



# St Therese's & Our Lady of the Nativity Essendon & Essendon West Parishes



**31 August & 1 September 2024: 22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time**  
**Father's Day ~ Season of Creation ~ Child Protection Week**



**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8 A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.*

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

**Responsorial Psalm:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

## INTERCESSIONS

*Sisters and brothers, as we walk in the footsteps of Christ, let us bring our prayers before God.*

We pray that our Church will continue to carry the cross of responsibility and obligation to its people. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray that fathers will be supported by their communities and blessed by God for the love and care they give to their families.

We pray for all adults entrusted with the supervision and protection of children; may they always follow the example of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, by treating children and young people with proper respect and care.

We pray for our St Therese's and RE program students who will receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist next weekend. May they continue to find support within their families and our parish community along their faith journey

We pray, in this Season of Creation, for the success of the work of ecumenical and faith communities to promote global unity, to stir hope, and to restore Earth as a nurturing home to all its inhabitants.

We pray for those who are ill, especially: James Heath, Adelina Cuda, Victor Joseph, and Frances Ashby.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Peter O'Brien, Mary Liroso, Josephine Seddon, Antonio Tripodi and Mary Kearney. And for those we remember at this time, especially: Millie Nardella, Joseph Korytkowski, Helen Sully, Connie Sartorio, Sr Margaret Dwyer, Pasquale Cuda, Salvatore & Giuseppe Ganci and Paulo Garro.

*Merciful God, fill our hearts with your love. Give us grace to rise above human weakness, and keep us faithful to the Gospel of your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

**WHICH PRIEST WHERE?** This weekend Fr Tony will say all Masses at OLN while Fr Bernie says all Masses at St Therese's. Next weekend Fr John will be back to preside at all the Sacrament of First Eucharist Masses at St Therese's while Fr Tony presides at OLN.



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

**SEASON OF CREATION 2024** September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, opens the Season of Creation each year. Since adding this day to the Catholic liturgical calendar in 2015, Pope Francis has regularly issued an official message promoting the Season of Creation theme. Pope Francis’s Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation is, as it is each year, a contemplation on this year’s global ecumenical theme “To Hope and Act with Creation,” a theme drawn from St. Paul’s letter to the Romans 8:19-25.

This theme, he writes, is grounded on our faith, faith that comes from the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. The Spirit prompts us to live in authentic human ways, the ways revealed by Jesus, the creative and proactive ways of love that overcome all obstacles, even death. Christians are, then, to live lives of faith, active in charity and abounding in hope. We bear witness to that hope by caring for suffering humanity, nature itself, and our living environment, Earth.

We have a limited number of printed copies of Pope Francis’ message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on church entry tables. It is also attached to our online bulletin.

**WELCOME FIRST EUCHARIST CANDIDATES AND FAMILIES** We welcome our St Therese’s Year 4 students as well as our RE Programme participants who present themselves as candidates at St Therese’s Masses this weekend for next weekend’s Sacrament of First Eucharist to be held at all Masses at St Therese’s next weekend.

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM SPEAKING AT MASSES** We welcome members of the Parish Leadership Team to Masses this weekend to speak briefly about the proposal to officially amalgamate the parishes of Essendon and West Essendon.

**KIDS AT MASS THIS SATURDAY** Our Kids at Mass team will hold their September session this Saturday 31 August at St Therese’s 6:00pm Mass. All school-aged children are welcome to attend. The next KaM session will be Saturday 30 November after a break for school holidays and the Melbourne Cup long weekend.

**MEN’S CHOIR** We welcome our Men’s Choir to 9:00am Sunday Mass at St Therese’s this weekend at a special Father’s Day performance.

**SEPTEMBER PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES** The parish office will also close on the next two Mondays 2 & 9 September due to staff leave and will also close on Friday 29 September for the Grand Final public holiday.

