



Title: Life and Creation

Scripture

John 20:19-29

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!" Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

Prayer to St Julie Billiart

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

Reflect: This joyful time of Eastertide is a wonderful time for us to stop and think about all the things that bring us joy, things we are thankful for. Top of that list should be our own lives: the fact that we are here, alive and with a wonderfully exciting future ahead of us! We are thankful for all that we are capable of, the miracle of our bodies and how they work (even if bits don't work as we'd like there is so much all of us CAN do, and often do without thought!). We are also thankful for all the created world holds for us from the simple pleasure of spring flowers and skipping lambs that make us smile to the air that we breathe and how nature assists us in this, the starts at night, the food that grows to strengthen us and the water that falls to sustain us. Our world is beautiful but it is also suffering - life is so fragile for so many on our planet, the happy balance of seasons and weather has been upset causing hurt and damage, death and destruction. The challenge for us is to value and respect all life and all of creation!

- How is our world broken or damaged?
- What in nature helps to keep us alive?



Focus on one each day

Pray for:

- those welcomed into the Church at Easter.
- the grace to be thankful for all our world provides us with.
- the broken places in our world, those without peace.
- those who have no love or respect for themselves.

Today is a new chance to live my life fully: to make the most of each opportunity, to appreciate all that I have and all that I am, to respect others and myself.
Help me to do it Lord!

Amen

Prayers

God, we thank you for the gift of your creation. Give us the maturity and wisdom to find a healthy respect for all that you have made. Help us to show through our words and actions that we welcome difference in others and are not scared or put off by it.

Amen

Prayer in action this week:

- Think about how amazing the human body is!
- Respect creation and avoid causing it harm.
- Treat others with dignity and respect.
- Have respect for yourself - show the real you!
- Remember to say thank you!

Easter is a time to be thankful!

(encourage students to think of those people/things specific to them during each time of pause)

This afternoon Lord, I want to bring to you all the things that I am thankful for:

I think about something that has happened today that made a difference to me... *(pause)*

I think about someone who has done something special for me recently... *(pause)*

I think about a moment or experience that has made me smile... *(pause)*

I bring all these to you Lord, and so much more ... *(pause)*

Thank you for giving me people and experiences to make my life good. I ask for the grace to remember all that I have to be thankful for it.

Amen.

We pray that we may all try to live in harmony and peace with one another and with our world. May we recognise the wonder and strength of diversity both in the natural world and among all people so that we can live in peace with people of all faiths, of all nations, races, cultures and languages.

Help us to rejoice in diversity within people and within creation so that we learn to see beauty where others see difference, to celebrate where others fear.

We ask this through Jesus our Risen Lord,

Amen.

Creator God,

We thank you for the air that we breathe and for the ever-changing skies. We give thanks for the seasons, that give us the warmth of the spring sunshine, the cool breezes and April showers! Help us to appreciate these changes and be grateful for the life that they bring to our planet.

We pray for those who live in places where the climate causes harm or limits life, where people pray for rains to come so that they will be able to feed their families, where people pray for rains to stop so that their crops aren't ruined or their homes endangered.

Help us all to act to help to heal our planet.

Amen.

We thank you for the resources of the world, and for the many goods available to us.

Grant us wisdom and restraint in our spending and consumption so that we don't buy things we don't need, things that harm our planet, things that cost other humans great pain.

Help us Lord to show compassion for our world and those with whom we share it through our willingness to re-use and recycle our resources.

Amen.

Respect for all life

God our Father, inspire us with a respect for all human life:

from the time of the child growing in the womb to the point of death.

May that respect lead us to grow in a sense of responsibility for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world, knowing that, where one person suffers and is degraded - all of humanity is belittled and abused.

May we grow in a sense of love and care for those less fortunate than ourselves, and lead us to do something about the troubles in our world.

Amen

