

The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation

*especially on World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September)
and on last Sunday in September or whenever Harvest Festivals are held.*

Background

“The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”
(Pope Francis, Letter inaugurating World Prayer of Care for Creation)

The Church has long celebrated the agricultural harvest. This intention also includes all human work. In all circumstances of human life there are choices to be made regarding the environment and our reverent stewardship of the God’s gift of creation.

“The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. Therefore the earth’s treasures no longer serve to build God’s garden for all to live in, but they have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction” (Benedict XVI, homily at Inaugural Mass, 2005).

Liturgical Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- For the blessing of Man’s Labour
- For Productive Land
- After the Harvest

Prayer

*O Lord, good Father, who in your providence
have entrusted the earth to the human race,
grant, we pray, that with the fruits harvested from it
we may be able to sustain life
and, with your help, always use them*

Roman Missal

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For a fair and just trade
so that all may receive a just wage for the work of their hands.
- For politicians and all who make decisions that affect the future of the earth
may they safeguard the planet for future generations.

Opportunities and Challenges

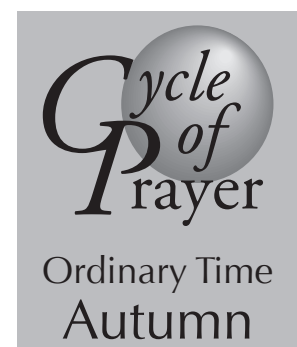
- The symbols that are used in the liturgy should be authentic — candles made from wax, for example.
- Some areas of the country may be able to use wine that is produced from a local vineyard.
- The celebration of the liturgical seasons can demand the awareness of the natural seasons of the year. The encouragement to eat more locally produced seasonal produce can inform our sense of the passing of liturgical time.
- Consider how this intention links with the intention: Justice and Peace in the World

Links

- Letter of Pope Francis for the Establishment of the World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.
- *Laudato si’* — Encyclical letter of Pope Francis
- The Call of Creation [<http://www.cbcew.org.uk/content/download/34849/258827/file/call-of-creation-cafod-2008.pdf>]
- *livesimply* [<http://www.livesimply.org.uk>]

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Students and Teachers

*especially on Education day —
2nd Sunday of September*

Background

The day of prayer for Education is organised ecumenically by the Education agencies of the various denominations.

In the Catholic Church material is distributed by the Catholic Education Service. There may be a collection for the Agency on this Sunday.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For the love of learning, may we all desire to grow in our faith in God and our knowledge of the world he created.
- For teachers, catechists and all who share what God has done; may they always be open to deepening their knowledge.

Prayer

God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers.

For students, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom of understanding.

For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students.

Book of Blessings

Liturgical Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- Book of Blessings: Orders for the Blessing of those appointed as Catechists (Chapter 4)
- Book of Blessings: Orders for the Blessing of Students and Teachers (Chapter 5)
- Book of Blessings: Order for the Blessing of a New School or University (Chapter 13)

Opportunities and Challenges

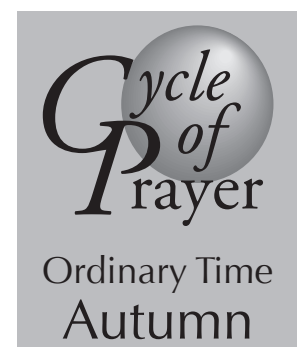
- What liturgical skills could be shared between school and parish? The sharing of parish's musical repertoire for example.
- The Liturgy Office produces a half-termly bulletin about the liturgy for schools: *Spirit of the Season*.

Links

- Congregation for Catholic Education
[www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/]
- Department for Catholic Education
[www.catholic-ew.org.uk/educ]
- Catholic Education Service [www.cesew.org.uk]
- *Spirit of the Season* — liturgy bulletin for schools
[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS]

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The Spread of the Gospel

*especially on Home Mission Day: 3rd Sunday in September
& World Mission Day: the penultimate Sunday in October*

Background

Home Mission day is on the 3rd Sunday in September. Material for the day is prepared by the Home Mission Desk. There may be a collection to support the work of the agency.

