

Season of Creation

1st September - 4th October



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



CARITAS
DIOCESE OF
BRENTWOOD

1st September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

God of creation,
who loves all he has made and all that has evolved,
open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected
in our care for the planet.
Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth
and calls us by name. Amen.



2nd September



If we approach nature and the environment without openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously.

(Laudato Si 11- Pope Francis)



3rd September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

The God who created the universe out of nothing can also intervene
in this world and overcome every form of evil. Injustice is not invincible.

(Laudato Si 74 - Pope Francis)



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4th September



There is a growing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing, for what is happening to our planet... Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it. (Laudato Si 19 - Pope Francis)



5th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Lord Jesus,
the earth is yours and you have commanded the winds
and the sea; help us to leave behind our consumer demanding lifestyle
and move towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy;
help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love.
Amen.



6th September

CHANGING HABITS DAY BY DAY

Season of Creation



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Going for a walk with a friend.
It's a great way to take in the beauty
of creation on our doorsteps.

*SUGGESTION:
TO TAKE A WALK SOMEWHERE LOCAL IN
NATURE AND CAPTURE AN IMAGE TO SHARE
ON SOCIAL MEDIA OF GOD IN CREATION*



7th September

When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This... has engendered immense inequality, injustice, and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the firstcomer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity, and peace as proposed by Jesus.

Laudato Si 82 Pope Francis



8th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

We do not have much time, according to scientific evidence, I extend an invitation to undertake a 'journey' together. The journey, is one of 'transformation and action'. Its objective, is to build within the next decade 'a world capable of responding to present generations, inclusive of everyone, without compromising the possibilities of future generations'

Pope Francis, Vatican News 11th October 2020



9th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

'Nature is a constant source of wonder & awe.
It is also a continuing revelation of the divine'
(Laudato Si 85- Pope Francis)



10th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

‘We are part of nature, included in it and
thus in constant interaction with it.’
(Laudato Si 139 - Pope Francis)



11th September



This is not just another environmental campaign; it is an integral part of our faith. In making your personal pledges - in working to heal the planet, and in striving for justice for the poorest people in the world, you are a living witness to Jesus Christ: do not be afraid to tell people why you are doing whatever you choose to do.

Bishop Alan Williams



12th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.

(Laudato Si 84 - Pope Francis)



13th September

CHANGING HABITS DAY BY DAY

Season of
Creation



**So much of our food is high in air miles.
This is having a knock on effect to our
world and the climate. We have a huge
wealth of local produce on our doorsteps.**

SUGGESTION:

*SHARE A MEAL USING ONLY LOCALLY SOURCED
AND SEASONAL FOODS THIS WEEK
WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY.*



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



CARITAS
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14th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Creator God, We acknowledge that as your handiwork, we stand alongside all that you have made. Trees and rivers, mountains and valleys, soaring birds and creatures that crawl, all are held within your care.

May we grow in our love and appreciation for the variety around us; and may our awe and wonder draw us closer to the natural world, and through it to you, the God of all things. Amen



CARITAS
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15th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others...
the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.
(Laudato Si 159 - Pope Francis)





A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Simplicity is not a superficial reduction of stuff,
but what Pope Francis calls “an attitude of the heart
(Laudato Si 226 - Pope Francis)



17th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Everlasting God, whose Spirit broods everlastingly over the lands and the waters, and endows them with form and colour: give us, we pray, the mind and heart to rejoice in the majesty of creation. Teach us to be responsible stewards of this world and to seek the common good, that through your blessing all may flourish, and creation sing your praise. Amen



CARITAS
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BRENTWOOD

18th September

CHANGING HABITS DAY BY DAY

Season of
Creation



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



How we choose to bank impacts our common home. Using banks that are ethical help to support those most in need and shift the balance of power.

QUESTION:

*WHO DO I TRUST WITH MY MONEY?
WHAT REPUTATION DOES MY BANK HAVE?
PERHAPS EXPLORE THESE QUESTIONS TO HELP
YOU MAKE SOME INFORMED CHOICES.*





Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship.

An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.

(Laudato Si 230 - Pope Francis)



20th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Quoting Saint John Paul II: Christians in their turn “realise that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith.

(Laudato Si 64 - Pope Francis).



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21st September

CHANGING HABITS DAY BY DAY

Season of
Creation



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



How we choose to bank impacts our common home. Using banks that are ethical help to support those most in need and shift the balance of power.

QUESTION:

WHAT ARE YOU ALREADY DOING?
WHAT COULD YOU ADD TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD
ROUTINE TO FURTHER LESSEN YOUR
ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT?



22nd September



What kind of world do we want to leave to those
who come after us, to children who are now growing up?
(Laudato Si 160 - Pope Francis)



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



23rd September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs
which only diminish us, and being open to the
many different possibilities which life can offer.

