

## The Catholic Parish of Godalming

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**From:** St Edmund's livesimply group <godalming@abdiocese.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 31 August 2023 16:27  
**To:** The Catholic Parish of Godalming  
**Subject:** Let Justice and Peace flow



Dear Parish,



The Season of Creation begins with the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation** on 1st September and runs until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October. This year the theme is '**Let Justice and Peace Flow**', inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: *"Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream"* (5:24).

In [Pope Francis' special message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#), he asks: 'How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We must do this by resolving to transform our **hearts**, our **lifestyles**, and the **public policies** ruling our societies'.

*'During this Season of Creation, let us dwell on... the heartbeat of creation and the heartbeat of God. Today they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonized in justice and peace. Too many of our brothers and sisters are*

*prevented from drinking from that mighty river. Let us heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation'.*

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## **Thanksgiving for Creation 23rd and 24th September**

The Season of Creation is a liturgical season dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today.

At our parish Masses over the weekend of 23 and 24 September we will give thanks for Creation.

Please think about what aspect of Creation you would like to thank God for and bring to Mass a photo, picture or example e.g., plant/ flower to create a display which can be part of the Offertory procession. Here are a couple of ideas...



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**STOP PRESS: Pope Francis is writing a second part to his encyclical *Laudato si'*** The encyclical was first published in May 2015; according to the Director of the Holy See Press Office the updated text will highlight the recent climate crises - the extreme weather events and catastrophes affecting people across five continents. You can read the full text of the *Laudato si'* encyclical [here](#)

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## Reflections and prayers for the Season of Creation

*'Let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to "renew the face of the earth" (cf. Ps 104:30)'*

*...let us join the mighty river by transforming **our hearts**  
...let us add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming **our lifestyles**  
...for the mighty river to continue flowing, we must transform the **public policies** that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people  
today and tomorrow*

*[from Pope Francis' message on World Day of Prayer for Creation]*

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## Live Simply Action in the parish - update

### Mary's Meals Foreign Currency Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has supported this. We have had a fabulous response and have packaged up several heavyweight parcels of foreign currency and will shortly despatch these to the warehouse where the value will be calculated and converted to a cash donation to the Mary's Meals charity. We will let the parish know how much money has been raised. As an FYI it costs £19.15 to feed one child with Mary's Meals for a school year. There is more information about the charity [here](#)

### Parish screenings of 'The Letter' - climate crisis film

We are arranging viewings of this powerful film during the Season of Creation, most likely on Sunday 1st October and Tuesday 4th October. The exact times and dates will be in the parish newsletter. If you aren't able to get to a viewing you can watch the film online at: <https://www.theletterfilm.org/>

### Kasanka Fundraising

We are delighted that £1,993 has been transferred to the FMDM for the Kasanka irrigation project. The funds will improve the farm in Kasanka village, which plays a crucial role in providing nutritious food to children in a

malnourished area . Thank you to everyone who made donations and contributed to the parish plant and cake sales.

### **CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day**

This year CAFOD Harvest fast day is on Friday 6th October.

### **Our annual parish quiz in aid of CAFOD**

This takes place on Saturday 14th October at St John's 7-10pm. Places are limited (7 teams of 8) so put the date in your diary and get your team organised!

### **Supporting the local Foodbanks**

If you have surplus fresh produce – fruit, veg, eggs, bread – you can drop off at the Godalming Community Store foodbank in Farncombe (which is in the grounds of Farncombe Cricket Club, Summers Rd, GU7 3BE) and leave it on the open shelves by the door.

Both foodbanks welcome financial donations and there is more information on how to donate on their websites.

For donations through the parish there are boxes at St Joseph's and St Edmund's; and collection points at local supermarkets.

The checklist for urgently needed items for St Mark's foodbank is [here](#) and for the Godalming Community Store [here](#).