World Mission Day is on the penultimate Sunday in October. A Mass 'for the Spread of the Gospel' may be celebrated on this Sunday. Each year the Holy Father writes a message for World Mission day. In England and Wales material is produced for parishes by the Pontifical Mission Societies. There may be a collection for their work on this day.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For the courage to live lives faithful to the gospel.
- For the ability to recognise Christ in all whom we meet.

Liturgical Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- Roman Missal: 18. For the Evangelization of Peoples

Prayer

*O God,
whose will it is that all should be saved
and come to the knowledge of the truth,
look upon your abundant harvest
and be pleased to send workers to gather it,
that the Gospel may be preached to all creation
and that your people,
gathered by the word of life
and sustained
by the power of the Sacraments,
may advance in the path of salvation
and love.*

Roman Missal

Opportunities and Challenges

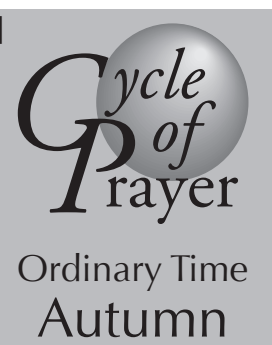
- How is the parish a welcoming community?
- What opportunities for common prayer or liturgy does the parish offer other than Mass
- What would be necessary to keep the church open.
- What are the ways the parish can support celebrations of wedding and funerals?
- Put a phrase from the gospel in the newsletter each week and invite people to reflect upon it.
- Find out more about the Pontifical Mission Societies by subscribing to one of the magazines they produce.

Links

- Home Mission Desk [<http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Departments/Evangelisation-and-Catechesis/Home-Mission>]
- Catholic Faith [<http://catholicfaith.org.uk>]
- Becoming a Catholic [<http://www.becomingacatholic.org.uk>]
- Holy Father's message for World Mission day [www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/messages/missions/index_en.htm]
- Pontifical Mission Societies [<http://www.missionsocieties.org.uk>]

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Justice and Peace in the World

especially on Harvest Fast Day: 1st Friday on October

Background

The Harvest Fast day is one of two such days organised by CAFOD. The money offered from the fasting is usually collected at Mass on the following Sunday.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For tolerance and respect, for an openness to neighbours and strangers.
- For the broadening of our horizons and an awareness of what is happening in the world.

Prayer

O God, who show a father's care for all, grant, in your mercy, that the members of the human race, to whom you have given a single origin, may form in peace a single family and always be united by a fraternal spirit.

Roman Missal

Liturgical Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- Roman Missal: 30. For the Preservation of Peace and Justice

Opportunities and Challenges

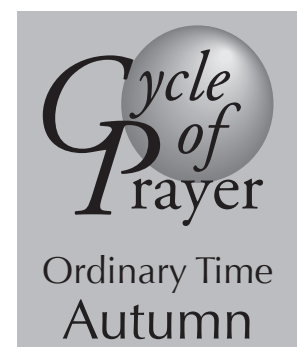
- How well do those who minister to the assembly represent the diversity present in the parish?
- The use of music from around the world can both remind us that we belong to a worldwide Church and give us fresh insight into our beliefs.
- Invite different ethnic groups within the parish to contribute to an evening of food and entertainment.

Links

- Catholic Association for Racial Justice [<http://www.carj.co.uk/>]
- Churches' Commission for Racial Justice [<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/index.php?op=modload&name=knowledge&file=index&viewCat=18>]
- CAFOD [<http://www.cafod.org.uk>]

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All Victims of War

especially on Remembrance Sunday: 2nd Sunday in November

Background

Remembrance Sunday falls on the Sunday nearest Armistice Day, 11 November, which marks the end of the First World War. On this day are remembered all those who gave their lives for their country, all who suffered and died through acts of war and those who were left behind to grieve and mourn. In England and Wales one Mass for the Dead may be celebrated on this Sunday.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For peace and reconciliation between nations; that enemies may put aside all differences.
- For all those who have died through war or acts of violence; may we never forget their sacrifice.

