

## Lead kindly light 1st Sunday

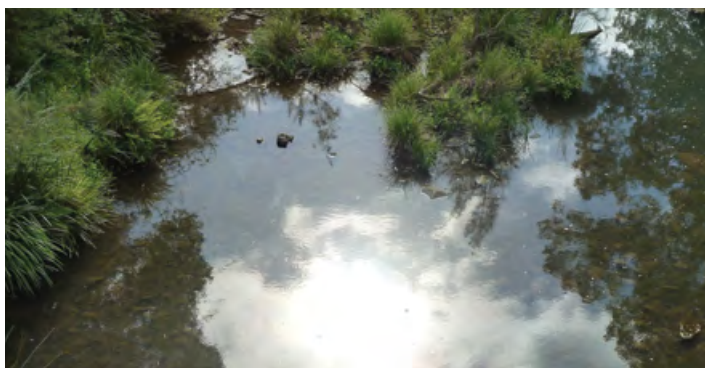
*Go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 121)*

### Points for prayer - Sunday scripture

*Vision of Isaiah about Jerusalem  
All nations will stream to you  
Hammer swords into plough shares  
No more training for war  
Walk in the light of the Lord  
'Wake up', says St Paul  
Salvation nearer than when converted  
Live decently as people do in the daylight  
Let your armour be the Lord  
'You know not the hour when the Master is coming',  
says Matthew,  
They suspected nothing until the flood came.*

### Yearnings

During Advent, the Sunday Readings focus on the *spiritual yearnings* of people throughout history fulfilled with the coming of Jesus. The people's yearnings range from personal happiness to worry about a planet in ecological danger, our common home. Advent prayer reminds us of Gospel answers to our yearnings. It lights our way and comforts us with hope in our fears. The whole human family carries a spiritual impulse as it searches for a vision for the future. Advent challenges us to be awake to our life choices. It grows hope.



### Inter-linked

Earth is a complex system of interacting physical, chemical and biological "spheres". The systems of air, water, living organisms, land and polar- regions are all inter-linked - holistic. No part of Earth's system can be considered in isolation. Each interacts within the solar system and galaxies beyond. Small changes alter the Earth systems. These inter-connected impacts remind us that every human action has an impact on other human beings and Earth, for good or for bad.

*"Sobriety, when lived freely and consciously, is liberating...happiness means knowing how to limit some needs...and being open to the many different possibilities which life can offer."*  
*Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #223*

### Prayers of the faithful

1. God's presence – Lord, the cosmos and diversity of religions are signs of your abiding presence. Continue to lead us by your light.
2. Teachers – Lord, in human history you raised up diverse teachers of wisdom. Challenge us to seek deeper spiritual meanings in our life on earth.
3. Earth – Creator God, you have given us Earth as your first revelation of creative love. May we respect this sign and be led by its messages.
4. Hope – Lord, you chose your People to be a sign of peace. May we listen to all messages of hope in our world and turn swords into plough shares.
5. Lifestyle – God of all, you invite people to praise you with noble simplicity. May the way we live reflect simple choices so all peoples may simply live.

### Profile

Jesuit priest Tielhard de Chardin (1881-1955) was the first Catholic in modern times to theologially link the earth sciences and faith. As a scientist he explored the wonder of God's cosmos. As a believer in the Cosmic Christ he wrote prayers as part of developing a theology of infatuation with God's Earth. He celebrated on the altar of Earth. He presented the vision of all life, human and cosmic, leading to an Omega Point in Christ Jesus. <http://goo.gl/AaMYyU>

### Missions wide embrace

*The entire life of Christians is an exploration into Christ. Each generation pushes back ever so slightly the envelope of His mystery... One of the most significant developments in Catholic understanding of the Christian mission in more recent times is its embrace of creation in all its beauty and vitality. (Archbishop Bathurst, Catholic Earthcare Australia, 30th June, 2002)*

## Action

- Buy ecologically friendly Christmas gifts - plastic free.
- Plan a less extravagant Christmas celebration.