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Next week a Liturgy of the Word with Communion will replace our usual 10:00am Tuesday morning Mass at St Therese’s. Masses on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings will be held at 10:00am at St Therese’s with Fr Bernie Lane SSC presiding on Wednesday and Friday and Fr Tom Cleary SSC presiding at our Thursday Masses.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK DURING FR JOHN’S LEAVE** While Fr John is away parish staff will try to assist with requests for anointing of the sick and dying in homes and aged care in our area but unfortunately it may not always be possible to find a priest. For patients in hospitals, families should contact the hospital chaplain or pastoral care service. There is no After-Hours message service while Fr John is away.

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS** Please be aware that our low gluten hosts are not 100% gluten free. The ingredients are wheat starch and water with a gluten content of 6.2 parts per million.

**VOLUNTEERING**

**SAFEGUARDING AUDIT AND UPDATE OF PARISH RECORDS** The Safeguarding Team are pleased to advise that we have completed our audit of parish Safeguarding records and are about to issue letters to those volunteers who need to take action. The letters will contain helpful information about the steps you need to take to become compliant. Please note, if you are fully compliant you won’t receive a letter. We send our grateful thanks to the many volunteers who have responded recently to our call to action and have now completed all their Safeguarding requirements.

**VOLUNTEERS** are the lifeblood of our parish communities. Volunteers help keep our parishes alive and we have a responsibility to also keep our parishes safe. Therefore, our volunteers must meet some requirements in order to keep participating and these are:

**ALL VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND CLERGY** in the Archdiocese of Melbourne must hold a current Working With Children Check and must list each parish in which they volunteer/work. Please add St Therese’s and/or OLN to your own WWCC check here: <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>.

All volunteers, staff and clergy must also complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification. For safeguarding training visit: [Click link here](#)

**CODE OF CONDUCT** The [Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct](#) must be read and signed upon commencement with the parish. Volunteers are required to re-sign the Code of Conduct every three years. We encourage volunteers to sign the Code of Conduct through the online [Safeguarding Essentials Training platform](#) This may be done without completing the training.

**MINISTRY ROSTER FOR WEEKEND 7 & 8 SEPTEMBER (WEEK 2)**

MASS	READERS	EUCHARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Jon Fleming	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Paula O’Byrne	Andrew Scaramozzino
St Therese’s 6.00pm	Eve Korytkowski	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St Therese’s 9.00am	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St Therese’s 10.30am	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt	Miriam Gandolfo & Maria Giampiccolo

Adults: <https://sundayreadingsathomeyearb.weebly.com/th4g0h3lw.html>  
 Children: <https://www.yearbprayingwithchildren.org/s4m3j310>



# Tiny Ts Playgroup

Hosted by parents from  
OLN & St Therese's Parishes

For children from infancy  
through to primary school age

Indoor and outdoor covered  
play areas - runs in all  
weather conditions



A great place to make new friends!

WHEN: Wednesday mornings during school terms

TIME: 9.30am - 10.30am

WHERE: St Therese's PACE Function Room

COST: Free of charge

See over for more details

# OLN & St Therese's MEN'S COFFEE GROUP

Upcoming Dates

4th & 18th September

2nd & 16th October

6th & 20th November

4th & 18th December

1st & 3rd  
Wednesdays  
each month  
from 10:45am  
Lincoln Food Store  
105 Lincoln Rd  
Essendon



