

THIRSTING FOR GOD

My soul is thirsting for you my God Ps 62

READ THE LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY

[Jr 20; Ps 62; Rm 12; Mt 16]

*You have seduced me Lord
I will bless you all my life
Dry, weary land without water
In the shadow of your wings I rejoice
Offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice
Modelled by your new mind
Enlighten the eyes of our heart
Destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer
The way you think is not God's way but man's
Take up his cross and follow me
What offer in exchange for life*

GREETING

Today's Scripture tells how the will of God works in our lives. Earth's cycles of life and death, rebirth and transformation are God's first teaching. Have we rebelled against God's ways?

the natural environment has been gravely damaged by our irresponsible behaviour. ... The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #6

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Water - God gave water as a sign of refreshment and the baptismal sign of new life in Jesus. That our Church promote the UN resolution that clean water be recognised as a human right ... we pray
2. Public Life - The public life of Jesus ran over three years. That we let the Spirit guide us and our nation into transitions of goodness for all generations ... we pray
3. Ridicule - Jesus was scorned. That our parish not be deterred by ridicule as it publicly campaigns for Earth Care in service of the Risen Christ ... we pray
4. Crosses - Jesus went willingly up to Jerusalem accepting the Cross. That we grow the clarity of mind and courage of spirit to thirst for the revolutionary way of Jesus in our lives ... we pray
5. Care - All good comes from a faithful God. That we support workers who sacrifice themselves to care for people on the margins of society and for Earth as our common home ... we pray
6. Inquisitive – God led his People to search and plan. That believers appreciate the inquisitive minds of scientists who expand human knowledge ... we pray

DISMISSAL

The bread of life has strengthened us for our journey to do what is good for ourselves, for those we meet and the Earth community which upholds us. We go forth as part of God's cycles of life.

SEASON OF CREATION

Education offices in Australia have produced On Holy Ground as a framework for school teachers. Students are led to meditation, to pray and celebrate communal liturgy around creation. Prayer is integral to the schema. It is like water for the thirsty. In the spirit of the early Church theologians, On Holy Ground affirms that creation is good (Justin Martyr, Irenaeus of Lyons). It helps all believers avoid the mistake of the Gnostics, repeated in most heresies, who fled from the world as evil. On Holy Ground gives a framework of values not only to children but to all Catholics, a solid base for their communal liturgy celebrating the goodness of the total Earth community. www.catholicearthcare.org.au

Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #12

HYMNS

1. Seek, O seek the Lord
2. Psalm 42: My Soul Is Thirsting
3. A new heart for a new world
4. Open my eyes
5. Bring forth the Kingdom



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Learn what bio-diversity means
- Find out how 'nature conservancy' groups function
- Join a Land or Beach Care group

the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #48

COVENANT

God constantly acts in the universe creating a 'History Covenant'. It extends over cosmic, geological and human time scales.

God tells Job in no uncertain terms that setting the planets in space and the Earth on its foundation are all works of God (Jb Chs 28-40). Salvation History for the People of God runs from stories about Abraham and his descendants, judges and kings, prophets and priests until its fulfilment in Jesus the Christ (Mk 1:9-11). It is both human history and personal journey. The history of Israel became a spiritual journey with God at its side (Ps 46.1-4). Called to endure trials and fight the good fight people should not become obsessed with worry about what they need for life but trust the providence and faithfulness of God (1Tm 6:12). Earth and history is the stage where salvation and life to the full is played out (Mt 6.25-34).

CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

Archbishop Bartholomew I of Constantinople, Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, was born on the island of Imbros in 1940. Part of his studies was at Catholic colleges in Rome. He became the leader of Orthodox Christians worldwide as 'first among equals'. His tenure has been characterized by dialogue and his initiatives to promote protection of the environment, earning him the title The Green Patriarch. He declared environmental abuse as a sin. He first focused on the ecological death of the Black Sea from pollution and overfishing. He has inspired many water-projects worldwide to care for rivers, lakes and sea. He is a friend of Pope Francis and Australian Fr John Chryssavgis is his theological advisor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFpXuwmlIBe>

If a mistaken understanding of our own principles has at times led us to justify mistreating nature ... , we believers should acknowledge that by so doing we were not faithful to the treasures of wisdom

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #200



MYSTICISM

Mystical union with God and all creation was the aspiration of many saints. They thirsted for this union. Phrases from the poems of the Irish hermit Marban express something of this union – for I inhabit a wood unknown but to my God ... women disguise as blackbirds talk their word from the gable... for music I have pines. A householder absorbed in his garden, a farmer looking over her fields, a fisher immersed in ocean waves: each experience a feeling of wonder. The natural world is a place where mystics find God and their Earth kin. Their experiences blossom in poems and singing.

ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Environmental education strengthens the ecological literacy of individuals and society. A bio or eco-centric view offers a paradigm, an overarching story - human systems are nestled within natural systems. In one interconnected Earth community all species are seen as kin and community, respected and loved. Environmental education equips human communities to sustain and enhance this link, cultivating a deep sense of moral responsibility towards all parts of Earth. Instead of degrading natural systems, it invites humanity to make lifestyle choices that grow ecological sustainability. The whole Earth community is on a trajectory of growth.

http://www.jsedimensions.org/wordpress/content/awareness-to-action-the-journey-toward-a-deeper-ecological-literacy_2013_05/

LOCAL CULTURE

A 'bush', country or coastal background has helped forge the Australian culture and language, even for city dwellers. Poets capture these cultural characteristics. The forest, wilderness and oceans give images to express both the reality of place for Australians and common yearnings. <http://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4473&context=theses>

*I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of rugged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.*

Dorothea Mackellar My Country

<http://www.dorotheamackellar.com.au/archive/mycountry.htm>