



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)



“Tráth an Chruthaithe”
1st September – 4th October



“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.” Laudato Si’ #217

Irish Bishops’ Spring Statement, 8 March, 2023

“In response to the impending loss of nature to our world, the call of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical letter, *Laudato Si’* (LS) and agreements made at the UN Conference on Biodiversity (COP15), bishops **ask parishes**, through their parish pastoral councils and diocesan trusts, as a first step, **to identify and care for 30% of parish grounds** as a haven for pollinators and biodiversity that can be enjoyed in perpetuity by the whole community.”

SO WHAT CAN WE DO IN OUR PARISHES?

Encourage our parishes to set aside a part of the parish grounds/garden as a ‘*a haven for pollinators and biodiversity*’

- ❖ Invite your Parish Pastoral Councils to discuss and invite participation.
- ❖ A small group needs to come together in each parish including the caretaker/groundsman
- ❖ This group could visit another parish that is already taking steps in their grounds.
- ❖ Consider what support (s) your parish needs.
- ❖ Help may be close at hand e.g. someone in your parish, a local Tidy Towns group.
- ❖ There is help available (various resources/some funding): Co. Kerry- Biodiversity Officer: eleonor.turner@kerryco.co.ie and Co. Cork- Conor Nelligan, Heritage Officer 021 428590

More Information: Diocese of Kerry Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC) see <https://www.dioceseofkerry.ie/justice/eco-award/season-of-creation-2024/>

Catholic Bishops Conference <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/laudato-si/returning-to-nature/>

‘How to’ video - <https://vimeo.com/905125930?share=copy>

Spending time in nature, “*sa nadúr*”, listening, looking, feeling, can help us to know and appreciate God’s Book of Nature...

