

Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!

From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!

No 11, December 2013: "Ready for Life?"

For further information contact:

Anne Lanyon,

Co-ordinator, Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice, Locked
Bag 2002, Strathfield NSW 2135

Ph 02 9352 8021 Fax 02 9746 8033 Email pej.cmi@columban.org.au

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11 "Ready for Life?"

December 1st, 1st Sunday of Advent. Matt 24: 37-44

Reflection: Recently we have seen what nature throws at us: Bushfires suddenly sweeping along consuming homes and bushland in Sydney's Blue Mountains; Typhoon Haiyan taking all before it as it slammed into central Philippines. Life grabs us unexpectedly. When it causes harm, we are shocked by the pain. How we respond in these devastating situations is a measure of our faith. Do we live our lives ready to respond as Jesus would to whatever life dishes up? One thing's for sure, nature is reminding us that we humans have to pay it more attention!

Fact File: Filipinos are used to typhoons. But the impacts are increasing. Forest destruction from agriculture, logging and mining has led to erosion and greater flooding. Lives are lost through drowning and landslides. Climate change is intensifying typhoons as ocean temperatures rise. It is usually the poor like those in the Philippines who are suffering the most.

Learn More: Columban Fr Sean McDonagh points out that, "if climate change is an important issue facing the planet, then it must be the most important issue for the churches". Read more at <http://www.columbans.co.uk/news/typhoon-haiyan-is-linked-to-climate-change-say-columbans/>

Take Action: View the dvd "[The Stations of the Forests](#)" about the Philippines and take one of the suggested actions.