2024

# SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER



Triune God, Creator of all,

We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

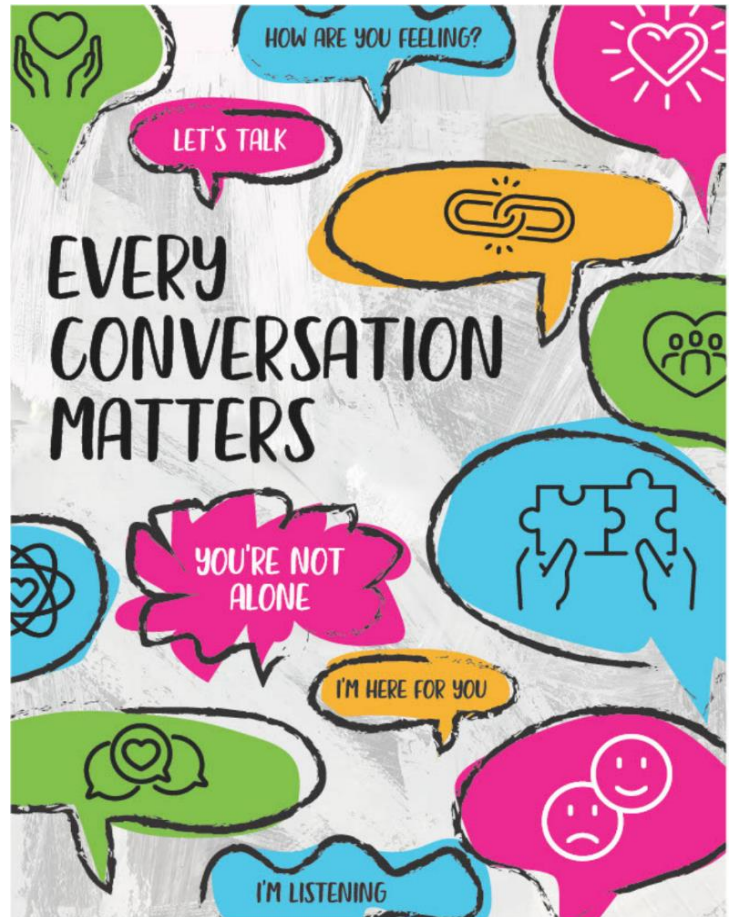
We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



NATIONAL CHILD  
PROTECTION WEEK

1-7 September 2024

NAPCAN PREVENT  
CHILD ABUSE  
& NEGLECT

www.napcan.org.au

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday 31 August	Kids at Mass at St Therese's	6:00pm
Sunday 1 September	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Season of Creation begins Father's Day Child Protection Week begins (1-7 September) Men's Choir singing at Mass at St Therese's Sacrament of First Eucharist RE session 3 in PACE	9:00am 9:30am
Monday 2 September	Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Ciavarella household	
Tuesday 3 September	Liturgy of the Word replaces morning Mass at St Therese's Rosary & Requiem Mass for Antonio Tripodi at St Therese's	10:00am 11:30am
Wednesday 4 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd)	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 5 September	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Weekend 7 & 8 September	Students present as candidates for Confirmation at OLN Sacrament of First Eucharist Masses at St Therese's	All Masses All Masses
Sunday 8 September	Safeguarding Sunday	
Monday 9 September	Parish office closed Statue of Our Lady moves to the Christie household Requiem Mass for Josephine Seddon at St Therese's	10:30am
Tuesday 10 September	Mass at Raelene Boyle Village	11:00am
Wednesday 11 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 12 September	R U OK? Day Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE Function Room Gospel reflections group in PACE meeting room	9:30am 10:30am
Friday 13 September	Whole School Mass at St Therese's (Season of Creation)	10:00am
Saturday 14 September	Information session on parish amalgamation at OLN	6:00pm
Sunday 15 September	CSSV - Social Services Sunday Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses at St Therese's Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass at OLN Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's Information session on parish amalgamation at St Ts Sacrament of Confirmation at OLN Sacrament of Confirmation at OLN	10:30am 11:30am 1:00pm 3:00pm
Monday 16 September	Statue of Our Lady moves to the D'Cruz household	
Wednesday 18 September	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store (105 Lincoln Rd)	9:00am 10:45am
Thursday 19 September	No Gospel Reflections Group Tiny Ts Playgroup in the Annex Anointing Mass at St Therese's Morning tea in PACE hosted by the SFG	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am

PARISH CONTACTS

**PARISH PRIEST** Fr John Hannon

**Office Telephone:** 9401 6330 **Office address:** 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

**Office hours:** Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

To subscribe to our newsletter go to:

