

SEASON OF CREATION



RESOURCE PACK





This resource book is designed to celebrate the Season of Creation and help us be more mindful of the call to Stewardship for us all.

Feel free to use whatever elements of this resource you feel best suit the ability and age of the young people you teach / work with.

LINKS TO JUNIOR CYCLE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 2.3 explore how different narratives/stories, religious and non-religious, express an understanding of creation/the natural world, and consider their meaning and relevance for today
- 2.7 explore how the religious teachings of a major world religion address an issue of concern for the world today
- 2.8 present stories of individuals or groups in the history of two major world religions that have had a positive impact on the lives of people because of their commitment to living out their beliefs.
- 3.2 reflect upon and discuss what it means to be moral, why people living in society need to be moral and what are the influences on and the sources of authority for a person's moral decision-making
- 3.8 explain how an understanding of care for the earth found in a major world religion promotes the wellbeing of all people and the planet and discuss its relevance for today

LINKS TO LEAVING CERTIFICATE NON-EXAM FRAMEWORK FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Section A: The Search for Meaning

Topic 1: Contemporary expressions of the search for meaning.

- The great questions concerning the goal and purpose of life, the meaning of good and evil and the experience of suffering.

Topic 3: The meaning of suffering and evil as understood by a religious perspective.

- Examples of people whose lives are influenced by their faith.
- The role of religious faith in Ireland today

Section F: Issues of Justice and Peace

Topic 3.1: Religion and the Environment

- the origins of the 'greening' of religion
- a religious group/organisation with an environmental commitment or lifestyle.

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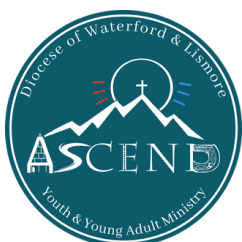
Section G: Celebrating Faith

Topic 2: Prayer

- Exploring prayer as a need to communicate with God.
- Examples of prayer from different religious traditions.
- Sacred spaces



Topic 3: Meditation and Contemplation

- The human need for reflection in a busy world
- The use of sacred and inspirational texts in meditation



RESOURCE PACK PRODUCED BY ASCEND: WATERFORD & LISMORE YOUTH MINISTRY

Website: www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry

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Email: youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

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“Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. Yet we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness.”

*Pope Francis
Laudato Si 53*

Season of Creation - Overview

Season of Creation - Get Practical

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Season of Creation - Playlists

Season of Creation - TShirt Design

St Francis of Assisi

Resources to check out

Season of Creation - Posters





SEASON OF CREATION

1 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

ICEBREAKER

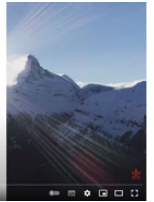


- Where is your favourite place in nature?
- In a forest? By the beach? On a river or a lake? In the mountains?
- What do you like about this place?
- How can places like this teach us something about God as Creator?

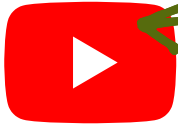


THE SEASON OF CREATION RUNS FROM 1 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER (THE FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI). WATCH THE POPE'S MESSAGE:

In the Season of Creation, Christians renew together the commitment to our Common Home



LOOK & LISTEN:



Watch the following video to accompany Hillsong's hugely popular song "So Will I" (100x Billion)



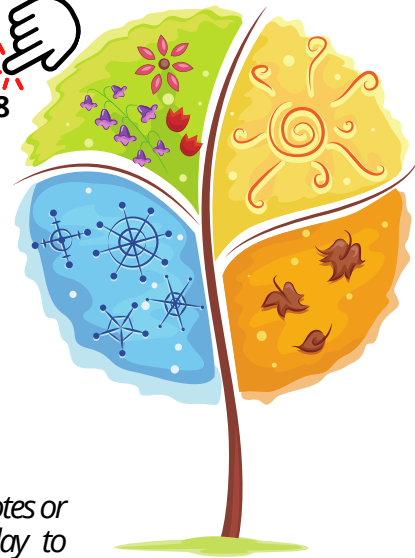
What lines / phrases stand out in particular for you?

