

Online Resource - Lenten Reflections

The Grace of My Place

GOD REVEALING, GOD INSPIRING, GOD CHALLENGING

"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us." St Francis of Assisi

6th Sunday of Lent

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer
Lk 22: 14-23: 56

*"In their commitment to place
- a vow of sorts
that humans make to
bind themselves somewhere to
a piece of earth -
they discover that the land
grounds and shapes them."*

Dale Coulter



Image: goo.gl/p9p73m

God Revealing.....

Wherever "my place" is, I share it with other species. It is part of an interdependent ecosystem containing complex, wondrous forms of life, functioning for their own purposes. Scientists estimate there are around 8 million species on Earth, the majority of which exist on land. 86% of all species on land and 91% of those in the seas have yet to be discovered, described or catalogued. <http://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.1001127>

Science has given us the gift of naming species. Getting to know the names of species helps to get to know more about them, to become more curious about them. Charles Darwin's observations about the origin of species began with observing the worms in his place.

Investigate your place using a hand lens. Look at a flower or an insect to discover what it is all about. "It has etched for itself a place in the web of time and place that is unique. It has honed its qualities to this end. It has evolved to this end, just as we have, in a different life direction from ours. Each species is a unique real-isation of living possibility: biologically as complex as I am, genetically related to me", [John Feehan, The Singing Heart of the World](#).

"The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope."

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

God Inspiring.....

My place is where I feel most "at home", where I feel I belong, where I can relate honestly with those I love, where family stories are created and shared. Aboriginal peoples have storylines that connect them from where they grew up to where they are now. They keep on telling those stories.

We are called to create deep ecological connections to the place we call home. "I listened to the ancient, familiar, immortal, dear cricket sound under all the others, hearing at first some distant chirps; but when these ceased I was aware of the general earth-song, which my hearing had not heard.... and I wondered if behind or beneath this there was not some other chant yet more universal....", [Thoreau, in Guy Murchie, The Earth Speaks](#).

Jesus took his place at table with his disciples to share the Passover meal in a place they had prepared. In the Eucharist, "we symbolically bring the whole creation to the table of God". [Denis Edwards, Jesus and the Natural World](#).

Jesuit palaeontologist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was convinced that the risen Christ is now at work in the whole universe, transforming it with His own presence. He sees our participation in the Eucharist as part of this transformation.

Transformation helps us become more aware of the suffering that is happening around the world. We can turn this awareness into action.

Prayer:

Watch and reflect on the Deer's Cry video: goo.gl/NFVP4J

God Challenging.....

Pope Francis says in *Laudato Si'*:

1. "Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us." #33. Sit in your place for 15 minutes a day. Identify species and learn their names. Learn about Habitat Stepping Stones. www.habitatsteppingstones.org.au
2. "The technological paradigm has become so dominant that it would be difficult to do without its resources and even more difficult to utilise them without being dominated by their internal logic". #108 Have a technology free day.

Read the Vatican report about the Anthropocene: a new geological era caused by human activity. goo.gl/l5A0q6



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www.columban.org.au

St Columban Mission Society
PO Box 752 Niddrie VIC 3042
Ph: (03) 9375 9475
email: info@columban.org.au

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