

**Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!
From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!
No 10, December 2012: "Liberation from Fear"**

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#10 "Liberation from Fear"**

March 3rd: 1st Sunday of Advent, Luke 21:

Reflection: *"There will be signs in the sun and the moon and the stars; on earth nations in agony bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and the waves....they will see the Son of Man coming.... hold your heads high because your liberation is at hand."*

There is no doubt that the Gospel holds in every age. This poetic language is not to be interpreted literally, but symbolically. At the time of Luke's Gospel, the Jewish people were afraid because of effects of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The threat of danger could be read in the signs of the natural world. Nature could be associated with the wrath of God. There were typical human responses of self preservation when faced with difficult times. In this age, humanity is faced with destruction caused by climate change. Science has helped us know that it is we humans who are causing the destruction, not the wrath of God. The effects of the recent Hurricane Sandy on Cuba, Haiti and the USA East Coast has finally jolted some key people into reading the signs. Again there are typical human responses to the fear – denial, self-preservation, or business as usual. But Jesus' life and words brings liberation from that fear. They challenge us to face up to the reality, have courage, reflect on the meaning of the Gospel for us in this time of threat, repent from our profligate way of life and follow him in the way of peace and justice for all peoples and all species.

Fact File:

The melting of Arctic Permafrost is releasing methane gas from ancient forests thus hugely increasing global warming. Sydney Morning Herald www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/where-even-the-earth-is-melting-20121127-2a5tp.html How do we respond to the information provided by scientists? Do we ignore it? Pretend it's not happening? Say it's all too hard? Protect ourselves alone? Or do we act with love compassion for those most affected – the poor and the threatened species?

Learn more:

As families, individuals, parish and school communities, we can all face this challenge by doing something to reduce our carbon emissions. It is imperative for future generations that we do it now.

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2012/03/climate-change-denial-isnt-about-science-or-even-skepticism/>

Action:

See "Going Green for Household" for great ideas <http://www.arrcc.org.au/get-active-individuals>