creation broke into song in recognition of the freedom of creation. Through faith, hope and love, we must resist allowing power, greed, pride, corruption and pollution to steal our joy of unity, causing many to suffer, hunger and thirst even for a drop of fresh water, and leading to permanent sorrow.

The churches and all local communities are diverse in their God-given unity, with grace given according to the gift of Christ building up God's kingdom. These spiritual gifts are granted by one Lord, in one baptism, for one purpose. Diversity in unity: this is the unique Christ-centered richness and power of the Church in the movement of the Holy Spirit.

We are heirs and coheirs with Christ in the responsibility over creation.

A question to consider

How will our relations change if we accept that diversity of gifts is not a reason for opposition and competition but for mutual strengthening and sharing?

The power is not in perfection. The power is in participation.

Prayer for Families and Ecological Life

God our father, who by sending into the world the Word of Truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us we pray that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of the eternal glory and adore Your unity, power and majesty through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. May the wondrous mystery of creation inspire us as families on our journey to become seeds of hope and signs of hope in your world. Amen.

Day Eight

Sunday, 24 May 2026

Solemnity of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11; Jn 20:19-23

Lord, send forth your Spirit and you shall renew the earth.



LS 241. “Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power.... She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart (cf. Lk 2:19,51) and now understands the meaning of all things.”

LS 238 “The Spirit, infinite bond of love, is intimately present at the very heart of the universe, inspiring and bringing new pathways. The world was created by the three Persons acting as a single divine principle, but each one of them performed this common work in accordance with his own personal property. Consequently, “when we contemplate with wonder the universe in all its grandeur and beauty, we must praise the whole Trinity”.

Reflection

On this feast day, let us acknowledge the role of Holy Spirit who helps us accept the Will of the Father, Mary; the spouse of the Holy Spirit, and St Francis of Assisi who responded to the inspiration.

The “full stature of Christ” is the goal of Christian maturity. It means becoming more like Jesus in every way: loving as he loves, serving as he serves, and reflecting his character. We are called to evaluate our spiritual journey, seeking unity with each other, growing in our knowledge of the Son of God, and striving for his fullness in us.

Let the various inspired songs and choruses to the Holy Spirit ring in our hearts, transforming us to a new creation in Christ, inspiring new paths of our commitment to unity with all creation. While we strive to change our behaviors towards others and the environment, like St Francis, we pray the prayer for peace:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is error, the truth;

where there is doubt, the faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.... (for the conversion of hearts to God, the Creator).