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe>



**ST THERESE'S CHURCH**

48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

**Office email:** [essendon@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) **Website:** [www.stthereses.org.au](http://www.stthereses.org.au)

**Weekday Masses:** Tuesday to Friday 10:00am

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 9:00am, Sunday 10:30am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 5:45pm

**School:** email [info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au) phone 9374 6100

**OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH**

31 Fawkner St, Aberfeldie

**Office email:** [essendonwest@cam.org.au](mailto:essendonwest@cam.org.au) **Website:** <http://pol.org.au/essendonwest/Home.aspx>

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 10:00am

**School:** email [principal@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au) phone 9337 4204

**St Vincent de Paul helpline:** 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am-3:00pm

*Our Parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country of the land on which our churches stand and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.*



**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**

1st September 2024

***Hope and Act with Creation***

*Dear Brothers and Sisters!*

“Hope and Act with Creation” is the theme of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to be held on 1 September 2024. The theme is drawn from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans (8:19-25), where the Apostle explains what it means for us to live according to the Spirit and focuses on the sure hope of salvation that is born of faith, namely, newness of life in Christ.

1. Let us begin with a question, one perhaps without an immediately obvious answer. If we are truly believers, *how did we come to have faith?* It is not simply because we believe in something transcendent, beyond the power of reason, the unattainable mystery of a distant and remote God, invisible and unnameable. Rather, as Saint Paul tells us, it is because *the Holy Spirit dwells within us*. We are believers because the very love of God “has been poured into our hearts” ( *Rom 5:5*) and the Spirit is now truly “the pledge of our inheritance” ( *Eph 1:14*), constantly prompting us to strive for eternal goods, *according to the fullness of Jesus’ authentic humanity*. The Spirit enables believers to be creative and pro- active in charity. He sends us forth on a great journey of spiritual freedom, yet one that does not eliminate the tension between the Spirit’s way of thinking and that of the world, whose fruits are opposed to each other (cf. *Gal 5:16-17*). We know that the first fruit of the Spirit, which sums up all the others, is *love*. Led by the Holy Spirit, believers are children of God and can turn to him with the words “Abba, Father” ( *Rom 8:15*), just as Jesus did. Moreover, they can do so with the freedom of those who no longer fall back into the fear of death, for *Jesus has risen from the dead*. This is our great hope: God’s love has triumphed and continues to triumph over everything. Indeed, even in the face of physical death, future glory is already assured for those who live the new life of the Spirit. Nor does this hope disappoint, as was affirmed in the recent *Bull of Indiction* of the forthcoming Jubilee. [1]
2. The life of a Christian, then, is one of faith, active in charity and abounding in hope, as we await the Lord’s return in glory. We are not troubled by the “delay” of the Parousia, Christ’s second coming; for us the important question is whether, “when the Son of man comes, he will find faith on earth” ( *Lk 18:8*). Faith is a gift, the fruit of the Spirit’s presence in us, but it is also a task to be undertaken freely, in obedience to Jesus’ commandment of love. Such is the blessed hope to which we must bear witness. Yet where, when, and how are we to bear that witness? Surely *by caring for the flesh of suffering humanity*. As people who dare to dream, we must *dream with our eyes wide open*, impelled by a desire for love, fraternity, friendship and justice for all. *Christian salvation enters into the depths of the world’s suffering*, which embraces not only humanity but also the entire universe, nature itself, and the *oikos*,

the home and living environment of humanity. Salvation embraces creation as an "earthly paradise," mother earth, which is meant to be *a place of joy and a promise of happiness for all*. Our Christian optimism is founded on a living hope: it realizes that everything is ordered to the glory of God, to final consummation in his peace and to bodily resurrection in righteousness, as we pass "from glory to glory." Nonetheless, in the passage of time we are not exempt from pain and suffering: *the whole creation groans* (cf. *Rom 8:19-22*), we Christians groan (cf. vv. 23-25) and the Spirit himself groans (cf. vv. 26-27). *This groaning expresses apprehension and suffering, together with longing and desire*. It gives voice to our *trust in God* and our *reliance* on his loving yet demanding presence in our midst, as we look forward to the fulfilment of his plan, which is joy, love and peace in the Holy Spirit.