### **EdsKnitters - knitting for charity**

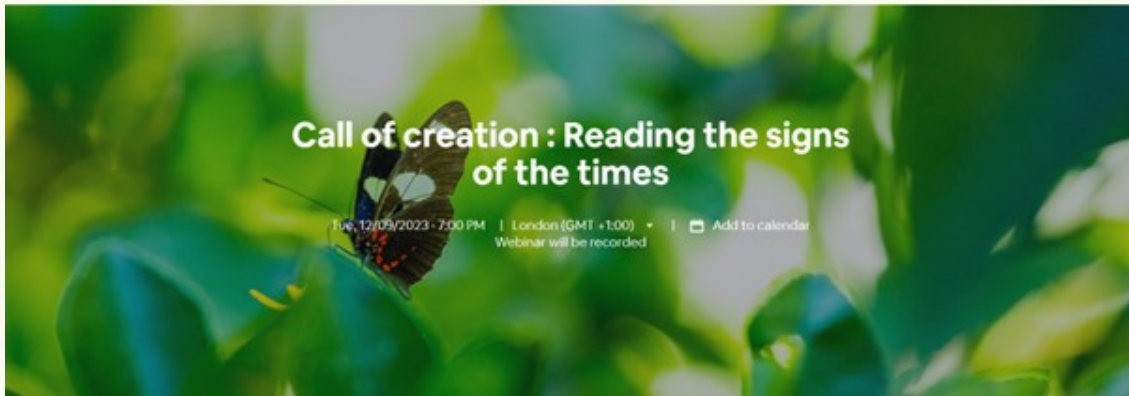
The group is knitting 'Twiddlemuffs' at the moment which are needed on the dementia ward at the Royal Surrey. If you enjoy knitting or crochet and would like to join the group please get in touch with Sarah:

[godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)



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**Action for Social and Environmental Justice**



Invitation to join a Webinar - **'Call of creation: Reading the signs of the times'** - on 12 September, 7-8pm, hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD and St. Mary's University in conversation with Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji and Sr Margaret Atkins. CAFOD's Director Christine Allen will host along with Bishop John Arnold, the lead Bishop on Environmental issues for the CBCEW and Bishop of Salford. To register for this webinar click [here](#)

**Laudate Si': Politics, Theology and Beyond** This is a five week online course on Tuesdays from 12pm-1pm, starting on 26 September at the London Jesuit Centre. For more information and to register click [here](#)

**Laudate Si' retreat weekend at Franciscan Retreat Centre, Godalming** - 'For we know that things can change' (LS, 13) – A Faith Community Response to the Ecological Crisis, 20th to 22nd October, with Jane Mallett - who works with the Laudato Si' Movement and is a qualified spiritual director. Click [here](#) for more info.

**COP28 summit in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December** *'The world leaders who will gather for the COP28 summit in Dubai...must listen to science and institute a rapid and equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuel. According to the commitments undertaken in the Paris Agreement to restrain global warming, it is absurd to permit the continued exploration and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructures. Let us raise our voices to halt this injustice towards the poor and towards our children, who will bear the worst effects of climate change. I appeal to all people of good will to act in conformity with these perspectives on society and nature.'*

[Pope Francis, message on World day of prayer for care of creation]

## Prayer for the Season of Creation

Our Loving God, you alone judge rightly and search the depths of the human heart. You alone offer the grace and courage to transform our lives and renew Earth. Make us quick to do your will, slow to judge our neighbour, and eager to care for your creation with wisdom, compassion, and love. Grant that we may walk with those who follow the nonviolent way of repentance and faithfulness in caring for the family of creation and Earth, our common home. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Conscious of God's mercy, patience, compassion, and call, let's enter into the quiet of our spirits...asking for forgiveness, protection from the crises of this time, grace to see and understand God's ways for us, and the courage and commitment to choose and live in those ways...

[From 2023 Season of Creation Catholic Liturgical Guide]

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## Recycle Reduce Reuse - tips for taking action!

