

# RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION - AUGUST 2025

A NEWSLETTER INSPIRING AND ENABLING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

## UN COURT CALLS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN's top court, has declared that wealthy nations must honor their international commitments to reduce pollution—or face potential compensation claims from countries suffering the worst effects of climate change. In a landmark advisory opinion, the ICJ emphasized the “urgent and existential threat” posed by climate change.

This ruling follows hearings requested by the UN General Assembly, which asked the ICJ to clarify nations' legal duties to curb greenhouse gas emissions and the consequences of failing to do so. The move was driven by developing countries and small island states, frustrated by the lack of progress under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

You can read the Court's Advisory Opinion here:  
<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/187/187-20250723-sum-01-00-en.pdf>

Source: Reuters

## NEWS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES

### Preparing for the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is from 1 September to 4 October: please see the website: [Seasonofcreation.org](https://Seasonofcreation.org) for details. The theme is “Peace with Justice”.

On 3 July, the Vatican instituted a new formulary for the Mass: Cardinal Czerny said “today we are happy to introduce a “Mass for the care of creation” (Missa pro custodia creationis), in response to requests suggested by Laudato si'.” Pope Leo celebrated this Mass on 9th July.

We suggest that this Mass for the care of creation be celebrated in every parish, on September 1 or at some time during this Season.

Find the Mass and more resources here:  
[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/season-of-creation-aob](https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/season-of-creation-aob)

## LIVE SIMPLY & SUSTAINABLY

For simple and sustainable school holiday activities, consider nature-based adventures like visiting local parks, observing nature around your home, or having a garden campout. Get creative with crafts using recycled materials. Explore free local resources like libraries and museums or get involved in community events such as the monthly ‘Town Tidy’.

## LIVE IN SOLIDARITY

Stories about Asylum seekers and migrants are frequently in the news, usually painted in negative light.

Some politicians and news channels, newspapers, social media outlets, use any negative story, sometimes fabricated, to argue that we should treat refugees harshly.

Some politicians build their support on such ideas. Refugees seeking asylum, migrants seeking a better life, have a right to do so.

Our responsibility is to welcome such people, listen to their stories, and if they do have a claim to stay here, then we accept them.

If not, then we help them to return to their homeland. At all times, we must treat them with respect and dignity.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED IN CLIMATE ACTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM, PLEASE CONTACT [CLIMATEACTION@RCAOB.ORG.UK](mailto:CLIMATEACTION@RCAOB.ORG.UK)