

## Lead kindly light 2nd Sunday

*Justice and Peace will flourish (Psalm 71)*

### Points for prayer - Sunday scripture

*Isaiah says that new shoots will sprout  
Knowledge and respectful fear of the Lord  
Integrity is the loincloth round His waist  
The wolf lives with the lamb  
Paul says: Treat each other with friendship  
The pagan outsiders praise God  
Matthew repeats the Baptist: Repent!  
Prepare a way for the Lord  
They were baptised and confessed their sins  
Produce the appropriate fruit  
Baptise you with the Holy Spirit  
Gather His wheat into His barn.*



### Dialogue

Pope Francis invites us to a new way of faith. *I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all - the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor... Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity. (Laudato Si' #14)*

### Learn from wilderness

Wilderness is a particular geological area where the plants and animals have evolved and flourish undisturbed by human activities. Within its dynamic structure, wilderness carries the cumulative wisdom and genetics of millions of years- a gift of the ages. It is good for the human spirit now to contemplate on this heritage and to care for it since it is borrowed from future generations. It is not to be harmed by insensitive tourism or be the victim of untested biotechnology. Emmanuel- God with us.

[www.australianwildlife.org](http://www.australianwildlife.org)



*“The technocratic paradigm also tends to dominate economics and political life ... by itself the market cannot guarantee integral human development.” Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #109*

### Prayers of the faithful

1. Repent – You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for your Son. God of outreach, help us turn back to your ways with all our heart.
2. Unity – Lord you give us the image of the lamb lying with the wolf. Inspire us to take the initiative and approach the outsider in friendship.
3. Darkness – Lord, you created both dark and light in the cosmos. Draw us to find you in dark circumstances and the voids of life.
4. Friends – Your Son Jesus called us friends. Show us how to value our friends and to make new friends among those who work for good.
5. Integrity – Jesus taught that we will be known by the fruits we bear. Lord, help us to put aside a self-centred lifestyle and stand erect in goodness.

### Profile

St Hildegard of Bingen wrote of Earth as Mother... *it forms not only the basic raw material for humankind but also the substance of God's Son.* As a sign of Incarnation, in her Middle Age Rhine River monastery she taught her nuns the use of herbs for healing the sick. Sister Calasactus RSM in the 1950s taught biology and there was a special place in her garden for plants mentioned in the Bible.

### Missions wide embrace

*(Dialogue) is demanded by deep respect for everything that has been brought about in human beings by the Spirit who blows where it wills ... Other religions constitute a positive challenge for the Church (56). (John Paul II, 'Mission of the Redeemer', 1990)*

## Action

- Join various communities for Christmas celebrations.
- Fill Christmas cribs with scenes from your local nature surrounds.
- Give a wildlife protection membership as a Christmas gift.