



A Catholic Season of Creation – September 2015

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 20th September

There was darkness over the whole land Mk 15:33

Jesus will come to judge – goats? sheep?

Inspiration from Sunday Lectionary and Worship Prayers

[Wis 2; Ps 53; James 3; Mk 9)

humankind needs your law

love each other and find justice

the godless lie in wait

if of God, God will rescue

The Lord upholds life

jealousy and ambition brings disharmony

wisdom is from above

fights start with inside desires

called us with the gospel

argue on the road

first will be last

welcome me and one who sent me



Invitation

Today the Readings invite us to embrace the grace of how God brings life from death. Studies of evolutionary history have deepened our understanding of the way God has chosen to act in all natural life processes, including human evolution and history. The death of Jesus is not some payment to be made or some punishment arbitrarily imposed. Jesus shows us the importance of life and how to choose to live a life with purpose.

Season of Creation

The post-Vatican II liturgical reform is a wonderful gift to the church in our time. The new Liturgical Year and its Lectionary was a collaborative work of teams of scholars and bishops organised over a decade under Father Annibale Bugnini. It offered worshippers a deeper pastoral and communal experience of God present in the human spiritual journey.

But the task of applying this marvellous work of creative reform falls largely to liturgical leaders.

Pope Francis wrote:

The preacher also needs to keep his ear to the people and to discover what it is that the faithful need to hear. ...learns "of the aspirations, of riches and limitations, of ways of praying, of loving, of looking at life and the world.

Mission Exhortation 2013 No 154

Prayers of faithful

- Father of Jesus, our minds have grown clouded with ambition and self-indulgence, like air pollution. May we be disciples of the life-giving law of your Son.
- Father we have insulted you with our godless plots. Help us to stop persecuting campaigners for good, especially women as prophets of well-being.
- God you have rescued us with wisdom from above. May we welcome the one you have sent, his Gospel and the Pope's message of integral ecology.
- Father you want the good for all people and the earth. May we not hide behind faceless centres of control but take our part in growing the common good for earth and peoples.

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 Tielhard de Chardin).

John Paul II 1995, *Gift and Mystery*

Another View

Some churches recall the passion and death of Jesus on this Sunday in Creation time (Mk 15:33-39). They recall how when Jesus died the sky darkened. Mark has the natural world itself recognise a world-changing event.

The Bible is easy to understand. But Analysis of the lectionary reveals that a disproportionate number of passages about the women of the Bible have been omitted

<http://goo.gl/EbMMF6>

Champions

Rachel Carson (1907-1964) grew up enjoying the river near her home and later studied marine biology. A communicator, she wrote radio scripts to popularize the emerging science of ecology and was recognised as a lyric poet writing of wonder and beauty. She was alarmed by the effects of the profligate use of synthetic chemicals. In response to birds being killed off she wrote the Silent Spring in 1962. The chemical companies persecuted her. www.rachelcarson.org

What can I do?

Learn more about air pollution in the Hunter Valley NSW

Learn more about pollution in road tunnels

Connect Justice, Peace and Care for Earth (JPIC)

Ecumenical dialogue among Christians and dialogue with peoples of other faiths benefit us in our common search to find God. The climate change crisis opens up the new arena of respectful dialogue with scientists and puts us in a better position to serve both humanity and the earth as our common home. Such dialogue is good pastoral practice and makes for better witness.



Dismissal

We go from this celebration with a new understanding of suffering and death. The human is called to knowingly enter many cycles of death and new life. The life cycle of every species acts in God's name to guide us.

Ecological Insights

We are called to understand natural cycles of air currents, heat and cold, air pollution. Without this knowledge we are prone to those who lie for political or economic benefit. www.cawcr.gov.au

As Australians we are called to have special care for our poorer Pacific neighbours. As a result of elevated atmospheric carbon, the intensity of cyclones increases; sea levels rise inundating small islands; and acid seas that melt the shells of small sea creatures, often the food of the poor.

www.pacificclimatechangescience.org