

# THE BISHOPS FOUNDATION

## Newsletter



### NEWSLETTER AUGUST (2) 2023

Dear Friends and Benefactors

As we come to the end of August that magical day the 1<sup>st</sup> of September approaches. This day marks the first day of spring when the natural world awakens with the warming sun. New life bursts from what is seen as old and dry. Magic seems to happen everywhere. Of course, we know that not all of this happens on the first and we often must wait for the Spring warmth to come but there is much still to be grateful for. The following hymn by Isaac Watts expresses the hope we feel as Spring approaches.

We sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.  
We sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at his command,  
and all the stars obey.



We sing the goodness of the Lord  
that filled the earth with food;  
he formed the creatures with his word  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how your wonders are displayed,  
where'er we turn our eyes,  
if we survey the ground we tread  
or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes your glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow  
by order from your throne;  
while all that borrows life from you  
is ever in your care,  
and everywhere that we can be,  
you, God, are present there.



### Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a global ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home, starting each year on 1 September and finishing on the feast of St Francis, 4 October. The Prophet Amos cries out: “... *let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!*” (Amos 5: 24). We are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

and for communities impacted by climate change. As the people of God, we are called to work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice. For more information you can visit [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org)

### Passion of St John the Baptist – 29 August

The Church marks on this day the beheading of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus. As an adult, he lived as a hermit in the wilderness. After the Spirit inspired him, he went about preaching that the people should repent of their sins and be baptized in order to prepare for the Messiah.

Herod imprisoned John because he had condemned Herod for committing adultery by living with his brother's wife, Herodias.

At the celebration for Herod on his birthday, the daughter of Herodias danced for him,

and Herod was so impressed that he said he would offer her anything she liked. She consulted with Herodias who told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Herod did not want to kill John for fear or what his followers might do, but because of his promise to the girl he could not refuse, and so John was beheaded.



God our Father, You appointed St John The Baptist to be the herald of the birth and death of Christ Your Son. Grant that as he died a martyr for justice and truth, so we may also courageously bear witness to Your Word. St John the Baptist, pray for us. Amen. (anastpaul.com)

### Pope Francis in Mongolia – 31 August - 4 September

Pope Francis is the first Pope to visit the East Asian country that borders Russia and China. With just 3.3 million inhabitants it is the world's most sparsely populated state.



HOPING TOGETHER

After a peaceful Democratic Revolution and the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the current social democratic Mongolian's People's Party reshaped the country's political landscape and introduced a new constitution.

The end of religious repression in 1990 allowed for a rebirth of religious freedom and in the majority Buddhist nation, Catholic missionaries returned to rebuild the Church in 1992.

There are currently nearly 1,500 baptised Catholics in the country.

During a historic visit to the Republic of Mongolia, Pope Francis will meet with political authorities, he will address representatives of the Catholic Church and participate in an ecumenical and interreligious meeting, he will meet with charity workers and celebrate Holy Mass in a sports arena.

*Hoping Together* represents a common ideal and an element that will characterize the journey.

"The presence of the Holy Father represents for this small portion of the People of God a sign of great hope and encouragement and on the other hand the Church that is in Mongolia, with its smallness and marginality, can offer a sign of hope for the universal Church". (Adapted Vatican News)

*With every good wish and blessing*  
*Fr Hugh*

