



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Jeremiah 20: 7-9
Psalm 62: 2-6, 8-9
Romans 12: 1-2
Matthew 16: 21-27



PRAYER:

Lord, open our hearts to the cry of creation, that we may care for the earth with reverence, responsibility and gratitude.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION ONLY
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This is why ecology is one of the pastoral concerns of MPC2026. Care for creation is not an optional concern but an essential expression of our faith, our love of neighbour, and our responsibility to future generations.

For Malaysia, this responsibility must have a distinctly Malaysian face. Ours is a nation blessed with forests, rivers, seas, fertile land, islands, villages, cities, plantations, and indigenous communities. Caring for our common home means listening not only to the cries of the earth but also to the people most affected by ecological degradation.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that the environmental crisis is also a human crisis. We cannot separate the suffering of creation from the suffering of people. He calls us to hear both "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (LS 49). In Malaysia, this becomes evident when floods destroy homes, rivers are polluted, forests disappear, coastal communities face erosion, and the poor bear the greatest burden of environmental damage.

Pope Francis also teaches that "everything is connected" (LS 91). Our lifestyles, use of resources, treatment of the poor, and relationship with God are inseparable.

A throwaway culture harms both the earth and the human spirit. **Can we have a Malaysian way of caring for our common home, such as gratitude? Indigenous communities, rural families, farmers, fisherfolk, and many ordinary households remind us that the earth is not simply a resource but a gift entrusted to our care.**

MPC 2026 invites the Church in Malaysia to live the vision of *Laudato Si'* in our parishes, schools, BECs, families, and dioceses through practical actions such as reducing waste, caring for parish environments, protecting water sources, supporting affected communities, and forming ecological awareness.

To care for our common home is to live mercy towards both creation and one another. It is an essential part of the Church's mission and a distinctive Malaysian witness to the Gospel. ✚

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NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time | 30 August 2026

WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

A People for Missionary Discipleship

MONTHLY FOCUS: SOCIETY: Unity In Diversity

MPC 2026: The Malaysian Way of Caring for Our Common Home

Everything around us reminds us that our common home is in trouble. In Malaysia, we experience this through heavier floods, rising temperatures, polluted rivers, deforestation, and the growing strain faced by communities that depend on the land and sea. The Department of Statistics Malaysia reported that flood incidents rose from 809 cases in 2023 to 1,345 cases in 2024, with Sarawak recording the highest number. These are not merely environmental concerns; they affect homes, livelihoods, health, food security, and human dignity.

