

**Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!
From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!
11 “What’s Christmas About?”**

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11 What’s Christmas About?

December 4th, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Matt 3: 1-12

Reflection: “Produce good fruit.”

As the Christmas rush hots up, how wonderful it is to have the time of Advent to remind us that Christmas is about the coming of Jesus into the world, not about consumerism. That Christ, the Word of God, entered into the rough and tumble of life in Jesus Christ, is God’s positive affirmation that the world is good. Yet we can see that the gap between rich and poor is growing and consumerism is destroying Earth, our common home. Pope Francis in *Laudato Si’* #14 writes, “I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet....Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity.” Let’s spend time during Advent reflecting and acting on this so that we can prepare for a simple Christmas that will produce the good fruit of healthy people and a healthy planet.

Fact File: The Australian Retailers Association predicts that Australian spending in the 5 weeks pre-Christmas will be \$48.1 billion <http://retail.org.au/news-posts/australian-shoppers-to-spend-48-1-billion-this-christmas/> The question of a more just and ecologically sustainable economic system on a finite planet is being asked by economists like Thomas Picketty.

Learn More: The Buy Nothing Christmas initiative is about reducing consumption and includes great ideas from around the globe. www.buynothingchristmas.org/alternatives/

Take Action: Give a wildlife protection membership as a Christmas gift.

Feature your local natural bushland in your Christmas Nativity Scene.

Cut right down on plastic usage this Christmas.

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