What images did you enjoy the most / find the most striking?

RESEARCH:

Look up the following scripture references. Choose one to write out and reflect on quietly for a few minutes. What does it say to you about God's creative power / the world around us / our responsibility?

- John 1:3
- Job 12:7-10
- Psalms 95:4-5
- Genesis 1:14-18
- Proverbs 22:2
- Matthew 10:29
- Colossians 1:17
- Psalms 19:1

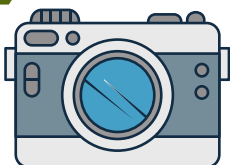


REFLECT:

Read the following quote from St Hildegard of Bingen:

"Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars. Gaze at the beauty of earth's greenings. Now, think. What delight God gives to humankind with all these things. All nature is at the disposal of humankind. We are to work with it. For without we cannot survive."

GET CREATIVE:



Choose a line from "So will I", one of the scripture quotes or St Hildegard's quote and create a poster / display to illustrate it. You can draw / paint / use technology / photography / images from newspapers or magazines....

GET PRACTICAL:

- Check out the practical actions suggested for the season of creation on www.catholicbishops.ie
- Which one could you / your family / your class / your school / your group take on to mark the season of creation?



Listen to the Voice of creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022



SEASON OF CREATION

GET PRACTICAL:

WHAT CAN MY SCHOOL / GROUP DO TO CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT / THOSE AROUND US?

WHAT CAN MY FAMILY DO TO CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT / THOSE AROUND US?

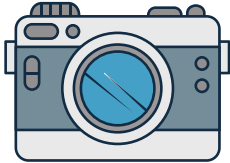
LOOK AT THE PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS OFFERED ON WWW.CATHOLICBISHOPS.IE SEASON OF CREATION RESOURCE PAGE

WHAT CAN I PERSONALLY DO TO CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT / THOSE AROUND ME?



SEASON OF CREATION

GET CREATIVE:



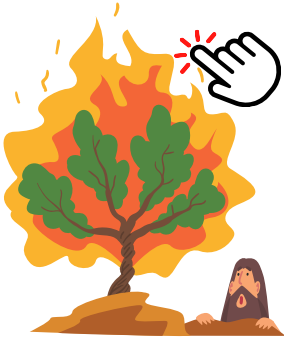
CHOOSE A LINE FROM "SO WILL I", ONE OF THE SCRIPTURE QUOTES OR ST HILDEGARD'S QUOTE AND CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS TO CREATE A RESPONSE OR ILLUSTRATION:

- **CREATE A POSTER / DISPLAY (DRAW / PAINT / USE TECHNOLOGY / PHOTOGRAPHY / IMAGES FROM NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES)**
- **WRITE A POEM / SONG**
- **COMPOSE A PRAYER**
- **WRITE A SPEECH**



SEASON OF CREATION

BURNING BUSH



READ THE ACCOUNT OF MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH IN EXODUS 3:1-10

- Create a prayer space inspired by the idea of a burning bush.
 - You could use LED lights / paper flames / streamers / fairy lights / plants / branches etc.
- This image can be a focus for your time of prayer.
- Alternatively, use the image below to write your prayer intentions on, trusting that God hears your prayers, just as He did the Israelites.





SEASON OF CREATION

PLAYLISTS

WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE FOLLOWING HYMNS INSPIRED BY GOD'S CREATION

- Hillsong: "So Will I" (100x Billion)
- Stuart Townend: Creation sings
- Fernando Ortega: Creation Song
- Hillsong: What a Beautiful Name
- Hillsong/Lauren Daigle: How Great Thou Art
- Cody Carnes: Christ Be Magnified
- Paul Baloche: God of Wonders
- Keith & Kristyn Getty, Matt Boswell, and Matt Papa: Psalm 150 (Praise The Lord)
- Reawaken Hymns: All Creatures of our God and King
- Chris Tomlin: Indescribable
- 6 Hour 4K Beautiful places Aerial Views
- The Breathtaking Beauty of Nature | HD

