

## Prayer Focus

Prayer cloths should be green to indicate the second period of Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Year.

The School's Mission is at the heart of everything it does. Special emphasis can be placed upon the school mission at the start of a new academic year to focus on how, as a school community, people can live out the mission through their words and actions. During the Season of Creation (Sep 1- Oct 4), items from the natural world could be included in praise and thanksgiving for the wonders of God's creation. The prayers and canticles, as well as images and icons of St Francis of Assisi, could be added to commemorate his Memorial (Oct 4). Harvest Fast Day (also Oct 4), is a time to give thanks to God for the harvest. Donated items for the collection and produce could be added to the prayer space as a reminder of this, as well as making links to the Catholic Social Teaching principles of 'Stewardship of Creation' and 'Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.'

## October, the Month of the Holy Rosary

A statue, icon or image of Mary can be added to the prayer focus alongside Rosary beads and pictures of the Mysteries of the Rosary. The Memorial of St Therese of Lisieux is Tuesday 1 October and Little Way Week begins on Monday 30 September. Invite children to write prayer intentions for people in need and write their pledges of commitment to small acts of kindness. Photos, statues and images of St. Therese could be included within the prayer space. <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/st-therese-of-lisieux/>

## A prayer for Schools

God of all knowledge,  
whose wisdom unfolds for us  
the meaning of the world in which we live,  
be the inspiration and the end of all our efforts  
to know, learn, and teach.  
Through the seeds of inquiry and wonder  
which you have implanted,  
may we continue to grow in your wisdom.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## Education Sunday

Education Sunday was established over 176 years ago in 1848. It is one of the oldest Days of special prayer in England and Wales. On this day, we celebrate and give thanks for all involved in Catholic Education and look forward to the year ahead.

Education Sunday takes place on the second Sunday of September, which this year is September 8. This year's theme is from the Gospel reading of Mark 7:31-37 'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'. The healing that Jesus brings goes beyond physical healing. "Jesus came to 'open', to free, in order to make us capable of fully living the relationship with God and with others."

Bishop Marcus Stock (Chair of the CES) has written a letter of support to all schools. The Catholic Education Service has produced a range of resources, including guidance for schools and parishes and a prayer card.

Further information can be found at:

<https://catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/education-sunday>

Information adapted from: [www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/education-sunday](http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/education-sunday).

## 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 part of this season, we recognise that our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the earth.

The theme for 2024 is "To Hope and Act with Creation", and the symbol is "The first fruits of hope," inspired by Romans 8:19-25.

## Activities to celebrate the Season of Creation

- Organise a creation walk or pilgrimage.
- Pray the Novena to St. Francis (CAFOD). This could be prayed 9 school days before his feast day (commence on Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> September) or 9 consecutive days.
- Encourage families to pray the care of creation prayers. (CAFOD)
- Encourage sustainable living by hosting an event such as tree planting (<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities>) or reuse sale.

CAFOD resources: [Season of Creation | CAFOD](https://seasonofcreation.org/)

Further information and ideas <https://seasonofcreation.org/>



Has your school signed up for the CAFOD LiveSimply award?

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award/livesimply-award-for-schools>

## Pope's Prayer Intentions

(<https://thepopevideo.org/>)

**September:** For the cry of the earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

**October:** For a shared mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

## Dates for the Diary\*

## September 2024

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for September:** For the cry of the earth

|                      |                                                                                                        |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 1                | World Day of Prayer for Creation                                                                       |
| Tues 3               | Feast of St Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church                                              |
| Wed 4                | Optional Memorial of St. Cuthbert, Bishop                                                              |
| Sat 7                | Optional Memorial of Our Lady on Saturday                                                              |
| Sun 8                | Education Sunday                                                                                       |
| Mon 9                | Memorial in Coventry for St. Osburg, Abbess                                                            |
| Tues 10              | Memorial in Oxfordshire of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa<br>Memorial in Worcestershire of St. Egwin, Bishop |
| Thurs 12             | Optional Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary                                                        |
| Fri 13               | Memorial of St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church                                           |
| Sat 14               | Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross                                                              |
| Sun 15               | Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel) Day                                                              |
| Fri 20               | Memorial of St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions                                     |
| Sat 21               | Feast of St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist                                                               |
| Sun 22               | Day of Thanksgiving for the Harvest                                                                    |
| Tues 24              | Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham                                                                        |
| Fri 27               | Memorial of St Vincent de Paul, Priest                                                                 |
| Mon 30-<br>Fri 4 Oct | <b>Little Way Week:</b> (1 Oct- the Memorial of St Therese of Lisieux)                                 |

## October 2024 – The Month of the Holy Rosary

**The Pope's Prayer intention for October:** For a shared mission

|          |                                                      |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues 1   | Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus            |
| Wed 2    | Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels                 |
| Fri 4    | Memorial of St Francis of Assisi                     |
| Mon 7    | Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary                   |
| Wed 9    | Feast of St John Henry Newman                        |
| Fri 11   | Memorial in Staffordshire of Blessed William Howard  |
| Sun 12   | Memorial of St. Wilfrid                              |
| Tues 15  | Memorial of St Teresa of Jesus, Doctor of the Church |
| Wed 16   | Memorial of St Margaret Mary Alacoque                |
| Thurs 17 | Memorial of St Ignatius of Antioch                   |
| Fri 18   | Feast of St Luke, Evangelist                         |
| Sun 20   | World Mission Day                                    |
| Tues 22  | Optional Memorial of St John Paul II, Pope           |

*\*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 & Mission Together Resources

## CAFOD

**National Assembly:** Led by St. Joseph's, Stourbridge join CAFOD's Season of Creation National Assembly on Thursday 5 September.

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/for-teachers/key-dates-for-school-planning>

**CAFOD Shop:** A wealth of free inspirational resources to order, including prayer cards and wall planners. See <https://shop.cafod.org.uk/>

## Mission Together

**Prayer Resources:** Find prayers for a new school year, traditional prayers and a simple 5-finger examen. <https://missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/>

**Little Way Week:** From September 30 – October 4, explore resources, including assemblies activities and prayers:

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/st-therese-of-lisieux/>

**Catholic Social Teaching:** 'Together in Cameroon' explores the work of missionaries in rural Cameroon. <https://missiontogether.org.uk/together-in/>

