

RECEIVE A HOME FROM GOD

C22 Sunday Ordinary Time

Read the Lectionary Ecologically

[Si 17; Ps 67; Heb 12; Lk 14]

*Be gentle in carrying out your business
no cure for the proud person's malady
God leads the prisoners forth to freedom
Starved, you gave them new life
You have made a home for the poor
Everyone a 'first born son', citizen of heaven
Take my yoke upon you
Who humbles himself will be exalted
Invite the poor, crippled, lame and blind.*

Greeting

In today's Scripture we remember that Jesus mediates a new creation that sets us free from self-absorption. Let us ask mercy for the times we acted with proud self-sufficiency.

Prayers of the Faithful

1. Presence – God's presence fills our world - oceans and land, the tropics and arctic. That Church community groups help us to find God at home in all places on Earth ... we pray
2. Compassion - Scripture shows God's preferential option for the suffering. That as a nation we care for prisoners, the traumatised and aid nations towards self-sufficiency ... we pray
3. Belonging – God has made us children and heirs. That national laws provide citizens with a home and protect the habitat of every species so all have a place to belong ... we pray
4. New Covenant – Jesus is the new covenant with God's People. That we cherish the gifts of Earth, happy to find God present and revealed in its diversity ... we pray
5. Mother Earth – God created Earth as a mother. That with scientists we value the healing power of the natural world, welcoming the sun's gift of energy to power home and work ... we pray

our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us Pope Francis Laudato Si' #1

Preface Prayer

Creator and Father, at home with the poor in human history, it is right to give you thanks through your Son, Jesus the Christ. Called to be gentle in life, knowing there is no cure for the proud person's malady, we give an attentive ear to the dreams of wise teachers. You free prisoners and feed the starved, care for the crippled and blind, giving them a home with you. We are gifted as first born children and citizens of heaven, so, we join with the choirs of heaven, people of good will and Earth itself as we sing, Holy, holy ...

Dismissal

God lovingly makes a home within this community. As co-heirs in Jesus we can go out as the first born of a new creation to proclaim a new covenant.

Season of Creation

The word 'theme' can set a mistaken liturgical tone, setting an educational or even campaigning style. It is better to focus on a celebration time 'for' creation since God is at home with Earth. Remembering a 'grace' leads to then give thanks as in the style of Eucharistic prayer. It is the primary model for liturgical prayer. Moral imperatives follow, not lead. Even worthy campaigns can distract from honouring God as Creator.



Covenant

As Jesus healed the leper, cured the sick and cast out devils he grew God's 'Healing Covenant' of loving kindness (Mt 4:23-25). The Sabbath rest and Jubilee heals creation (Lv ch. 25; Jm 5:14-15). God's care for the land was the sign of this covenant (Ps 104:10-14). Polluting land (Nm 35:33-34; Ezk 34:17-18) was a sign of Israel breaking the covenant (Is 24:4-6). The land mourns (Ho 4:1-3). Freeing people and Earth are works of the same healing God (Rm 8:19-21).

Champions and Saints

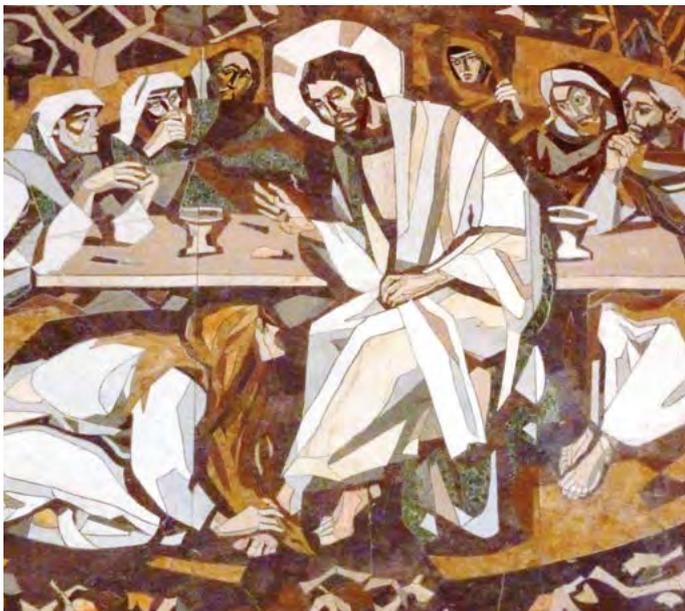
Celia Deane-Drummond studied both science and theology, publishing and lecturing widely. In 2011 she was elected Chair of the European Forum for the Study of Religion and Environment, co-edited *Religion and Ecology in the Public Sphere*, and now heads the *Laudato Si' Institute* at Oxford. To make key eco-faith books available worldwide, the Institute offers a collection free online. <https://lsri.campion.ox.ac.uk/laudato-si-integral-ecology-collection>

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #13

Mysticism

Mixing contemplative and active lives, many saints grew as leaders of unity. Saints Columban



growing conviction that our planet is a homeland and that humanity is one people living in a common home

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #164

and Catherine of Sienna challenged Popes and kings alike to better serve their peoples. Today, faith motivated activists linking peace, social justice and eco-awareness welcome the *integral ecology spirituality* of Pope Francis. He links ecology and economics, justice and compassion, law and life style to entighten the evolving relationship of God-Earth-Humanity as a communion of love (LS#66, #77).

Ecological Insight

John Elkington created an accounting framework called the *triple bottom line* as a tool to access sustainability, the 3Ps - people, planet and profits. Beyond profits and share value, it includes environmental and social dimensions. Making money the sole unit of evaluation has cultural limits in weighing up benefits. <http://www.ibrc.indiana.edu/ibr/2011/spring/article2.html>

Local Culture

The whole church is fully present in the local church as *inculturaton* (Lumen Gentium #13). Globally, processions celebrate local saints and natural wonders with music, dance and singing to take people beyond the ordinary.

The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #21