



A FUTURE  
FULL OF HOPE



Session One

The Creation Narrative

## Opening Prayer

Living God,  
you walk alongside us  
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.  
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears  
and shows us how to live for one another.  
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds  
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.  
R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation  
Pray for us

St Matthew  
Pray for us

St Jerome  
Pray for us

## Scripture: Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!

You founded the earth on its base,  
to stand firm from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:  
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys:  
they flow in between the hills.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
from the branches they sing their song.

From your dwelling you water the hills;  
earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and the plants to serve people's needs.

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
Bless the Lord, my soul!

## **Words of Pope Francis**

Respect for human life means respecting all of God's creation. We must re-engage with our environment and take responsibility for it; live sustainably, live so that there are enough resources for everyone. The relationship between human activity and global warming must be constantly monitored for "the climate is a good that must be protected".

*Vatican's Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, para 470*

"Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude."

## **Words of St. John Paul II**

*'The heavens declare the glory of God, The vault of heaven proclaims his handiwork' Psalm 19.1*

To you, humanity, who look with pleasure on the works of your hand, the fruit of your genius, Christ says to you: Do not forget the One who gave birth to us all! Do not forget the Creator! Further, the more profoundly you know the laws of nature, the more you discover its wealth and potential, the more intensely you must remember him. Do not forget the Creator – Christ tells us – and respect Creation! Do your work using the resources that God has given you as they should be used! Transform these riches with the help of science and technology, but do not abuse them; be neither a usurper nor an exploiter, without considering the goods that have been created! Do not destroy or contaminate! Remember your neighbour and the poor! Think of the future generations!

## **Reflection Fr. Henry Wandsbrough OSB**

*The reflection from Fr. Henry is available to download from [cliftondiocese.com](http://cliftondiocese.com)*

*Play the video clip [here](#).*

## Questions for Conversation

*In what sense do you understand the account of the creation story as one which is 'inspired' rather than an historical account?*

*Why is having a 'sabbath day' so important for us?*

*How do I, and how do we look after our planet?*

*What as a community might we do more to protect the earth for the next generation?*

Re-read the Scripture passage for this session. You may like to follow the reading with a time of prayer and intercession after which you might prayer the **OUR FATHER**

## Final Prayer

Pilgrim God,  
you walk alongside us  
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures:  
in the message of the prophets,  
the songs of David  
and the vision of Paul.  
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears  
and shows us how to live:  
in our love of neighbour  
our desire for justice,  
and in our dying and rising each day.  
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds  
so that we may be your witnesses  
throughout the world:  
in our protection of the vulnerable,  
our words and actions  
and in our communion with the earth.