3. The whole of creation is caught up in this process of new birth and, in groaning, looks forward to its liberation. This entails an unseen and imperceptible process of growth, like that of "a mustard seed that becomes a great tree" or "leaven in the dough" (cf. *Mt 13:31-33*). The beginnings are tiny, but the expected results can prove to be infinite in their beauty. Similar to the anticipation of a birth – the revelation of the children of God – *hope* can be seen as *the possibility of remaining steadfast amid adversity*, of not losing heart in times of tribulation or in the face of human evil. Christian hope does not disappoint, nor does it deceive. The groaning of creation, of Christians and of the Spirit is the anticipation and expectation of a salvation already at work; all the same, we continue to find ourselves enduring what Saint Paul describes as "tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword" (*Rom 8:35*). Hope, then, is an alternative reading of history and human affairs. It is not illusory, but realistic, with the realism of a faith that sees what is unseen. This hope is *patient expectation, like that of Abraham*. I think of that great visionary believer, Joachim of Fiore, the Calabrian abbot who, in the words of Dante Alighieri, "was endowed with a spirit of prophecy". [2] At a time of violent conflicts between the Papacy and the Empire, the Crusades, the outbreak of heresies and growing worldliness in the Church, Joachim was able to propose the ideal of a *new spirit of coexistence* among people, based on universal fraternity and Christian peace, the fruit of a life lived in the spirit of the Gospel. I spoke of this spirit of social friendship and universal fraternity in *Fratelli Tutti*, but this harmony among men and women should also be extended to creation, in a "situated anthropocentrism" (*Laudate Deum*, 67) and in a sense of responsibility for *a humane and integral ecology*, the path to salvation for our common home and for us who inhabit it.
4. Why is there so much evil in the world? Why so much injustice, so many fratricidal wars that kill children, destroy cities, pollute the environment and leave mother earth violated and devastated? Implicitly evoking the sin of Adam, Saint Paul states: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now" (*Rom 8:22*). The moral struggles of Christians are linked to the "groaning" of creation, ever since the latter "was subjected to futility" (v. 20). The entire universe and every creature therein groans and yearns "impatiently" for its present condition to be overcome and its original state to be restored. Our liberation thus includes that of all other creatures who, in solidarity with the human condition, were placed under the yoke of slavery. Creation itself, like humanity, was enslaved, albeit through no fault of its own, and finds itself unable to fulfil the lasting meaning and purpose for which it was designed. It is subject to dissolution and death, aggravated by the human abuse of nature. At the same time, the salvation of humanity in Christ is a sure hope also for creation, for, "the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious

liberty of the children of God" (*Rom* 8:21). Consequently, *thanks to Christ's redemption, it is possible to contemplate in hope the bond of solidarity between human beings and all other creatures.*

