

A Catholic Season of Creation – Sundays of September

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time - September 14th 2014

NO. 2

Land

I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land.

Gen 15:7

Through your closeness to the land you touched the sacredness of human relationship with God

St John Paul II,
Alice Springs 1986

Greeting

Today, the Readings invite us to celebrate the gift of God's forgiveness for when we have pushed the land itself beyond its limits. A sign of God forgiving is the land itself when we have pushed it beyond its limits. Fertile and living soils are a gift to be cherished. As members of the earth community, we ask God to teach us respect for God's design for the land. As we remember the ways we have wronged God's land, we also ask forgiveness for the ways we have wronged those around us.

Prayers of the Faithful

- That we are cautious with biotechnologies to neither pervert nature's evolutionary path nor harm the welfare of farmers and consumers.
- That we support research into alternative ways of sustaining rural communities, creating jobs for young people rather than driving them to suicide.
- That we will commit our nation to lower fossil-fuel use and grow alternative energy sources that sustain this and future generations.

Lectionary and Worship Phrases (Ecclesiasticus; Ps 102; Rm; Mt)

Creator and guide,
Creator of all
Offered his life in the service of all
When you pray your sins will be forgiven
Never forget all God's blessings
As the heavens are high above earth so is his love
The life and death of each of us has its influence on others
Love one another as I have loved you
How often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me?
I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me
May the worship of each one here bring salvation to all
May the Spirit guide and direct you in your way.



Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: ... we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.

Pope Francis Audience 21.05.14

Hymns

Songs of Creation has put ecologically aware words to familiar hymns and challenges us to try.

www.willowconnection.com.au

- Fertile land
- Flowers in the desert
- Now thank we all our God

Dismissal

Remembering that God is the creator who actively guides our journey, and having celebrated with thanks that God has given us the power to forgive, let us go forth on our mission to be signs of forgiveness to all people by the way we strive to care for the land which is humanity's common home.

Season of Creation

This Sunday focuses on Land. <http://seasonofcreation.com/> Aboriginal stories speak about our intimate relationship to land: that we belong to country and everything upon it is kin.

The bureau of meteorology recognises the wisdom of the Aboriginal people preserved in their stories that go back to the ice age. www.bom.gov.au

The collective wisdom of nature religions challenges us to go deeper into the mystery of Christ as our fulfilment. That we are part of earth is a revolutionary challenge to people imbued with a modern mind-set.

Connecting Justice, Peace and Care for Earth (JPIC)

Columban JPIC believes that there is an intimate connection between the action of social justice, growing peace and care for earth. We cannot properly work for one without caring for all three.

www.columban.org.au

Even business now uses a triple bottom line to recognise ecological impacts. But this advance is under threat through possible clauses in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade negotiations.

www.aftinet.org.au The environmental impact of coal mines and drilling for coal seam gas (CSG) are rightly contested.

ABC clips: Fracking inquiry 28/03/14 www.abc.net.au

Be praised, my Lord, through our
sister Mother Earth,
who feeds us and rules us,
and produces various fruits with
coloured flowers and herbs.

St Francis of Assisi.

The Eucharist is celebrated in order
to offer on the altar of the whole
Earth, the world's weak and suffering
(in the beautiful words of Teilhard de
Chardin).

St John Paul II 1995, Gift and Mystery,
quoted on On Holy Ground p13

Lectionary's Hidden Voices

The revision of the lectionary was mandated by Vatican II. In 1969, a new three year cycle of Sunday Readings was promulgated replacing a one year cycle.

Prophecy is a major part of the Scripture showing the consequences of human action. The voice of Earth as Prophet can be heard in the increasing frequency of severe weather or extinction of species as oceans warm, consequences of our actions. We must not suppress this gift of God the way the Lectionary overlooks the voice of women.

There is no Sunday Reading about Deborah. (Jud 5:1-31) Verses 15-19 about Huldah the prophet are omitted from the Lectionary passage. (2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3)

When the soul
lies down
in that grass
the world is too
full to talk about.

— Rumi



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Church Teachings

Education offices in most states have produced a local edition of *On Holy Ground* www.catholicearthcare.org.au It is of value to all Catholics.

First published by Catholic Earthcare Australia its method is deceptively simple – a vision, the supporting context of Catholic tradition, implementing and sustaining the vision.

Some diocesan offices have set up dedicated eco-centres such as Townsville which 'promotes education for the environment'. www.gumburu.tsv.catholic.edu.au

Ecological Insight

Every few years the government publishes *State of the Environment Australia*. It collates scientific reports for all states to better clarify trends affecting the entire nation. It was last published in 2011.

It begins by saying that Australians cannot afford to see themselves as separate from the environment. It points to areas of progress but warns that changing climate and ocean conditions will require quick and major national responses. Coastal areas will require coordinated management. www.environment.gov.au

What can I do?

Some parishes have formed an environmental group. A group might begin by discussing a local problem or sharing personal environmental concerns, then use the See-Judge-Act method to organise ideas and concerted action.