



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

SEASON OF CREATION COLUMBAN SCHOOL COMPETITION | 2023



Dear Educators

Thank you for your support of St Columbans Mission Society. **St Columbans Mission Society invites Primary and Secondary school students** to participate in our 2023 Season of Creation school competition focusing on the theme, **'Let justice and peace flow.'**

The Season of Creation is a special time in the liturgical year during which Christians come together to reflect on the relationships we have with God, each other and all parts of the Earth community and to show our care. The Season of Creation begins on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (September 1st) and concludes on the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi (October 4th). This year during the Season of Creation, Christians unite under the theme, **'Let justice and peace flow,'** and take inspiration from Scripture: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) "Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43: 19)

The theme for Season of Creation 2023, **'Let justice and peace flow,'** invites Christian communities to join the river of justice and peace, and share a hopeful vision for creation. A sense of urgency prevails in our times due to increasing climate change and the rapid loss of biodiversity that exacerbate existing inequalities and affect lives on every continent. And yet, as we grow in awareness and are equipped to discern in faith-filled communities, we are strengthened to respond positively and rejoice in possibilities for a fairer world.

In the Encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*: On care for our common home Pope Francis affirms the Christian vocation to care for God's creation and says, "all of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents" (*Laudato Si'* 14).

The local community is a place where anyone can get to know more about ecology and the role healthy ecosystems play in supplying clean air, water and food to humans and all of life. All parts of creation have their inherent value and healthy ecosystems are core to the identity, culture and pride of Indigenous people and important to local communities everywhere. The interdependent relationships in a local ecosystem are a microcosm for what happens everywhere in the Earth community.

Columban missionaries see close-up the impacts of the loss of biodiversity and climate change and its impacts on communities worldwide and work collaboratively in grassroots action and at all levels of the Church to contribute to an integrated response to these urgent challenges. Based on their international experience Columban missionaries took part in COP15, the international meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity that concluded in December 2022 with a new international agreement to restore biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Columban missionaries collaborated as part of a multi-faith coalition at COP15, to help get the message out about the importance of biodiversity and to advocate together for a better future for the planet and its people.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With every blessing,

Peter O'Neill

Fr Peter O'Neill,
Regional Director of Oceania

St Columbans Mission Society

FOR MORE INFORMATION

AUSTRALIA: www.columban.org.au NEW ZEALAND: www.columban.org.nz FIJI: www.columban.org.fj