

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

From the Columban Mission Institute Centre of Peace, Ecology and Justice!

No 1, February 2014: "Christ, the first born of Creation?"

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#### # 1 "Christ, the first born of Creation"

February 2nd, 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time. Luke 2: 22-40

**Reflection: "Simeon took the infant Jesus in his arms and blessed God." Luke 2: 22 - 40**

Simeon had an attitude of gratitude. He felt so privileged to receive and hold in his arms the infant Jesus, who is the first born of all creation and a precious gift from God to all humanity. We have so much to be grateful to God for. Stopping from our busy-ness allows us time to embrace the good things we have in life, including the gift of earth, air, water, beautiful beaches, rivers, mountains and whatever else we can name and imagine? How can we better be like Simeon, a grace-filled and thankful person towards God's special gifts to us?

**Fact File:** We humans are destroying God's gift of Earth. We fail to appreciate its life-support systems on which we depend.

**Learn More:** Scientists point out that Earth's life-support systems are reaching their limits. Read their report at: <http://www.newscientist.com/special/ocean-to-ozone-earths-nine-life-support-systems>

**Take Action:** The Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice at the **Columban Mission Institute** has prepared Lenten Reflection materials on "The Grace of Earth" which can be used for reflection and action during Lent. It will be available online from 11<sup>th</sup> February at: [www.columban.org.au](http://www.columban.org.au). Donations for the resource are appreciated.