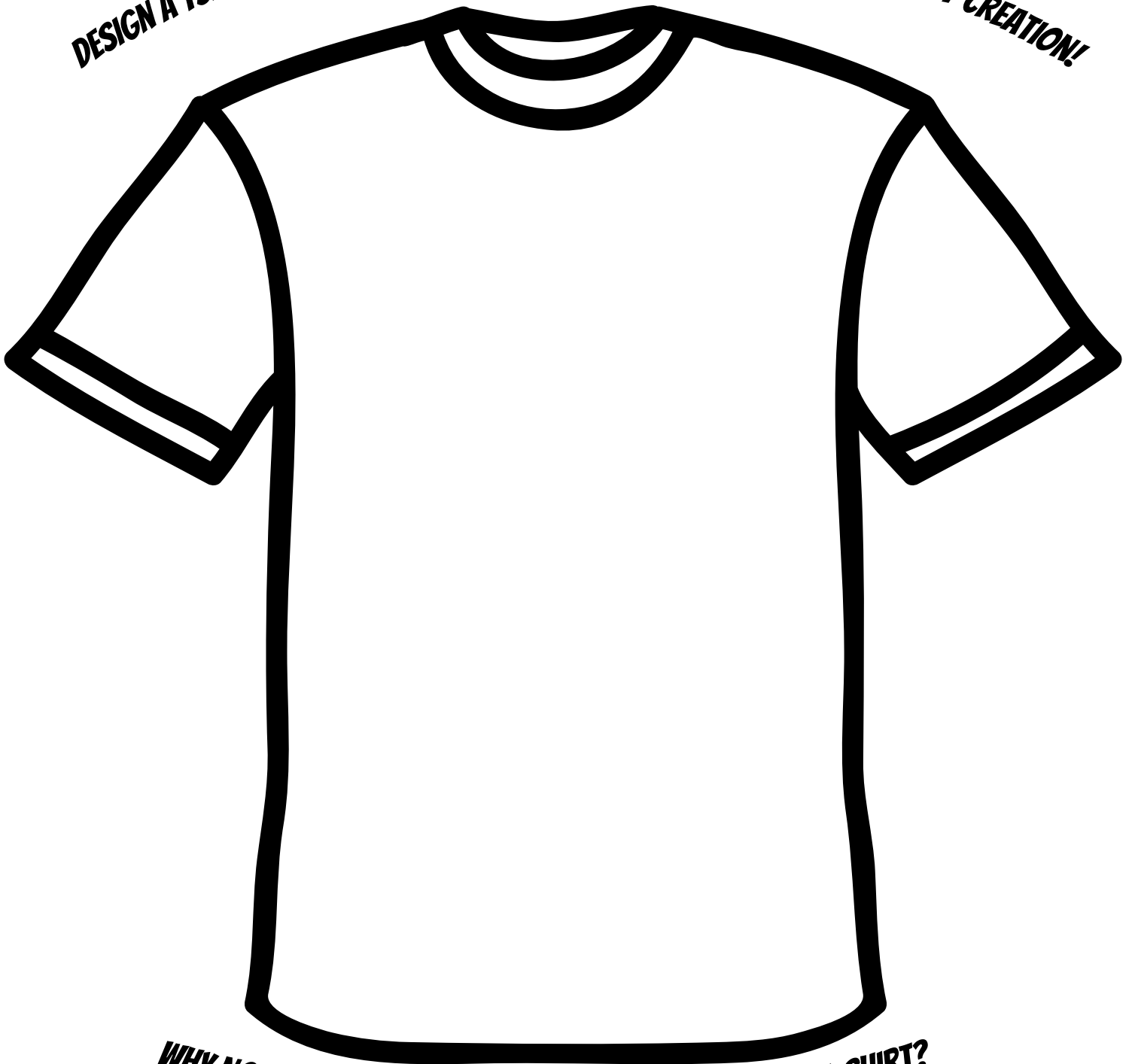
- **HOW ABOUT CREATING YOUR OWN VIDEO USING PHOTOS YOU TAKE OF THE NATURAL WORLD AND CREATION?**
- **YOU COULD ALSO SHARE ONE OF THESE VIDEOS TO YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA FEED DURING THE SEASON OF CREATION TO HELP OTHERS APPRECIATE WHAT WE OFTEN TAKE FOR GRANTED AROUND US?**





SEASON OF CREATION

DESIGN A TSHIRT WITH A SLOGAN AND IMAGES TO PROMOTE THE SEASON OF CREATION!