5. In our hopeful and persevering expectation of the glorious return of Jesus, the Holy Spirit keeps us, the community of believers, vigilant; he continually guides us and calls us to conversion, to a change in lifestyle in order to resist the degradation of our environment and to engagement in that social critique which is above all a witness to the real possibility of change. This conversion entails leaving behind the arrogance of those who want to exercise dominion over others and nature itself, reducing the latter to an object to be manipulated, and instead embracing the humility of those who care for others and for all of creation. "When human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies" (*Laudate Deum*, 73), for Adam's sin has tainted our fundamental relationships, namely with God, with ourselves, with one another and with the universe. All these relationships need to be integrally restored, saved and "put right". None of them can be overlooked, for if even one is lacking, everything else fails.
6. To *hope and act with creation*, then, means above all to join forces and to walk together with all men and women of good will. In this way, we can help to rethink, "among other things, the question of human power, its meaning and its limits. Our power has frenetically increased in a few decades. We have made impressive and awesome technological advances, yet we have not realized that at the same time we have turned into highly dangerous beings, capable of threatening the lives of many beings and our own survival" (*Laudate Deum*, 28). Unchecked power creates monsters and then turns against us. Today, then, there is an urgent need to set ethical limits on the development of artificial intelligence, since its capacity for calculation and simulation could be used for domination over humanity and nature, instead of being harnessed for the service of peace and integral development (cf. Message for the World Day of Peace 2024).
7. "The Holy Spirit accompanies us at every moment of our lives". This was clearly understood by the boys and girls assembled in Saint Peter's Square for the first World Day of Children, which was held on Trinity Sunday. God is not an abstract notion of infinity, but the loving Father, the Son who is the friend and redeemer of every person, and the Holy Spirit who guides our steps on the path of charity. Obedience to the Spirit of love *radically changes the way we think*: from "predators", we become "tillers" of the garden. The earth is entrusted to our care, yet continues to belong to God (cf. *Lev* 25:23). This is the "theological anthropocentrism" that marks the Judeo-Christian tradition. To claim the right to possess and dominate nature, manipulating it at will, thus represents a form of idolatry, a Promethean version of man who, intoxicated by his technocratic power, arrogantly places the earth in a "dis-graced" condition, deprived of God's grace. Indeed, if the grace of God is Jesus, who died and rose again, then the words of Benedict XVI certainly ring true: "It is not science that redeems man: man is redeemed by love" (*Spe Salvi*, 26), the love of God in Christ, from which nothing and no one can ever separate us (cf. *Rom* 8:38-39). Creation, then, is not static or closed in on itself, but is continuously drawn towards its future. Today, thanks to the discoveries of contemporary physics, the link between matter and spirit presents itself in an ever more intriguing way to our understanding.
8. The protection of creation, then, is not only an ethical issue, but one that is eminently

*theological*, for it is the point where the mystery of man and the mystery of God intersect. *This intersection can be called "creative"*, since it originates in the act of love by which God created human beings in Christ. That creative act of God enables and grounds the freedom and morality of all human activity. We are free precisely because we were created *in the image of God who is Jesus Christ*, and, as a result, are "representatives" of creation in Christ himself. A transcendent (theological-ethical) motivation commits Christians to promoting justice and peace in the world, not least through the universal destination of goods. It is a matter of *the revelation of the children of God that creation awaits, groaning as in the pangs of childbirth*. At stake is not only our earthly life in history, but also, and above all, our future in eternity, the *eschaton* of our blessedness, the paradise of our peace, in *Christ, the Lord of the cosmos, crucified and risen out of love*.

9. To hope and act with creation, then, means to live an incarnational faith, one that can enter into the suffering and hope-filled "flesh" of others, by sharing in the expectation of the bodily resurrection to which believers are predestined in Christ the Lord. In Jesus, the eternal Son who took on human flesh, *we are truly children of the Father*. Through faith and baptism, our life in the Spirit begins (cf. *Rom 8:2*), *a holy life, lived as children of the Father*, like Jesus (cf. *Rom 8:14-17*), since by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in us (cf. *Gal 2:20*). In this way, our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness. [3]

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 27 June 2024*

FRANCIS

[1] Cf. Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 *Spes Non Confundit* (9 May 2024).

[2] *The Divine Comedy, Paradiso, Canto XII, 141*.

[3] The Rosminian priest Clemente Reborja expressed this poetically: "As creation ascends in Christ to the Father, all in a mysterious way become the travail of birth. How much dying is required if life is to be born! Yet from one Mother alone, who is divine, we come happily into the light. We are born to a life that love brings forth in tears. Its yearning, here below, is poetry; but holiness alone can finish the song" ( *Curriculum vitae*, "Poesia e santità": *Poesie, prose e traduzioni*, Milan 2015, p. 297).

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***St Columba's College***

***Spring Music  
Concert***



***Thursday 5 September***



***6.30pm***



***The Clocktower Centre***

***Tickets : [clocktowercentre.com.au](http://clocktowercentre.com.au)  
or call 9243 9191***