

A CONTRITE SPIRIT

My sacrifice is a contrite spirit Ps 50

READ THE LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY

[Ex 32; Ps 50; 1 T 1; Lk 15]

*The dignity which distinguishes the poor in spirit
Your people whom you brought out of Egypt
By your own self you swore and made this promise
All this land which I promised I will give to your descendants
I will rise and go to my father
Wash me more and more from my guilt
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit
Jesus came into the world to save sinners
In Christ to reconcile the world to yourself
This man welcomes sinners and eats with them
Celebration ... he was lost and is found.*

GREETING

Today's Reading remind us that both to be forgiven and to forgive are graces of God. Even the natural world reveals God's mercy towards human follies We ask forgiveness from Earth, God and those around us.

Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things
Pope Francis Laudato Si' #77

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Sacrifice – Jesus gave himself unto death on the cross. That our Church be a sign of loving service and new beginnings knowing that new life flows from sacrifice ... we pray
2. Conversion - Jesus preached a Gospel of repentance. That our nation change business practices and enact laws to stop ecological abuse of God's Earth ... we pray
3. Migrants - God led the Chosen People to migrate out of Egypt to a new land. That our parish support migrant people often forced to flee ecological collapse in their homelands ... we pray
4. Forgive - God is like the forgiving father of the prodigal son. That we bury our pride and take the initiative in seeking reconciliation with those near to us and with marginalised groups ... we pray
5. Celebrate Goodness - Jesus taught that it is right to celebrate the prodigal son come to life. That we celebrate the environmental encyclical of Pope Francis ... we pray
6. Scientific method – God guides us towards truth. That we respect the scientific method of discovering truth and enter into dialogue without bias ... we pray

DISMISSAL

In this Eucharist we have celebrated God's gift of forgiveness. We can go forth with confidence to bring the Good News of reconciliation for all peoples and creatures where we live.

Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each creature
Pope Francis Laudato Si' #92

SEASON OF CREATION

The Church's liturgical seasons evolved gradually. They draw from Earth's four natural seasons to provide time frames linked to winter, spring, summer and autumn. The seasons remind us that humanity is part of the planet community and called to humbly accept its proper place. Onto these seasonal frames, Jewish accounts of salvation history and Christian remembrances were grafted. Vatican II's liturgical reform is a model of what has grown in modern times as Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Churches cooperate. Introducing an official new Season of Creation to remember God's creative acts during September would be in an evolutionary line with modern Church reform.

HYMNS

1. Seek, O seek the Lord
2. Grant to us, O Lord, Lucien Deiss
3. Gift of finest wheat (You satisfy)
4. Create in me a clean heart, O God
5. Prayer of St. Francis (Make me a channel)



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Name a local place special to you and say why.
- Send leaders a letter about your ecological concerns.
- Arrange a liturgy to lament local environmental abuse

Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #119

COVENANT

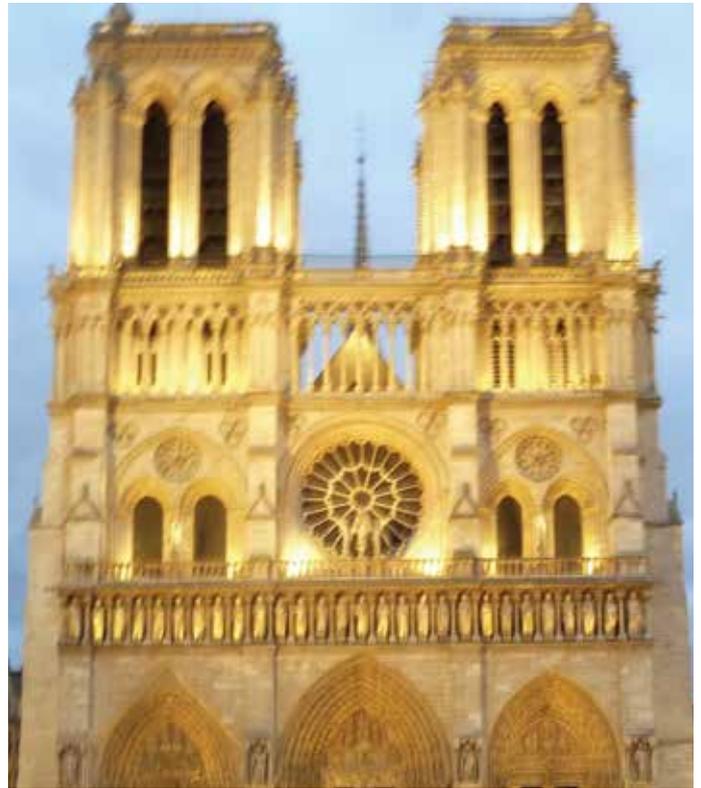
As a prophet, Jesus preached a 'Repentance Covenant'. He told the parable about human owners taking the inheritance gifted by God as if it was their own (Mk 12:1-9). Throughout the history of Israel God raised up prophets to challenge the people by preaching repentance (Is 5:1-2). God's covenant will circumcise the people's hearts (Dt 10:16). The prophets pointed to the consequences of unjust self-centred greed (Mi 2:1-3). The war practices of using women from conquered nations (Ze 14:2) and making them slaves as booty (Dt 20:14) needed to be changed (Phm 1:16). Through words and eccentric actions, even going naked (Is 20:2), prophets preached that the day of reckoning is coming (Am 6:3-8). But the prophets also promised that by a contrite heart God would breathe new life into dry bones (Ezk 37:9).

CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

As bishop of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis became a leader in the Conference of Latin American Bishops (CELAM). He knew the suffering of the poor and chemical agricultural practices that abuse the land in his home country and especially in Brazil. Visiting the UN in 2015 he praised its achievements on human rights which include the right to a safe environment on Earth as our common home. He challenged UN members to work with world leaders for the rights of the environment as a matter of justice for the common good. In his environmental encyclical Pope Francis reiterates the dignity of every species in its own right and the responsibility of humanity to preserve the diversity of species. To care for poor people and our kin in the natural world, the Vatican and Religious Congregations have permanent delegations advising UN departments. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/september/documents/papa-francesco_20150925_onu-visita.html

MYSTICISM

Religious Orders have distinctive spiritualities to manifest their mission in Jesus, often called their charism. In the midst of global environmental problems and spurred on by papal teachings many Congregation have grown a contemporary eco-spirituality. Visiting the websites of Orders and Congregations - Benedictine, Dominican, Jesuit, Franciscan, Columban and others – reveals major sections dedicated to faith-ecology. There are many 'Genesis Farm' type places of eco-spiritual formation. The values of eco-spirituality have been taken up locally by diocesan formation programs and ongoing education of teachers. An eco-spiritual dimension has grown in some parish celebrations of the Sunday Eucharist.



ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

'Cumulative Environmental Effects' is the term used to name the collectively impact of past and current human activities on the environment. A related phrase is ecological footprint. Global warming is the cumulative effect of too many greenhouse gases being pumped into the atmosphere. The combined effects of multiple human activities on air quality, land and water pollution damage Earth's ecosystems. The melting of the Arctic permafrost is catastrophic. Damage can be inflicted systemically, such as in the handling of industrial waste or badly designed transport. Damage can be indirect, such as the loss of habitat leading to loss of biodiversity. The precautionary principle when faced with uncertainty is part of scientific evaluation and affirmed as valid by Catholic teachings on ethics (Compendium #469).

ecological conversion ... offering ourselves to God 'as living sacrifice'

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #220

LOCAL CULTURE

Searching for happiness has dangers. It is alive in Australia in cult like self-development groups. A healthy scepticism avoids simplistic solutions. It looks for a reality check in logic and critical thinking to form good judgements. <http://www.cultconsulting.org/cults-mind-control>

*I see your shadow on the street now
I hear you push through the rusty gate
Click of your heels on the concrete
Waiting for a knock coming way too late
Bernard Fanning My Happiness*