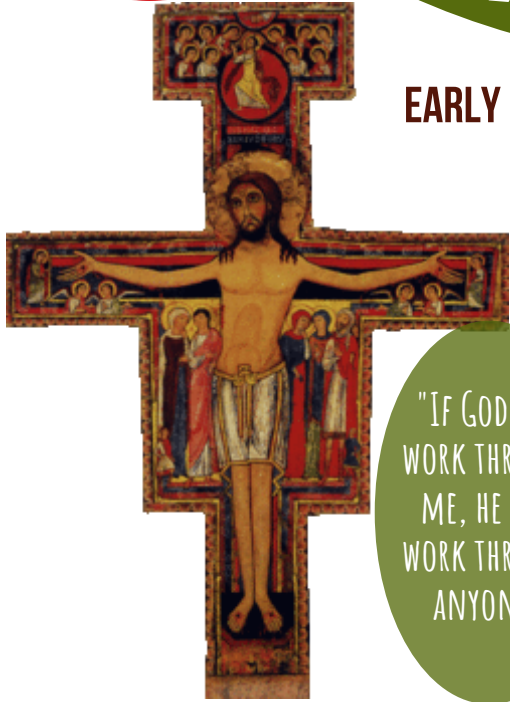


WHY NOT TRANSFER THAT IMAGE TO AN ACTUAL BLANK T-SHIRT?



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

"START BY DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY; THEN DO WHAT'S POSSIBLE; AND SUDDENLY YOU ARE DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE."



"IF GOD CAN WORK THROUGH ME, HE CAN WORK THROUGH ANYONE"

EARLY LIFE

St Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1181, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. Francis grew up in a lifestyle of nobility, wanting for nothing, at least materially. He longed for glory in battle, but was met with capture and disgrace instead.

CONVERSION

A profound encounter with a leper, whose very appearance repulsed him but he felt drawn to embracing, opened his heart to serving the poorest of the poor. Hearing the voice of God speak to him saying "Go rebuild my church, which is falling in ruins", in a dilapidated church from the Cross of San Damiano, Francis initially felt his mission was to physically restore this broken down building. Selling his father's cloth to do so angered his father greatly, but led to Francis renouncing his wealth and inheritance to pursue what he felt God was calling him to do.

HIS MISSION

He later realised his mission was to rebuild the Catholic church which had weakened in faith and been divided by corruption, and he founded the Franciscan Order, still in existence today. Francis received the Stigmata, the wounds of Christ. His fervent love for the poor, for nature and above all for Christ Jesus filled the deepest longings of his heart in a way his material wealth never had.

DEATH AND LEGACY

He died on October 3, 1226 and his feastday is October 4th. His radical life has inspired countless hearts ever since. St Francis is patron saint of animals, ecology, merchants and those suffering from eye disease.

WATCH SAINTS SERIES: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (up to 5:15 mins)



Did you know? St Francis is also credited with creating the first crib, arranging a live nativity scene in a cave!



- What is your initial response to the life of St Francis?

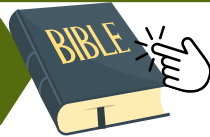
- If you could ask him one question, what would it be?

-
- Do you ever wonder if there's more out there, or feel like there's a void in your heart that just doesn't seem to be filled by material things?
 - What do you think the Lord wants you to do with your life? Have you ever asked Him, like St Francis did? You might not hear a voice speaking from a Cross, as Francis heard, but if you sincerely seek God's will in your life, you will find it!
 - Do you ever struggle to do what is right out of fear of what others might say about you? Why do you think that is / is not the case?

