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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Each year the Season of Creation invites us to pause, reflect and renew our commitment to caring for God's creation, our common home. This year's theme, "Living Water", inspired by Ezekiel 47:1-12, offers us a powerful image of hope, healing and renewal. In the prophet's vision, water flows forth bringing life wherever it goes, transforming what is barren into places of abundance and growth.

This biblical image speaks directly to our times. We live in a world facing significant environmental challenges, where many communities experience the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. Yet Ezekiel's vision reminds us that God continues to call us to be instruments of renewal, contributing to the healing of creation through faith-filled action and responsible stewardship.

In his Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that *"environmental justice can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an urgent need; it is a matter of justice, social, economic and human."* This challenge invites us to see care for creation not as an optional concern but as an essential expression of our Christian faith and our love of neighbour.

As the Season of Creation began this year on the 1st of September, Pope Leo offered another profound invitation. He encouraged us to place our daily lives into "silent mode" for a while, setting aside the constant noise and distractions that surround us, so that we might hear *"the melodious voice of creation, through which God, the Author of all things, speaks to us."*

In a world filled with activity, information and competing demands on our attention, this invitation is especially important. The Living Water of Ezekiel's vision encourages us not only to act but also to listen. We need moments of stillness in which we can rediscover our place within God's creation, hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, and recognise once more the beauty and harmony that God has entrusted to our care. Pope Leo reminds us that such contemplation is the beginning of an authentic ecological conversion, one that transforms the way we relate to the world around us.

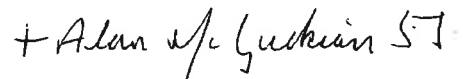
I am particularly struck by the theme of "Hope from Faith and Action" contained within the Season of Creation resources - [Season of Creation 2026 | Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

At a time when many people feel overwhelmed by environmental concerns, we are reminded that Christian hope is rooted in faith expressed through action. As the Season of Creation materials beautifully express it, *"Every act of care for creation becomes part of a global stream of hope."*

I warmly encourage our parishes, schools, families and communities throughout the diocese to participate in the Season of Creation. From that place of attentive listening, may we be inspired to take practical steps, however small, to care for God's creation and to work for environmental justice.

May this Season of Creation deepen our gratitude for the gift of creation, strengthen our commitment to environmental justice, and inspire us to become faithful stewards of the earth entrusted to our care.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Alan McGuckian SJ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+Alan McGuckian SJ
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