

A Catholic Season of Creation – September 2015

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 13th September

The first among you must be slave to all (MK 10:44)

Jesus lived, died and rose to new life

Inspiration from Sunday Lectionary and Worship Prayers

[Isiah 50; Ps 114; James 2; Mk 8]

The Creator looks to the needs of people
dignity of the poor in spirit
share the peace of Christ
opened my ears
walk in God's presence, land of the living
prove faith by deeds
glory in cross, crucified to world
your way not God's way
renounce self, lose life for Gospel



Greeting

Today the Readings invite us to remember the grace of God present in our joys and hopes, anxiety and pain, in all struggles on earth. God has shown the way for our human journey. Humbly opening our spirit, we are to walk in the land of the living and share the peace Christ brings. Our faith leads us to choose good for all people and the earth, to serve and even be willing to suffer for the Gospel.

*Global warming is the earth's
judgement on the global market
empire, and on the heedless
consumption it fosters.*

Michael Northcott *A Moral Climate 2008*

Season of Creation

Liturgical reform post-Vatican II focused on pastoral effectiveness. The gospel runs through many lands and must be localized - inculturated.

In recent decades we have grown to recognise that the Gospel River runs through a world of new ecological and cosmic awareness. This awareness seems to demand further 21st century liturgical reform based on an expanded new story of a Creator God, a cosmic story of salvation. A major new pastoral need has emerged and worshipping God in a new Season of Creation is one way forward.

Prayers of faithful

- Father, you created humans in your own likeness. As stewards within your economy of creation, help us manage for earth's long term good, all people's common home.
- Father, your messengers accepted abuse and your Son was misunderstood. Let our ways be corrected so we become authentic prophets and disciples.
- Father, you bathe us in the peace of Christ. Through promoting the good of others and your earth, may we not feel alienation but the freedom of living the Gospel.
- Father, you gave humankind the cosmos and all creatures on earth as brother and sister. May we reach out to live in joy, harmony and at peace with your gifts.

Connect Justice, Peace and Care for Earth (JPIC)

An unofficial *ethically orientated liturgical year* has emerged in some churches in modern times – Refugee Sunday, Human Rights Sunday and the like. This emphasis on ethics could distract from God as Creator. Even campaigns on environmental-justice for the world's poor or the extinction of species can become a human focused control. Further pressure for an ethical focus comes from society campaigns such as Earth Day or Earth Hour). Honouring the Creator is more than just another 'special day'. For Catholics a *Care 4 Creation Month* should not be re-moved from the liturgical life of average faith communities.



***The Bible is easy to understand.
But we Christians are a bunch of
scheming swindlers. We pretend to be
unable to understand it because we know
that the minute we understand, we are
obliged to act accordingly.***

Soren Kierkegaard

Another View

On this Sunday many communities celebrating Creation Time focus on the human vocation to be responsible stewards of within creation Mk 10:41-45. Leaders are not to lord it over either people or the earth. They are to reject the model of captains of industry who exploit the earth's natural resources and make workers into slaves. Jesus teaches that leaders are called to serve. They are called to reverse ideas of power and willingly make themselves slaves in the service of all God's creation.

Champions

Thomas Berry observed that we have changed the very chemistry of the planet, we have altered the bio-system, we have changed the topography and even the geological structure of the planet, structures and functions that have taken hundreds of millions of years and even billions of years to being into existence.

(Fr Thomas Berry CP quoted in 'On Holy Ground')

What can I do?

Does your local council use the Triple Bottom Line test?
Twin with another Parish

Dismissal

Jesus tested the leadership of Peter. Peter resisted but came to realise that the way of Jesus challenged his ideas of leadership. We go forth with new awareness of how we can be leaders in our community, serving the good of neighbours and the earth itself.

Hymns

*Lead kindly light
Come Holy Spirit*

Ecological Insights

Leadership in university studies, commerce and government now accept the triple bottom line way of judging the benefit of a project – economic, social and environmental. This has been a major breakthrough in the thinking of planners. <https://goo.gl/HIFwzv>

The Earth Charter movement suggests a fourth test, spiritual benefit. The world holds more believers in God than unbelievers. Decision makers must respect the fact that these believers carry a spiritual view of the land and sea, of diverse species and natural systems. They aspire to wonder and care.

<http://goo.gl/w0yo>