

Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year B

Lord open our ears to the call of the planet and our eyes to what we are doing to our common home.

For the times we have allowed the mindless destruction of biodiversity to take place, Lord have mercy

For the times we have polluted the oceans, rivers and lakes by dumping plastic in them, Christ have mercy

For the times we have ignored the contamination of the atmosphere with carbon emissions, Lord have mercy

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Isaiah (35:4-7)

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

For water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of waters. **The word of the Lord.**

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 145:7-10, R. v.1)

R. My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R.**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING A reading from the letter of St James (2:1-5)

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinction between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then to the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him. **The word of the Lord.**

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (7:31-37)



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Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowds, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak. **The Gospel of the Lord.**

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate** (all Bow until man)
**of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and
I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and
the life of the world to come. Amen**



season of
creation

Laudato Si'

'I wish to address every person living on this planet... I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.' (Laudato Si' §3, 14).

In 2015 Pope Francis published his ground-breaking encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si'* – On Care for Our Common Home. In it he calls on all people of the world to enter into dialogue about what is happening to our planet, urging us to listen to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. He invites us to "become painfully aware" of the extent of this crisis and engage in the eco-conversion that is needed. Christians, around the world in celebrating this season in prayer, especially in our liturgies, in deep reflection, in living more sustainably and in raising our voices in the public sphere. We are invited to think more deeply about what is happening at present to the earth, the environmental destruction which now threatens our world and the call to 'eco-conversion'. It is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our place within the story creation and to accept our individual and collective responsibility to care for our common home. The Season of Creation offers all of us a unique opportunity to renew our vocation to become stewards of God's creation. Our commitment to the care of our common home is not some kind of add-on to our faith or optional extra; instead as Pope Francis continually reminds us the care of God's creation should be at the centre of our call as Christians.

"The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion...whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. 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)