

GOD ALWAYS FAITHFUL

26C Sunday Ordinary Time

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.

Prayers of the Faithful

1. Faithfulness – God keeps faith with our world forever. That we take responsibility and work with Church leaders to faithfully serve the flowering of all God's creation ... we pray
2. Pride - Jesus taught parables about pride. That we strive to help our nation know when to change and choose pathways of true joy for the total Earth community ... we pray
3. Saints - All holiness springs from God. That we acclaim the work of God in the martyrs for good in our time, open to be the saints God wants us to be for our time ... we pray
4. Frailties - Jesus took on the frailties of human nature. That in disagreements with others, even in a good cause, we consciously act with respect and patience ... we pray
5. Vocation – Jesus gave each believer a vocation to read the *signs of the times*. That we praise the vocation of scientists exploring human journey and learn from their dedication ... we pray.

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

Preface Prayer

Creator and Father, ever-faithful God, it is right to give you thanks through your Son, Jesus the Christ. He filled his followers with gifts of love, patience and gentleness. By example he declared his mission - emptying himself to become one with the outsider, protecting and fighting the good fight with them in their need. The believer is not overcome by the arrogant, nor the cynical, who have narrowed their vision of life. So, we join with the choirs of heaven, all people of good will and Earth itself as we sing, Holy, holy ...

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 Earth that upholds us.

Each creature possesses its own particular goodness and perfection

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #69



Season of Creation

In 2013 Pope Francis exhorted pastors to address real life issues in the Eucharistic, taking on *the smell of the sheep*. Faced with a global ecological crisis, humanity needs spiritual help. In 2015 the Pope said that pastors need to be systematically prepared from their seminary days to address *ecological conversion*. Systems apply to organising Sunday Eucharist. *A Season of Creation* gives one framework.

Covenant

God's 'Noah Covenant' is often called the *Forgotten Covenant* (Gn 9:8-15). With the rainbow as its sign, God promises to never again harm Noah's descendants or every living creature, (Si 44:19). It is a unilateral covenant based solely on God's own faithfulness (Lk 1:68-75). God never takes back gifts already granted (Rm 11:29) so all can attain its God given purpose (Rm 8:19-21). Pain and joy are integral to creation (Is 24:4-6; Ps 96:11-12; Ps 105:26-35).

Champions and Saints

Teachers in Catholic schools form students to love Earth, teaching how ecology helps reveal the wonder of God's creation and its fulfilment in Christ. Townsville diocesan teachers are capable of forming their own students, not being forced to bring in 'outside experts'. They created a local eco-faith curriculum called *On Holy Ground* supported by a dedicated centre 'for' the environment. www.gumburu.tsv.catholic.edu.au/

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

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #131

Mysticism

In Jesus the spiritual and material worlds are united - *Incarnation*. It underpins the Sacraments as it uses material objects to mediate the spiritual. The traditional wisdom of nature religions respects a spiritual universe and seeks fulfilment by linking to its mystery. A spiritual way of belonging on Earth challenges people imbued with a materialistic mind-set.

Ecological Insight

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has a section on Aboriginal climate knowledge. Accumulated over millennium, it grows from a

sense of belonging to country. Everything is in an evolving kinship. One oral story goes back over 10,000 years to the last ice age when the oceans were lower so that the Yarra River flowed into the sea through Port Philip Bay Heads. <http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/?ref=ftr>

Local Culture

The whole church is fully present in the local church as *inculturaton* (Lumen Gentium #13). At the 2015 COP meeting in Paris, young people from multiple nations paraded through Notre Dame with diverse works of art. <https://www.google.com/search?q=2015+cop+21+notre+dam+paris&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKewjltP7xyLP4AhU3z6ACHWxOD98Q2-cCegQIABAA&oq=2015+cop+21+notre+dame+paris>

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

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #219

