

# PRAYER FOR OUR OCEAN

*Celebrating our Connectedness with Earth*



*Who else  
has held the  
oceans in  
his hand?*

Isaiah 40:12 (NIV)

## Creator of the Sea

How amazing a Creator to design the sea. We watch the waves crash along the shore, mesmerized by their power and grace. We marvel at creatures miraculous in color moving swiftly through the waters. The sea is so very intimate, filled with memories and dreams, hopes and fears. But the depths of the ocean are filled with mysteries, wondrous and unknown. The tides remind us that Your world is all connected. That Your presence is never far from where we stand. The salt that runs through our bodies is the same salt that ran through the ancient seas. The ocean is more than surging currents, it is us, and we are it.

## Pope Francis: Protecting the Oceans

*The Pope Video from September 2019 is available on [YouTube here](#). English translation is below.*

*Pope Francis:* "Hello. Today, I'd like to speak to you about something that's very important and that weighs on my heart: to speak about the oceans. Oceans contain the bulk of our planet's water supply, and also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of which are threatened for various reasons. And we are not aware of this, or we don't want to take responsibility. Let's not forget that one of every two breaths I take is thanks to the oceans. A month ago, I had a meeting with a group of fishermen. Seven of them told me this: "During the last months we gathered 6 tons of plastic." This is the death of the oceans. It is the death of every living being. It is my death. Creation is a project of love, of the love God gives to humanity. An interdisciplinary approach to deal with the threats caused by the unjust management of our seas will help us to face this great challenge. And with this our survival is at stake. Our solidarity with the "common home" is born from our faith. Let us pray this month that politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans."

# Ocean Reflection

*From Ocean Sunday, Australian Version 2: Season of Creation*

We invite the oceans to worship with us.  
The deep sea currents and coral reefs,  
the mountain peaks on the ocean floor.

We summon the seashore to magnify the Lord,  
The pelican, the stingray, the silver gull,  
the white caps and waves that splash in praise.

We call the swirling seas to celebrate with us.  
The icebergs that break off from the South Pole,  
the calm waters that caress the equator.

Oceans, seas and watery deeps,  
Celebrate with all that lives within you,  
and roar in praise with us today.

We join all ocean life in songs of praise,  
Whales and dolphins dancing on the surface,  
and choirs of angel fish assembled below.

Roar, ocean, roar!  
Roar, roar in praise.

## Quiet Reflection

What stirred your heart with energy as you listened to these reflections?

What new seeds of Mercy is God drawing your attention to?

## Universal Prayer

We pray that all people feel called to discern their role in protecting our oceans and hope that each of us feels a renewed sense of connectedness with the ocean and its many gifts to us:

*May You cast all our transgressions into the depths of the sea.*

We pray for the more than 3 billion people whose livelihood depends on the health of our oceans, those who fish the waters for food and nutrients, and those whose culture and spirituality are entwined with the ocean and its mysteries:

*May You cast all our transgressions into the depths of the sea.*

We pray for small island nations and those most impacted by humanity's destructive processes that rob the ocean of its natural ability to regulate:

*May You cast all our transgressions into the depths of the sea.*

## Closing Blessing

May the love of God be as deep as the ocean floor, as sweeping as the currents, and as soothing as the waves crashing on the shore. Creator of mysteries, help each of us be stewards of the ocean. Stir our spirits with wonder and amazement knowing that Your love for us extends even beyond the horizon of the open sea. We rejoice in the living waters of the ocean and tread lightly on Your shores, hoping to leave this miraculous creation a mystery to behold for all future generations. **Amen.**

