



CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT OF NIGERIA

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A REMINDER:

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

1. On 1 September, the Universal Church will observe the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This year's celebration is marked by the introduction of a new Mass, approved by the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, on the Solemnity of Pentecost, 8 June 2025, and formally presented on 2 July 2025, the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. It stands as a powerful liturgical response to the ecological crisis we face today.
2. In union with the Universal Church, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), has requested that, beginning from this year, this Mass be celebrated every 1 September in all parishes and institutions in Nigeria. All Catholics are urged to take part in this Mass. The vestment colour for this Mass is green, and the prayers and readings are provided on pages 2 and 3, respectively.
3. Other than the Mass, parishes and institutions are encouraged to organise educational programmes on *Laudato Si'* alongside concrete initiatives such as tree planting, clean-up exercises, and campaigns on waste reduction. These efforts should lead to lasting renewal expressed in daily habits of caring for our surroundings, conserving resources, reducing waste, and showing solidarity with the poor who suffer most from environmental neglect.

May Mary, Queen of Creation, intercede for us as we strive to be faithful guardians of God's gifts.



Rev. Fr. Michael A. Banjo
Secretary General

MASS FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 18(19): 2

The heavens declare the Glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.

Collect

God our Father,
who in Christ, the firstborn of all creation,
called all things into being,
grant, we pray, that docile to the life-giving breath of your Spirit, we may lovingly care for
the work of your hands.
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.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Father,
these fruits of the earth and of our hands:
bring to completion in them the work of your creation,
so that, transformed by the Holy Spirit,
they may be for us the food and drink of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

cf. Ps 97: 3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Prayer after Communion

May the sacrament of unity
which we have received, O Father,
increase communion with you and with our brothers and sisters,
so that, as we await the new heavens and the new earth,
we may learn to live in harmony with all creatures.
Through Christ our Lord.

READINGS

FIRST READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Wisdom 13:1-9

"For if they were able to know so much about the world, how did they not more quickly find the Lord of it?"

All people are vain by nature...

SECOND READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Colossians 1:15-20

"All things were created through him and for him."

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God...

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalm 18:2-3, 4-5

Response: "The heavens declare the glory of God."

Psalm 103:1-2a, 5-6, 10-12, 24, 35c

Response: "May the Lord rejoice in his works."

ALLELUIA

Psalm 104:24

"How manifold are your works, O Lord! You have made all things in wisdom."

1 Chronicles 29:11d, 12b

"Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you rule over all."

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:24-34

"Do not worry about tomorrow."

In that time, Jesus said to his disciples...

"No one can serve two masters."

OR (alternative Gospel reading)

Matthew 8:23-27

"Rising, he rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."

In that time, as Jesus boarded the boat...