(Laudato Si 223 - Pope Francis)



24th September



The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion...
Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential
to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect
of our Christian experience.
(Laudato Si 217 - Pope Francis)



Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 1: Thankyou for the Sun

“We praise you, Lord, for all your creatures, especially for Brother Sun, who is the day through whom you give us light.” (St Francis of Assisi)

“I dream that this Amazon, so beautiful and diverse, a gift from God, this earth which gives life, our life, our mother, is not transformed into a desert.”
(Fr. Henri de Roziers, Pastoral Land Commission, Brazil)

Creator God,
We are nourished by your radiance.
Forgive us for the harm we cause your earth,
the heat and drought unleashed by climate change.

St Francis, you loved our sacred world, you praised God ceaselessly for his dazzling creation. May we learn from your example.

St Francis, pray for us.

25th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 2: Thankyou for the night sky

“We praise you, Lord, for Sister Moon and the Stars,
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.”
(St Francis of Assisi)

“We want the forest to remain quiet, the sky to remain clear,
the evening darkness to really fall and for the stars to be seen.”
(Davi Kopenawa, spokesperson for the Yanomami people of Brazil)

Creator God, your night sky offers rest and stillness,
yet we flood our cities with light.
Forgive us for our wasteful ways.

Brother Francis, you chose poverty not plenty,
walking lightly on the earth.
May we follow in your path and reduce the trace we leave.

St Francis, pray for us.

26th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 3: Thankyou for Wind and air

“We praise you, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air,
fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which you cherish all that you have made.” (St Francis of Assisi)

“We ourselves are water, air, earth and life of this environment
created by God.”
(Guaviare people, Colombia)

Creator God,
we have disturbed the natural cycle, upset Earth's fragile balance.
Forgive us for our lack of care.

St Francis, joyful steward of creation,
you lived in peace with nature and with God.
Inspired by your witness, may we defend our common home.

St Francis, pray for us.

27th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 4: Thankyou for Water

“We praise you, Lord, for Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious and pure.” (St Francis of Assisi)

“Now they even want to take our rivers, which have been ours forever.”
(Rusbel Castornoque, Kukama people, Peruvian Amazon)

Creator God, from your gift of water flows all life,
yet we pollute your clear springs. Forgive us, as the earth cries out.

St Francis, you drank deeply
from Christ’s living water.
May we, like you, live simply and prize the good things of the earth.

St Francis, pray for us.



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 5: Thankyou for Fire

“We praise you, Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom you light the night. He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.”
(St Francis of Assisi)

“The gift we have received is a fire,
a burning love for God and for our brothers and sisters.”
(Pope Francis, homily, 6 October 2019)

Creator God, your flames blaze yet leave us whole.
But our fires destroy at reckless speed;
great forests fall beneath our feet. Forgive us for our part in this.

St Francis, you loved wild places, the trees, and all their birds within.
May we protect each blade of grass,
be mindful of each breath of air.

St Francis, pray for us.

29th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 6: Thankyou for the Earth

“We praise you, Lord, for Sister Earth,
who sustains us with her fruits, coloured flowers, and herbs.”
(St Francis of Assisi)

“There will be a point when we will not have this richness.
And then what will we do?”
(Yésica Patiachi Tayori, Harakbut indigenous people, Peru)

Creator God,
we grieve for our Amazon sisters and brothers
whose lands are wrecked by greed.
We take more from the earth than we need. Forgive us.

St Francis, joyful steward of creation,
from you we learn to live with less, to give and not to take.

St Francis, pray for us.

30th September



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24



Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 7: We pray for those who suffer

“We praise you, Lord, for those who pardon for love of you,
who bear sickness and trial.”

(St Francis of Assisi)

“I speak for my brothers and sisters who are threatened, assassinated,
who do not hold the rights to their land...

How long must we wait for a reply?”

(Rosildo da Silva, Jaminawa Arará people, Brazil)

Creator God, open our hearts to the sufferings of the landless poor
who endure violence and threat. Forgive us for the sin of indifference.

St Francis,
you were jailed and beaten, brother to the outcast.
May your compassion be our guide.

St Francis, pray for us.

1st October



A Mighty River
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Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 8: We pray for Peace

“Blessed are those who endure in peace,
by you Most High, they will be crowned.”
(St Francis of Assisi)

“We want to support a culture of peace and respect -
not violence and violation.”
(Final document, Amazon Synod, 2019)

Creator God, we give you thanks
for those who work for peace
and dignity for all your children.

Brother Francis,
you came to heal, not harm the world.
You showed us how to live as one.

St Francis, pray for us.

2nd October



A Mighty River
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Novena to St Francis

For a world under threat

Day 9: We pray for Creation

“Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
all praise is yours, all glory, honour and blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong.”
(St Francis of Assisi)

“Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this
planet never take away the joy of our hope.”
(Pope Francis, Laudato Si’)

Creator God we praise your world and look with awe on all that is.
May we commit to heal the earth and share your
gifts in faith and trust.

Brother Francis, in purity of heart you gazed upon the world with love.
We ask you joyfully to intercede for us,
As guardians of our common home.

St Francis, pray for us.

3rd October



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4th October

Feast of St Francis of Assisi

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; 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.**



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