

## **Season of Creation week four We were made for love**

### **Passages from Laudato Si**

# 58 For all our limitations, gestures of generosity, solidarity and care cannot but well up within us, since we were made for love.

# 160 What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn.

# 217 What [Christians] need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them.

# 226 We are speaking of an attitude of the heart, one which approaches life with serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next, which accepts each moment as a gift from God to be lived to the full.

# 227 One expression of this attitude is when we stop and give thanks to God before and after meals. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom.

# 231 Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.

# 236 It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. The Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.

**Witness:** A pilgrimage for creation An Easter pilgrimage in the diocese of Northampton brought parishioners from five churches together to contemplate the beauty of creation and the dangers of climate change. “This pilgrimage was something we wanted to do to make a difference,” explains Alban MacDonald, who helped organise a fifty-mile walk through the beautiful Bedfordshire countryside. “The climate change theme was spot on for us,” says Alban. “We need to think not just of ourselves right now, but what’s going to happen to future generations.” The pilgrimage took place as part of CAFOD’s One Climate, One World campaign, which is calling on politicians to work together to tackle climate change and support the transition to sustainable energy. Tessa Wiseman, who took part in the pilgrimage, points out “We are all affected by a changing climate, whether here or overseas. People in countries such as Peru, Kenya, and Bangladesh are already feeling the effects and it’s the most vulnerable communities that are at risk.” After each walk, the group sat down over well-earned tea and cake to reflect, using topics suggested by CAFOD’s postcard reflections. They signed action cards urging Britain’s political leaders to stop climate change pushing people deeper into poverty. As Alban explains: “My message to political leaders is to take climate change seriously, and reflect carefully on what climate change is doing, not just to our communities but really to the poorest communities in the world.”

**Reflection:** We are reminded that we were made for love, and this gives us hope. We are all called to a change of heart, “to live wisely, think deeply and love generously” #47. All of us are called to a deep conversion, to see how Christ is present throughout creation. This change affects us both individually and as a community, and it moves us to treat the world and each other with tenderness and care. As Alban explains, this requires a deep commitment to caring for our common home, by acting in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the present and in the future. One way of expressing our commitment is to speak out for justice, and hold our leaders to account for their actions. As Pope Francis tells us, “love makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.” #231 May we live out our vocation with joy, giving thanks and praise to God.

- Pope Francis asks us, “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” #160. What is your answer to this question?
- The Eucharist is “an act of cosmic love” #236. In what ways can we respond to God's love through our actions?

**Act:** • Speak out in solidarity with our sisters and brothers across the world who are affected by the changing climate. Find out how you can take action at [cafod.org.uk/oneclimate](http://cafod.org.uk/oneclimate)

- Write to your MP. Explain that you're prepared to act to tackle climate change and ask them what they are going to do. Find out who your MP is at: [theyworkforyou.com](http://theyworkforyou.com)

**Pray:** Say this grace before sharing food together. Generous God, you embrace all of creation, and bless us with gifts of life. As we break this bread, we praise you for your goodness, we give thanks to those who grew our food, and we remember those who are hungry. May we be moved by the Holy Spirit to share these gifts as one family, and so catch a glimpse of your Kingdom, of justice, peace and love. Amen. Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD

### **Full Guide at**

<https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/26268/190849/version/9/Laudato%20Si%20study%20guide-%20final.pdf>