

Think deeply, live wisely, and love generously



**During the Season of Creation (September 1 – October 4), Christian churches and faith communities around the globe are called to prayer, celebration and action for creation.**

It is a time to recognise and give thanks for the gift of the natural world as an expression of God's love, compassion and mercy. It is an invitation to give thanks for the abundance creation provides for us: clean water and air, food and shelter, and diversity of animals and plants.

*Laudato Si'* provides a blueprint for our interaction with creation, the development of our economies, and the operation of our societies. Daily the news cycle highlights the level of damage to our social fabric: human rights violations in offshore detention, clergy sexual abuse scandals, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse to name but a few.

*Laudato Si'* makes the connection between social crisis and environmental devastation:

... when there is a general breakdown in the exercise of a certain virtue in personal and social life, it ends up causing a number of imbalances, including environmental ones. That is why it is no longer enough to speak only of the integrity of ecosystems. We have to dare to speak of the integrity of human life, of the need to promote and unify all the great values (LS 224).

Pope Francis, through his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, warns us that if ... we treat affective relationships the way we treat material objects and the environment:

everything is disposable; everyone uses and throws away, takes and breaks, exploits and squeezes to the last drop. Then, goodbye. Narcissism makes people incapable of looking beyond themselves, beyond their own desires and needs ... (AL 39).

It may be hard to accept that our eco-problems and our personal and social challenges are of our own doing. The good news is that mindsets, habits and behaviours can change and through this genuine social and ecological transformation can occur.

What better time than now to “think deeply, live wisely, and love generously” (a message shared from the *Our Common Home* initiative at the World Meeting of Families 2018).

### **Prayer**

*Peoples from every corner of the world  
Rejoice in the day that God has made!  
Indigenous peoples of the Earth,  
Help us sense the spirit deep within the land!  
Mountains, growing things, stars and oceans  
Celebrate with us the beauty of creation!  
All of creation  
Praise God for our planet home.*

References: [goo.gl/SPw7nY](http://goo.gl/SPw7nY), [goo.gl/3R2rva](http://goo.gl/3R2rva). Encyclical references: *Amoris Laetitia* [goo.gl/RoxAgg](http://goo.gl/RoxAgg) and *Laudato Si'* [goo.gl/v8MBh9](http://goo.gl/v8MBh9)

### REFLECTION

> How can we waste less in our ministries? in your ministry?

COMPASSION JUSTICE RESPECT HOPE