

A CONTRITE SPIRIT

24 C Sunday Ordinary Time

Read the Lectionary Ecologically

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

*The dignity which distinguishes the poor in spirit
Your people whom you brought out of Egypt
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, to be forgiven and to forgive, are graces of God. Even the forgiving natural world reveals God's mercy towards human follies. We ask forgiveness from Earth, God and those around us.

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. That our parish support migrant people often forced to flee ecological collapse in their homelands ... we pray
4. Forgive - God is like the prodigal son's forgiving father. That we take the initiative in seeking reconciliation with those near to us and with marginalised groups ... we pray
5. Celebrate - Jesus celebrated the prodigal son come to life. That we celebrate the environmental encyclical of Pope Francis and respect science as he shows ... we pray

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

Preface Prayer

Creator and Father, present in human stories of liberation, it is right to give you thanks through your Son, Jesus the Christ. Faithful to your promises, you led the people you created out of slavery in Egypt and gave them a new homeland. Even when they rebelled, abusing the land and cutting themselves off from its other inhabitants, you sent prophets to expose their guilt. Many returned with a contrite spirit, following Jesus who ate with sinners and reconciled the world to you. So we join with the choirs of heaven, people of good will and Earth itself as we sing, Holy, holy ...

Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #77

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.



Season of Creation

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The Church's liturgical year draws from the timeframe of Earth's natural seasons. This reminds us that humanity is formed from Earth and part of the planet community, called to humbly accept our proper place. Christian stories of salvation graft onto nature's seasons. Vatican II's liturgical reforms were a model to cooperation among churches. A Season of Creation evolved to help believers respond to the 21st century environmental crisis.

Covenant

As a prophet, Jesus preached a 'Repentance Covenant'. He told of human owners taking the inheritance gifted by God as if it was their own (Mk 12:1-9) preaching repentance (Is 5:1-2). God's covenants circumscribe hearts (Dt 10:16) and point to the consequences of self-centred greed (Mi 2:1-3). War must not abuse women or make slaves (Ze 14:2; Dt 20:14). The day of reckoning is coming (Am 6:3-8) but God can breathe new life into dry bones (Ezk 37:9).

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

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #119

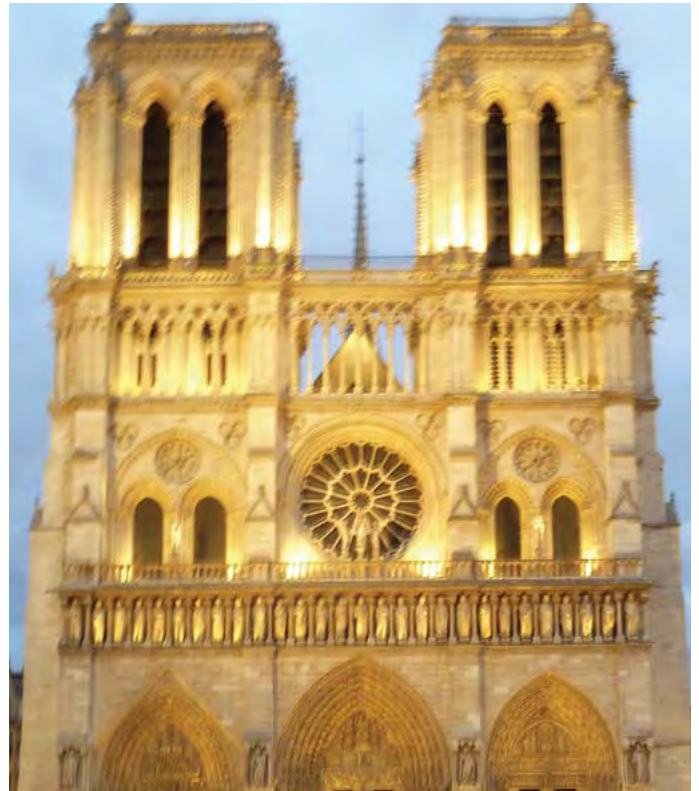
Champions and Saints

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Pope Francis was a leader in the Conference of Latin American Bishops (CELAM). He knew the suffering of the poor caused by chemical agricultural malpractice. At the UN in 2015 he praised eco-campaigners and challenged UN members to care for Earth as our common home. He reiterated the dignity of every species *in its own right* as our kin. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/september/documents/papa-francesco_20150925_onu-visita.html

Mysticism

Religious Orders have distinctive spiritualities unique to their mission in Jesus, often called *charism*. In the midst of global environmental problems, many have grown *eco-spirituality*. Benedictine, Jesuit, Franciscan, Columban and other websites carry major sections linking faith-ecology. 'Genesis Farm' type places offer eco-spiritual formation. Many dioceses facilitate formation for educators and the eco-spiritual dimension of Sunday Eucharist.



Ecological Insight

'Cumulative Environmental Effects' names the collective impact of human activities, *ecological footprint*. Greenhouse gases combine to cause global with ongoing impacts: polluted air, land and water damage Earth's ecosystems; melting Arctic permafrost and glaciers; systemic damage from industrial waste and transport design; indirect damage like habitat loss leading to loss of biodiversity. The *precautionary principle* in scientific evaluation is part of Catholic ethics (*Compendium* #469).

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

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #220

Local Culture

The whole church is fully-present in the local church as *inculturaton* (Lumen Gentium #13). The chanting and foot stamping of Aboriginal people at the 2000 Olympics - <https://vimeo.com/122295339> and North American first nation peoples <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcnA5nUNSE4> express the spiritual birth of humanity from Earth and healing.

