



SEASON OF CREATION: WEEK 3



The Burning Bush Ex 3:1-12

Listen to the Voice of Creation SEASON OF CREATION 2022

*"I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings...
Come, now! I will send you...I will be with you"
(Ex 3: 1-12)*

Invitation to join the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment. It is an annual ecumenical season where we pray and act together as a Christian family for our common home.

May this 2022 Season of Creation renew our ecumenical unity, renewing and uniting us by our bond of Peace in one Spirit. And may this season of prayer and action be a time to Listen to the Voice of Creation, so that our lives in words and deeds proclaim good news for all the Earth.

*In God's grace,
Members of the Season of Creation Advisory Committee*

Laudato Si

#40 Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet's water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of them still unknown to us and threatened for various reasons.

What is more, marine life in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, which feeds a great part of the world's population, is affected by uncontrolled fishing, leading to a drastic depletion of certain species.

#41 "Who turned the wonderworld of the seas into underwater cemeteries bereft of colour and life?"[25] This phenomenon is due largely to pollution which reaches the sea as the result of deforestation, agricultural monocultures, industrial waste and destructive fishing methods, especially those using cyanide and dynamite. It is aggravated by the rise in temperature of the oceans. All of this helps us to see that every intervention in nature can have consequences which are not immediately evident, and that certain ways of exploiting resources prove costly in terms of degradation which ultimately reaches the ocean bed itself.

*"The Spirit of God was hovering over the
face of the waters."
(Genesis 1:2)*





Ocean Sunday

Peter Clarke (St Peter & Paul's Catholic Parish, Kiama and ARRCC - The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change)

Wisdom (Sophia) teaches that what God has gathered up in Christ Jesus, we humans should make healthy, free from toxins, cleaned of trash, and restored to abundance. (Leah Schade) Our species are caretakers of Creation, not simply beneficiaries.

"Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep and God's spirit hovered over the water." (Gen 1:1-2) Both our creation stories and those of First Nations see the importance of the Oceans. First Nations have many stories of sea level rise similar to stories of Noah's flood. From space earth is not a green planet; but a blue planet. 70% of the surface is water.

In this water, fed by the elements drawn from stardust, life began, created first as simple cells, then as single celled algae then, less than a billion years ago as seaweeds and then complex animals. From this, the sea produced and still produces the oxygen we need. From evolution we inherited many genes that make us what we are. The oceans hide the tallest mountains and deepest valleys on earth. In their shallow waters they hide the coral reefs and wetlands that breed some of our food. They provide the water cycle that keeps us, who are more than 50% water, alive.

But the water developed the great carboniferous forests that formed coal and micro species forming the oil and gas reserves.

We, as a species, used these materials to develop our advanced lifestyle. We powered our industrial revolution, developed organic chemistry that produced advanced pharmaceuticals, and developed plastics and fertilizers. All this before we became aware of the consequences of these developments.

Now we know that our sewerage and drainage systems pollute the oceans. Our dependence on plastics means that geologists and anthropologists identify our era in sedimentary layers in the oceans by plastic debris. Our use of fossil fuels has raised global temperatures. Most of this heat is stored in the oceans. Because of ocean warming and the melting of land-based glaciers, ocean levels are rising. Our Pacific Island neighbours and low-lying coastal land will be inundated. Storm surge will be worse. Heated oceans put more water into the atmosphere, drastically increasing the violence of storms and the amount of rainfall. And the warming of the oceans kills the coral reefs, destroying the nursery of fish stocks.

In this Season of Creation, we are called to be Caretakers of creation:

- Try to develop a lifetime habit that helps protect our oceans. Be careful of what you dispose of in the sewer. Avoid single use plastics.
- Move away from fossil fuels. Support the development of renewables. Support First Nations people fighting the development of fossil fuel sources on their land.
- Support Australia's increased aid to Pacific Island nations affected by sea level rise. Consider the policies of the parties you vote for.
- Join in the Incarnation of Christ in Creation.

Prayer for Our Oceans Celebrating our Connectedness with Earth

Mercy International Association

We pray that all people feel called to discern their role in protecting our oceans and hope that each of us feels a renewed sense of connectedness with the ocean and its many gifts to us:

May You cast all our transgressions into the depths of the sea.

We pray for the more than 3 billion people whose livelihood depends on the health of our oceans, those who fish the waters for food and nutrients, and those whose culture and spirituality are entwined with the ocean and its mysteries:

May You cast all our transgressions into the depths of the sea.

We pray for small island nations and those most impacted by humanity's destructive processes that rob the ocean of its natural

ability to regulate. We pray for courage as the oceans rise and people suffer.

May You cast all our transgressions into the depths of the sea.

May the love of God be as deep as the ocean floor, as sweeping as the currents, and as soothing as the waves crashing on the shore. Creator of mysteries, help each of us be stewards of the ocean. Stir our spirits with wonder and amazement knowing that Your love for us extends even beyond the horizon of the open sea. We rejoice in the living waters of the ocean and tread lightly on Your shores, hoping to leave this miraculous creation a mystery to behold for all future generations. **Amen.**