

Weekly Message from Fr William for Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 2022

Dear People of St Mary's

1st September marks the beginning of the Season of Creation announced by Pope Francis, ending with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October.

Francis launches the Season of Creation as an opportunity to cultivate our 'ecological conversion'. He invites all Christians during this time to 'pray once more in the great cathedral of creation, and revel in the great "cosmic choir" made up of countless creatures, all singing the praises of God'.

But in this cosmic choir Francis speaks also of a 'kind of dissonance'. 'On the one hand we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator, on the other hand an anguished plea lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home.'

People of faith, he says, feel 'even more responsible for acting each day in accordance with the summons to conversion'.

Francis calls us to stop consumerism, and to change lifestyles and harmful systems. 'We are reaching a breaking point' he says, 'and we must act now.'

I'd like to read his letter to you this Sunday (in a slightly abbreviated form) in place of a William homily. The full text of the letter I'll put up as a link on the parish website homepage.

I've been away this last week on retreat at Ampleforth, our annual community retreat. It was very good! I hope you're well and have had a good week. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday and celebrating mass with you. And come and have a chat after Mass.

God bless you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William', written in a cursive style.