



COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

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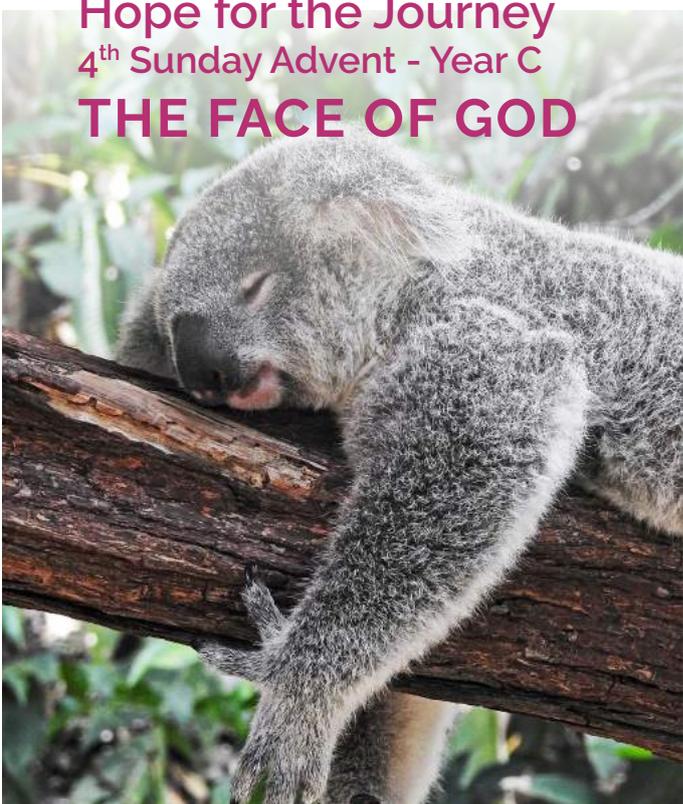
# Online Resource

## Pathways:

### Hope for the Journey

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent - Year C

## THE FACE OF GOD



### See your face and be saved (Ps 79)

#### Prayers and Sunday Scripture

*Fill our hearts with love,  
Eternal Word took flesh on Earth  
Power of Spirit sanctifies Mary,  
Celebrate Christ coming as Saviour  
The exiled remnant come  
Live secure: he will be our peace  
The shepherd, the vine carer  
Not sacrifice or holocaust  
May God's will be done to me  
Blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Blessed is she who believed the promise.*

#### Habitat and Chinese Philosophy

Habitat is a key word in the science of ecology. Plants and animals are 'happy' if their habitat is right and secure. For the human habitat: Chinese philosophy about right living has helped their culture survive and prosper for thousands of years – the Confucian idea of humanity and nature as one; the Daoist view of humanity reflecting nature's lessons; the Buddhist belief that all living things are equally important. Pope Francis' 'integral ecology' has a similar message.

*All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start.*  
Pope Francis *Laudato Si'* #205

#### Contradictions

Ecology teaches about the cycles of dying and rising in the natural world, mysterious evolution and transitions to new things. Likewise, Scripture presents us with contradictions in stories of an exiled remnant people (Israel) that flourished in a barren land. The message for us in these stories is one of hope. We can find God present with us in the often messy contradictions of modern life - *Emmanuel*.

#### Prayers of the Faithful

1. **Transformation** – In Earth itself God teaches about cycles of dying and new growth. That we view trials as stepping stones to transformation ... *we pray*
2. **Renewal** - God never abandoned the exiled remnant of Israel. That in God's Spirit we create the Church anew in every age ... *we pray*
3. **Will of God** - God does not want sacrifice but for us to do God's will. That we accept Jesus as the light guiding our lives ... *we pray*
4. **Imagination** - God does greater works than we can imagine. That we let our hearts and minds be expanded, giving us courage to find hope in life ... *we pray*
5. **Solstice** – God punctuates Earth with seasons. That the birth of Jesus at the solstice help us look for the actions of the Trinity on Earth ... *we pray*

#### Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir

She was born in Narrandera and educated at the local Catholic school and University of Sydney. From 1956 onwards she held various medical positions, with a particular emphasis in psychiatry. From 1993 she was Clinical Director of Mental Health Services for the Central Sydney Area Health Service until appointed Governor of NSW 2001-2012. She was also Chancellor of the University of Sydney 2007–2012. She is known as a person of compassion and joy.

#### Action

1. Give a copy of *Laudato Si'* as a Christmas present
2. Eat together as a family and give thanks before meals

#### Mission's Warm Embrace

*The history of the Church shows that Christianity does not have simply one cultural expression ... the Church expresses her genuine catholicity and shows forth the "beauty of her varied face" ... Through inculturation, the Church "introduces peoples, together with their cultures, into her own community".*  
Pope Francis *Joy of the Gospel* #116

St Columbans Mission Society

www.columban.org.au

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