**NEWS! The Repair Cafe is now in the Borough Hall.** Every 4th Saturday from 10am to 12.30pm.

**Don't 'wishcycle'** Don't try to recycle items that can't be processed and which contaminate the recycling chain. Common mistakes are: soft plastic bags, toothpaste tubes, crisp packets, wet cardboard, and dirty takeaway boxes. These items should go into general waste.

**Take your soft plastics to supermarket collection points** (for example at Sainsburys, or Co-op). All plastics which don't scrunch like foil and paper (ie if it

bounces back after you scrunch it) can be recycled this way, so don't be tempted to put them in your general rubbish bin! Soft plastics include cellophane, all light plastic packaging, bubble wrap, crisp and biscuit wrappers. If you're recycling your soft plastics you should find your blue bin is full and your black bin almost empty!

**Biodegradable cleaning products** - use plant-based cleaning products and remember standard bleaches etc contain chemicals which contribute to the runoff in rivers/seas, which destroy natural ecosystems.

**Recycling foil** – collect up small bits of foil (eg milk bottle tops) and squash them into a tennis ball size of foil, as small bits slip through the conveyor belt at recycling centres.

**Use your food caddy!** Unwanted food waste is recycled to create bio-fertiliser and biogas, used to generate electricity, heat and transport fuel.

**Keep recycling** - it costs less money to recycle than it does to send rubbish for disposal, so recycling is good for the environment and for our pockets!

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### **Would you like to join our Live Simply group?**

We are very keen for new members to join us! If you might be interested you can find out more on Sunday 10th September between 2.30pm and 4.30pm when we are getting together for discussion with tea and cake. Please speak to Jo or email her: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

We are delighted to have helped with the setting up of a **new Live Simply group in the Haslemere parish**. The group launched in June and they are currently working on a community garden behind the church of Our Lady of Lourdes. Congratulations to the Haslemere Live Simply team.

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# Ten More Steps to

Here are the latest 'Steps' from Ian:

## **Step 6. Enjoy people and get involved!**

Arrange to do things with other people...and be friendly – don't wait for others to be friendly, show them how! Get involved in parish groups; for example, why not sign up to our new Parish Community Groups? Helping others feels good. ...It creates a sense of belonging and reduces isolation...It helps to keep things in perspective... It's good for your mental health...It helps to make the world a happier place – one act of kindness can often lead to more! ...The more you do for others, the more you do for yourself.

## **Step 7. Simplify your goals**

Have one or two goals at a time and ideally focus on one goal to completion. This builds confidence and utilises the power of focus to speed up results. If that's not possible, or you have very long- term projects, then try to keep it to two, at most three, goals at one time. And donate or pass on the things that don't support the goals in your life.

## **Step 8. Put your past in order and declutter**

Have a good sort out or spring clean. Get your photos into albums or photo books. Store only your most wonderful letters. Display your favourite item from late Aunt Dolly's house and let go of the rest. Putting your past in order is very freeing. It can help you to accept what is gone is gone.

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### **St. Francis of Assisi: You are holy, Lord**

You are the holy Lord God,  
Who does wonderful things.  
You are strong. You are great.



You are the most high.  
You are the almighty king.  
You holy Father, King of heaven and earth.  
You are three and one, the Lord God of gods;  
You are the good, all good, the highest good,  
Lord God living and true.

You are love, charity; You are wisdom,  
You are humility, You are patience. You are beauty,  
You are meekness, You are security, You are rest,  
You are gladness and joy, You are our hope,  
You are justice, you are moderation,  
You are all our riches to sufficiency.

You are beauty, You are meekness, You  
are the protector, You are our guardian and defender,  
You are strength, You are refreshment, You are our hope, You are our  
faith, You are our charity, You are all our sweetness, You are our eternal  
life:

Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Saviour.

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

[as displayed at the recent exhibition at the National Gallery]

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If you would like to join our next Live Simply meeting,  
please email Jo: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

**Thank you for your support**  
**The Live Simply team**



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