Prayer

*O God, merciful and strong,
who crush wars and cast down the proud,
be pleased to banish violence
swiftly from our midst
and to wipe away all tears,
so that we may all truly deserve
to be called your children.*

Roman Missal

Liturgical Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- Masses for the Dead
- One Mass for the Dead is permitted on this Sunday.

Opportunities and Challenges

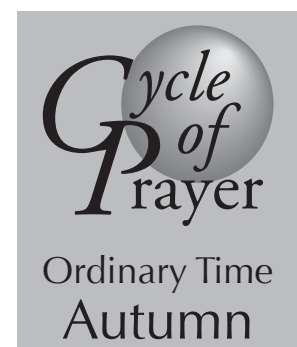
- Explore how the texts of the Sunday could be used to speak about the hope of resurrection.
- Remember to pray for those who serve in the Armed Forces through the year.

Links

- CTBI Service for Remembrance Sunday [<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/233>]
- Bishopric of the Forces [<http://www.rcbishopricforces.org.uk>]

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Prisoners and their Families

especially on 3rd Sunday in November and in Prisons Week: 3rd Week in November [from 2014 2nd Sunday in October]

Background

Prisoner's week was a Catholic initiative begun in 1975 by Bishop Victor Guazelli which has since ecumenical support and observance. It reflects the work of the Prison Advice and Care Trust which builds on its origins as the Bourne Trust — the Catholic Prisoner's Aid Society. The Sunday and the following week seek to focus attention not only on the needs of prisoners but on all those involved the field of prison care, prisoners families, victims of crime, prison staff and many volunteers.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For all in prison and their families that they may know the Lord's compassion and love.
- For the judicial system may it practice both justice and mercy.

Liturgical Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- Roman Missal: 43. For those held in Captivity
- 44. For those in Prison

Prayer

*Almighty and merciful God,
to whom alone
the secrets of the heart lie open,
who recognize the just
and make righteous the guilty,
hear our prayers for your servants
held in prison,
and grant that through patience and hope
they may find relief in their affliction
and soon return unhindered to their own.*

Roman Missal

Opportunities and Challenges

- Find out about the work of Prison Advice and Care Trust.
- Support the work of the Churches' Criminal Justice Forum.

Links

- Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship [<http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Departments/Christian-Responsibility-and-Citizenship>]
- A Place of Redemption (pdf) [<http://www.cbcew.org.uk/content/download/34865/258924/file/place-of-redemption-2004.pdf>]
- Prison Advice and Care Trust [<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk>]
 - Faith Zone [<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/about-us/faith-zone>]
 - Prisoners' Sunday & Week [<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/about-us/prisoners-sunday>]
- Churches' Criminal Justice Forum [<http://www.ccjf.org/>]

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*Cycle
of
Prayer*

Ordinary Time
Autumn

Young People

especially on Christ the King: 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Background

The Church in England and Wales has marked the contribution of young people on Christ the King for many years. Universally it is marked on Palm Sunday. In many parishes it is an opportunity to focus on the role of young people in the Sunday liturgy and in the life of the parish. Over the last few years material prepared to assist the day has used the *livesimply* campaign [<http://www.livesimply.org.uk>]. There may be a collection for diocesan and nation youth services on this day.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For young people, may they grow in Christ
- For all who work with young people, may they show leadership and compassion.

Opportunities and Challenges

- How can young people be integrated into the liturgy through the year?
- What opportunities are there for the formation of young people as liturgical ministers?

Prayer

O God, who gave one origin to all peoples and willed to gather from them one family for yourself, fill all hearts of all young people, we pray, with the fire of your love and kindle in them a desire for the just advancement of their neighbour, that, through the good things which you richly bestow upon all, each human person may be brought to perfection, every division may be removed, and equity and justice may be established in human society.

Roman Missal (adapted)

Links

- Catholic Youth Ministry Federation [<http://cymfed.org.uk>]
- Vatican — World Youth Day [<http://www.vatican.va/gmg/documents/>]
- Revealed online — A Catholic youth ministry formation resource [<http://www.revealedonline.co.uk/>]

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Cycle
of
Prayer

Ordinary Time
Autumn