

**GOD ALWAYS FAITHFUL**

*The Lord who keeps faith forever Ps 145*

**READ THE LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY**

[Am 6; Ps 145; I Tm 6; Lk 16]

*Woe to those ensconced so snugly  
Praise the Lord my soul  
It is the Lord who keeps faith forever  
Just to those who are oppressed  
The Lord protects the stranger  
Aim to be saintly ... fight the good fight  
Filled with faith and love, patient and gentle  
Jesus was rich but became poor  
Not be convinced even if someone rise from the dead.*

**GREETING**

Today's Readings remind us that God is the faithful one whose power makes us into saints. Let us confess for the times that we have become comfortable and smug in our own achievements.

***whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenceless before the interests of a deified market, which become the only rule***

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #56

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

1. Faithfulness – God keeps faith with our world forever. That our Church leaders have the resolve to remain faithful to serving and caring for all of God's creation ... we pray
2. Pride - Jesus taught parables about pride. That we help guide our nation to know when to change track, to choose pathways leading to true joy for the total Earth community ... we pray
3. Witness – Jesus told his disciples to read the signs of the times. That in our particular vocation in life we be Good News for all on the human journey ... we pray
4. Saints - All holiness springs from God. That God's gifts of faith, love and hope guide our journey to become the saints God wants us to be appropriate to our time ... we pray
5. Frailties - Jesus took on the frailties of human nature. That when we disagree with others, even in a good cause, we act with respect and patience ... we pray
6. Vocation – God gives each person a vocation. That we recognise the vocation of scientists, praise their dedication and learn from their example ... we pray

**DISMISSAL**

In this Eucharist we have been nourished by God who is faithful. Given the power to be saints we journey in respect for others and the Earth that upholds us.

**SEASON OF CREATION**

In 2013 Pope Francis exhorted pastors to better promote mission by addressing real life issues in the Eucharistic assembly, taking on the smell of the sheep. Humanity faces an ecological crisis and needs spiritual help to do so. In 2015 the Pope explicitly asked that pastors be prepared from their seminary days to address ecological conversion; and that preparation be done in a systematic way. Pastors can benefit from a Season of Creation framework. A systematic schema can nurture Catholic communities to live the ecological dimension of their faith. God is always faithful and Church leaders must be the same.

**HYMNS**

1. In faith and hope and love
2. Psalm 146: Praise the Lord, my soul
3. Be thou my vision
4. Bread of life, hope of the world
5. The Church of Christ, in every age

***Each creature possesses its own particular goodness and perfection***

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #69

**WHAT CAN I DO?**

- Send a 'thank-you-letter' to an ecological scientist for their particular work
- Explore the ecological aims of the IPCC or CSIRO
- Ask how you can better serve ecological conversion in your parish



## COVENANT

God's 'Noah Covenant' is often called the Forgotten Covenant (Gn 9:8-15) and the rainbow is its sign. It is an everlasting promise to the human race in Noah's descendants, but also to every living creature, never to again destroy Earth (Si 44:19). It is a unilateral covenant, based solely on God's own faithfulness. God is faithful to this unilateral covenant made for every age (Lk 1:68-75). The natural world suffers if Israel is unfaithful (Is 24:4-6) but salvation is also shown in the heavens and Earth itself (Ps 96:11-12). God worked through the natural world to constantly save the Chosen People (Ps 105:26-35) because God never takes back gifts already granted (Rm 11:29). God loves all in the Earth community in a covenant that liberates the whole of creation, even the physical world, so that in freedom it can attain its God given purpose (Rm 8:19-21).

## CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

Teachers in Catholic Schools – Sisters, Brothers and lay – instill in students a love for the environment and how ecology helps reveal the wonder of God's creation and its fulfilment in Christ. God is faithful in all Earth and human happenings. In the diocese of Townsville, school principal Paul Lucas was among those who formed teachers to teach their own students. He believes that teachers learn and grow through their teaching. Paul cooperated with Catholic Earthcare to publish a statement on the Great Barrier Reef. Together they also created an eco-faith curriculum framework for schools called On Holy Ground. The Townsville diocese backs teachers locally with a dedicated centre for the environment. [www.gumburu.tsv.catholic.edu.au/](http://www.gumburu.tsv.catholic.edu.au/)

## MYSTICISM

In Jesus the spiritual and material worlds are united - Incarnation. We remember the Incarnation of Jesus every time we celebrate the Sacraments by using material objects to mediate the spiritual. Passed on as traditional wisdom, the followers of nature religions respect the spiritual dimension of the Universe and look for human fulfilment by being linked to its mystery. Native peoples celebrate this mystery. This spiritual way of belonging on Earth can be a revolutionary reminder to people imbued with a materialistic mind-set.

***The nobility of the human vocation to participate responsibly in God's creative action***

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #131

## ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

Among its diverse service, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology has a section on Aboriginal climate knowledge accumulated over millennia. This knowledge grows from their forebear's intimate relationship to land and sense of belonging to country where everything is looked upon as kin. Native peoples live the meaning of ecology – a species at home, in love with a place. One orally recorded story goes back over 10,000 years to the last ice age when the oceans were meters lower so that the Yarra River flowed into the sea through Port Phillip Bay Heads. <http://www.bom.gov.au/iwkw/?ref=fr>

## LOCAL CULTURE

An egalitarian tone runs through much Australian literature. Mateship is defining word - intense loyalty arising from shared experience, mutual respect and unconditional assistance. Usually associated with men it now includes women as it shows in times of natural disasters or tragedy.

*Our old world differences are dead,  
Like weeds beneath the plough,  
For English, Scotch, and Irish-bred,  
They're all Australians now!*

Author Unknown We're All Australians Now  
<http://www.authorsden.com/visit/viewarticle.asp?id=44598>

***The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion.***

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #219

