

## Prayer Focus

Prayer areas during this second period of Ordinary Time are draped in green. At the start of the year emphasis can be placed upon the school Mission: what it means and the ways in which people hope to live out the Mission in their words and actions. During the Season of Creation (Sep 1-Oct 4), the prayer focus can include photos, images or items that reflect the wonders of creation including natural materials such as leaves, wheat etc. Images and icons of St. Francis of Assisi as well as his prayers and canticles could be included. Around Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Harvest Fast Day (CAFOD), when thanks is given to God for the harvest the prayer area focus can include donations of food and produce. This links with the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Stewardship of Creation and Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.

## October, the Month of the Holy Rosary

Pictures of the Mysteries of the Rosary and Rosary beads can be placed upon the prayer focus as well as a statue, icon or images of Mary. The feast of St Therese of Lisieux falls on 1 October and **Little Way Week** begins on Monday 2 October. Prayer intentions for those in need as well as pledges of small acts of kindness could be included.

## Little Way Week

Little Way Week commences on Monday September 25 2023 and culminates on Friday September 29. The feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux is on Sunday October 1.

St Thérèse lived in Lisieux, Normandy France and always wanted to follow Jesus and his loving example. When she was seven, she joined The Society of the Holy Childhood, which we now call Mission Together. Thérèse lived her life simply and is known as a 'missionary disciple'. This means in all her deeds and actions, she attempted to show the love of God to others. She said *"Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love."* This means no matter how old we are, we can make a difference to others.

During this week, schools are invited to participate in Mission Together, the Pope's charity for World Mission, to learn about St Thérèse and to demonstrate little acts of kindness to others. For example, give each child another class member's name. Encourage them to carry out a small act of kindness without the other person knowing who it was. Further ideas, assemblies and resources can be found on: <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/st-therese-of-lisieux/>

## Cycle of Prayer – Ordinary Time - Autumn

Prayer taken from the Book of Blessings

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.

St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle      Pray for us  
St. John Bosco                      Pray for us

(St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle – patron saint of teachers, St. John Bosco – patron saint of school children)

<https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle/AutumnCP.shtml>

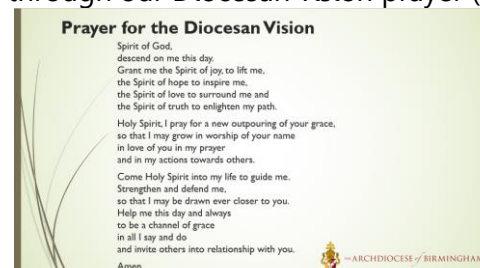
## The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is an Ecumenical season during which Christians from different denominations join together in prayer. Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites to raise awareness and to inspire action to protect our common home as we respond together to the cry of creation.

This year, the theme is 'Let Justice and Peace Flow' and the symbol is 'A Mighty River'. This is inspired by the words of the Prophet Amos "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Amos 5:24 Further information and booklet available here: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

## The Synod

You may remember the Synodal process which began in the Autumn of 2021. Schools and parishes were asked to respond in the Local/National stage of the process with the themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. The Synodal process has now moved to the Universal phase. During this time, we pray that all those who are part of the Synodal Process will be guided by the Holy Spirit. We can do this through our Diocesan vision prayer (click for link)



## Pope's Prayer Intentions

### September: For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

### October: For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

## Dates for the Diary\*

### September 2023

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for September:** For people living on the margins  
Season of Creation – Sep 1 – Oct 4

Fri 1	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
Mon 4	Memorial of St. Cuthbert
Fri 8	Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sat 9	Memorial in Coventry for St. Osburg
Sun 10	<a href="#">Education Sunday</a> (Click for CES and Ten:Ten Resources)
Tue 12	Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary
Wed 13	Memorial of St. John Chrysostom
Thurs 14	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Fri 15	Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows
Sun 18	Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel) Day
Wed 20	Memorial of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and companions
Thurs 21	Feast of St. Matthew
Sun 24	Day of Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Harvest
Mon 25	Little Way Week: Following the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux
Wed 27	Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul
Fri 29	Feast of Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

### October 2023 – The Month of the Holy Rosary

**The Pope's Prayer intention for October:** For the Synod

Mon 2	Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels
Wed 4	Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi
Thurs 5	Memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska
Fri 6	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
Sat 7	Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
Mon 9	Feast of St. John Henry Newman
Wed 11	Memorial of Blessed William Howard
Thurs 12	Memorial of St. Wilfrid, Bishop
Fri 13	Memorial of St. Edward the Confessor
Mon 16	Memorial of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
Tue 17	Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch
Wed 18	Feast of St. Luke
Thurs 19	Memorial in Oxford of St. Frideswide
Sun 22	<a href="#">World Mission Sunday</a> (Click for Missio Resources)

*\*For a complete list of dates, readings and colours please refer to the Archdiocese of Birmingham Ordo 2023-2024.*

*Further prayer resources can be found on <https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/>*

## CAFOD & Missio Resources

### CAFOD

**School Wall Planner:** 2023-24 Wall planner available to order for free from CAFOD <https://shop.cafod.org.uk/collections/frontpage/products/school-wall-planner-2023-24> or can be downloaded from <https://cafod.org.uk/education/for-teachers/key-dates-for-school-planning>.

### Missio

**WOW Resources:** Mission Together are delighted to be sharing an exciting new whole school reading challenge for this new academic year - *Words for our World*. WOW invites pupils to learn more about our Global family. Find out more and download your WOW resources here <https://missiontogether.org.uk/words-for-our-world/>

