

JESUS THE COSMIC WORD

Praise the Lord, my soul Ps 145

READ LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY

[Is 25; Ps 145; Jm 2; Mk 7]

each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos ... The Creator can say to each one of us: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you"

(Jer 1:5) Pope Francis Laudato Si' #65

*Draw us into the circle of your life
 Courage, do not be afraid
 Blind see... deaf hear... lame leap... dumb sing
 Waters gush in the desert
 Protects the stranger ... upholds the widow
 Have used two different standards in your mind
 Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
 Done all things well ... deaf hear and dumb speak
 I am the light of the world*

GREETING

Today's Readings remind us that God's grace combines works of justice and mercy in every cycle of life. We ask forgiveness for the times we been blind and dumb to justice and mercy.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Web of Life – God is the author of billions of years of cosmic and Earth's evolution. That our Church leaders help draw us into the many circles of the evolving web of life ... we pray
2. Complacent - Justice and mercy meet in God. That we not be lame in fighting agro-chemical abuse of land and people nor blind to tyrannical economic structures ... we pray
3. Water - God gave bountiful water to the Chosen People in the desert. That Australia generously aid all nations to provide clean water for their peoples ... we pray
4. Carers – Care for the blind and dumb, deaf and lame are signs of the God's Reign. That we support those who care for disadvantaged people as a sign of God's love for all beings on Earth ... we pray
5. Death - Jesus faced the reality of death as part of God given cycles of life. That we have the courage not to fly from our own decay or from accompanying the final days of others ... we pray
6. Cosmos – God created the entire cosmos. That we be open to being amazed as scientists unravel the process of the galaxies evolving over billions of years... we pray.

DISMISSAL

God has a special love for the outsider. Given courage by this Eucharist we go forth unafraid to reach out to the stranger or to be known as people who try to do all things well.

SEASON OF CREATION

A bold plan to officially include a Season of Creation within a revised liturgical year, together with compiling a new Sunday Lectionary, gives the opportunity to help address related Church challenges. To name five: giving better voice to women in the Church; reinvigorating dialogue with the world of science; deepening dialogue ecumenically and with other faiths; giving scope for greater local Church participation and 'inculturation'; correcting 'clunky' liturgical language. Pope Francis introduces a new phrase integral ecology. It gives a type of package to guide values for living united with the Cosmic Christ in our times of environmental crisis and a broad basis for prayer.

HYMNS

1. All the ends of the Earth (Dufford)
2. Psalm 146: Praise the Lord, my soul
3. Amazing grace
4. Come to me all who labour
5. City of God (Awake from your slumber)

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Be a local contact person for Catholic EarthCare.
- Join a local Land or Bush Care group
- Write to your Catholic paper asking for articles reporting eco-faith action

the complexities of local problems which demand the active participation of all members of the community

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #144

COVENANTS

Ultimately God gives us the new 'Jesus Covenant' – teacher and prophet, healer and saviour – in his human bodily self the Word made flesh, destined for the fall and rise of many says Simeon to his mother (Lk 2:34). Jesus was called Teacher when he stood up to teach in the synagogue and the crowds were amazed at his wisdom (Lk 4:16-22), a blessing for all peoples (Ws 7:26-30). He was called Prophet as ordinary people welcomed him rejoicing (Mt 21:6-11). Jesus was Healer of bodies, the possessed and the mean spirited (Mt 4:23-25). Jesus explained all this to his followers (Lk 24:25-27). Peter preached Jesus as the Christ, Saviour and Messiah, and the people were converted (Ac 2:22-24, 36-39).



CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

Jesuit priest Teilhard 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. The Word was present there. As a believer in the Cosmic Christ he wrote prayers as part of developing a theology of infatuation with God's Earth. He celebrated Eucharist on the altar of the Earth. He was not unlike Australian ecologist and theologian Charles Birch. As moderator of the WCC's Church and Society, Birch valued dialogue on sensitive issues such as over population. He opposed the Vietnam war but humbly served fragile people at the Wayside Chapel. Often misunderstood and maligned, both Teilhard and Birch suffered with Christ to reveal a fuller human vocation. <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/birch-louis-charles-16919>

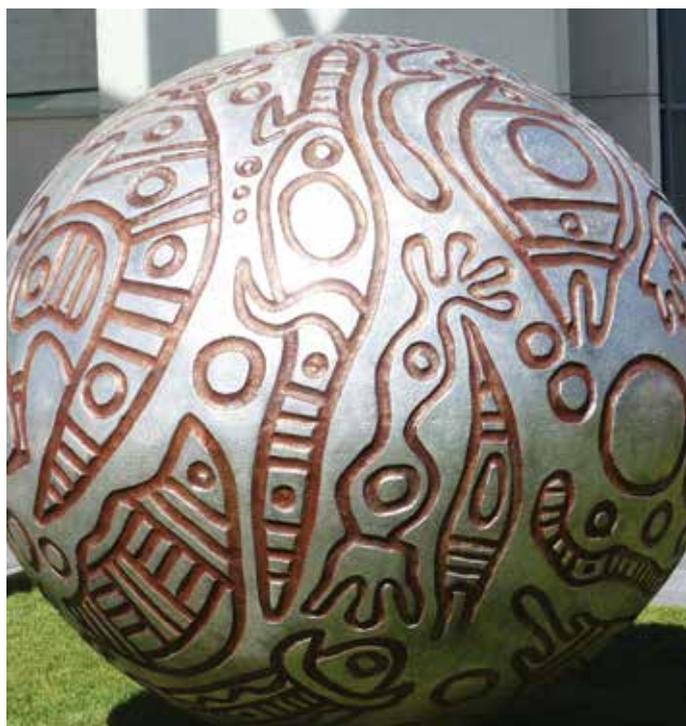


Where profits alone count, there can be no thinking about the rhythms of nature, its phases of decay and regeneration, or the complexity of ecosystems which may be gravely upset by human intervention.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #190

MYSTICISM

Denis Edwards are among theologians who have helped open Christians to the Cosmic dimension of faith. We are made from stardust is the scientific story of how elements in each of us descend over aeons from the cosmic evolution of the stars. Geological science gives a source of wonder and joy, reasons for belonging and hope. But deeper reflection has led many to stark realisation that some human actions are altering the very chemistry of the planet and its bio-system. Lament and a resolve to change lifestyle follow from a cosmic spirituality. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5LKv5fbMqA>



ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Exploring the unknown in a methodical way is at the heart of science. It requires humility in the face of evidence and not being afraid of uncertainty. It is sceptical of outcomes, not in the sense of denial but knowing that results are provisional. Even the great story of how photosynthesis transforms inanimate matter into organic cells has not exhausted Earth's ways of producing life. The history of scientific discoveries is the story of its methodical way of exploring hypotheses and testing them to replicate the results. Seeking to learn what Earth has to say about its complexity – a physical word - brings both humility and joy born of knowledge. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method

self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today ... end up prey to an unethical consumerism bereft of social or ecological awareness.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #219

LOCAL CULTURE

That Stone Age hunters helped cause the Late Pleistocene mega-fauna extinctions in parts of Australia seems incredible. Now, that human population pressure affects eco-system change is a hot debate. Respect for the land, its processes and species brings an evolution in cultural values. <http://www.australasianscience.com.au/article/issue-may-2012/australias-megafauna-extinctions-cause-and-effect.html>

*Irresolute as fine weather, I am blind
With memories. Nature was never friendly, her ways*

*Severed me and serious poets should never be severed,
Should lovers be, namers of colours, shapes and plants?*

Fay Zwicky Identity

<http://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/zwicky-fay/identity-0174049>