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

LOOK UP MATTHEW 10:9 - HOW DOES THIS QUOTE RELATE TO THE LIFE OF FRANCIS?



INTERNET TREASURE HUNT! SEE WHO CAN ANSWER THE FASTEST!

1. Why did Francis receive that name from his father, Bernadone?
2. Which city held St. Francis of Assisi a prisoner of war for more than a year?
3. Was St Francis an ordained priest?
4. What was the name of the song that Francis wrote in 1224 to honor God's image in creation?
5. Where did St Francis rebuild a little church after he heard the voice of God?
6. There is another famous Saint from Assisi who was an early follower of St Francis - name her!
7. What Muslim Sultan did Francis go to meet at the height of the Crusades in 1219?
8. Name the town where St Francis is said to have tamed a vicious wolf which was killing people and sheep.
9. Which Pope had a dream about St Francis and his order saving the church from falling into ruin?
10. What do the three knots on a Franciscan rope belt (cincture) symbolise?



**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Amen.

DOODLE PRAYER

Allow yourself some space to sit and reflect on this prayer of St Francis. You might prefer to play some music in the background, or just sit in silence. Read through the prayer below, silently. Allow ideas, thoughts and images that come to you as you pray to form part of your doodle prayer. Where in your life can you live out these ideals? What situations need light, pardon, joy? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and your thoughts. This is a particular space you are creating for God in your life today. Speak, and listen.



YOU CAN BE A GAME CHANGER LIKE ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI!

- Live simply! Have you collected too much clutter? Give something away this week that you don't need!
- Ask God what His plan for you is - and be open to hearing it!
- How can you bring the Gospel message to others this week?
- St Francis was known to be always joyful, even when suffering. Don't forget to wear a smile!
- Be respectful of the environment: appreciate God's gift of nature and our call to be good stewards.
- Check out the [YouTube Channel](#) of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Did you know that these friars are based in Moyross, Limerick and in Derry City? (And there are Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in Drogheda too!)



Game-Changer Playlist!

Listen to the following songs, all based on the words and prayers of St Francis himself!

- Lord make me an instrument of your peace (Sarah McLachlan)
- All Creatures of our God and King (David Crowder Band)
- Doxology (Anthem Lights)
- The Humility of God (Fr Stan Fortuna CFR)



RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT!



The Letter, tells the story of a journey to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter Laudato Si' with Pope Francis. The exclusive dialogue with the Pope, included in the film, offers a revealing insight into the personal history of Pope Francis and stories never seen since he became the Bishop of Rome.

- Watch on [YouTube](#).
- Extra Resources available here:
<https://theletterfilm.org/movie-resources/>

- Little Acts, Big Difference is a youth programme – made up of six modules – that introduces the life-changing work of Mary's Meals and invites you to become a part of this vibrant global family.
- Through short films and stories, you'll be transported to different countries and meet some of the amazing people who are working together to realise Mary's Meals' vision that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education.
- You'll also hear from some children who receive Mary's Meals in school and see that, while they are often facing many obstacles, their lives are being improved through community action and education.

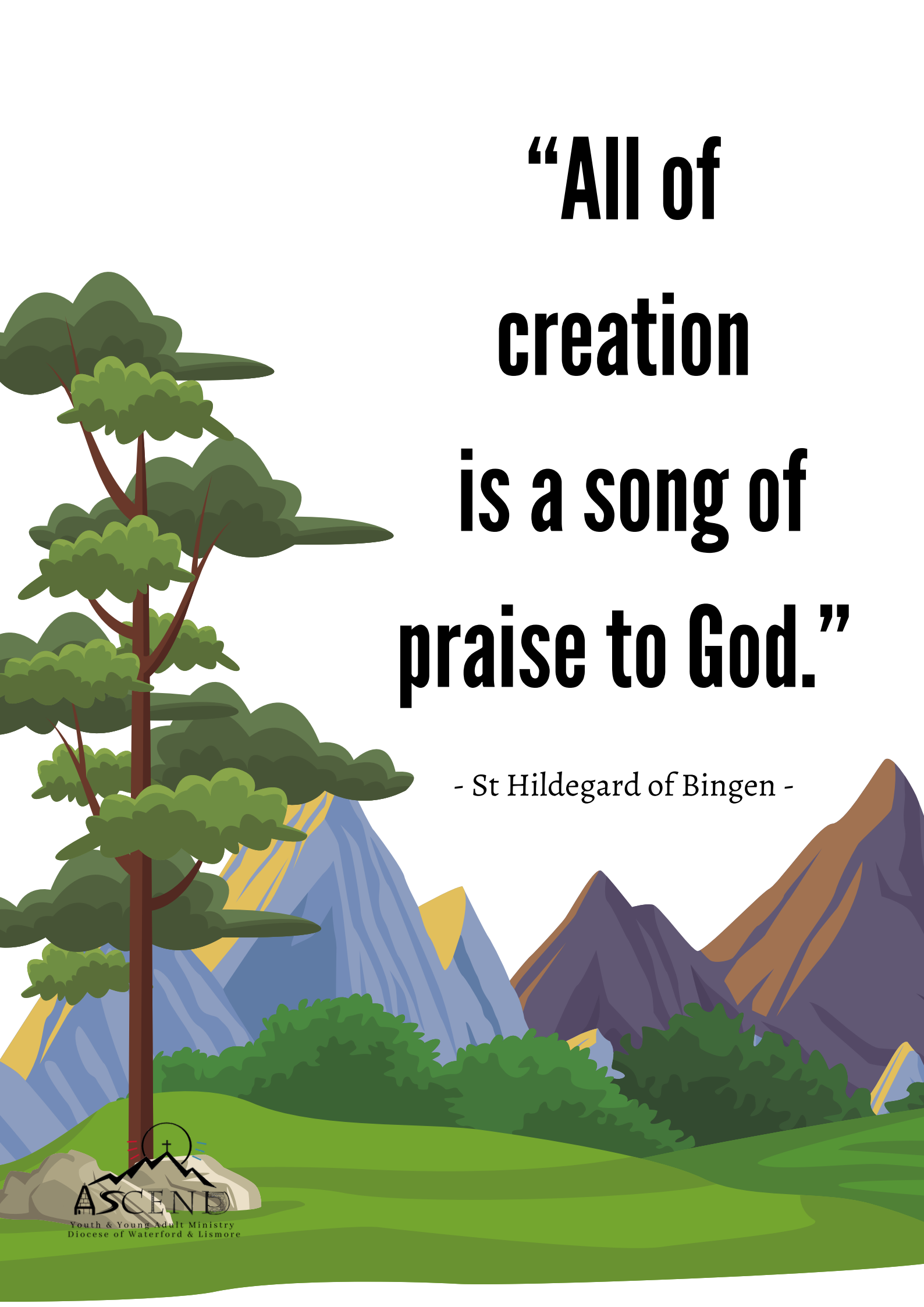


“Laudato Si”
Pope Francis Encyclical
on Care of our Common Home

**“Glance at the sun.
See the moon and the stars.
Gaze at the beauty of earth's greenings.
Now, think.**



**What delight God gives to humankind
with all these things .
All nature is at the disposal of humankind.
We are to work with it.
For without we cannot survive.”**




**“All of
creation
is a song of
praise to God.”**

- St Hildegard of Bingen -



*“Every
creature is a
glittering,
glistening
mirror of
Divinity.”*



*“There is the
music of Heaven
in all things.”*



*“We need to strengthen
the conviction that we are
one single human family.”*

Pope Francis:
Laudato Si

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



Pope Francis:
Laudato Si

*“Future generations will never forgive us
if we miss the opportunity
to protect our common home.
We have inherited a garden; we must not
leave a desert for our children.”*





Notes



Resource Pack produced by Ascend: Waterford & Lismore Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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Email: youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

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