

CARMELITES
reflect
on
SEASONS OF
CREATION

Week 2 -
13th September
2020



"Be praised my Lord, for
our Brother Sun,
Who brings us the day
and the light;
Be praised my Lord for
Sister Moon and for the
stars which you have set
shining and lovely in the
heavens."

Saint Francis of Assisi

PROTECTING OUR COMMON HOME – Reflection by Peter Clarke, Kiama Parishioner

Have you ever stood on an unspoiled beach wondering at a spectacular sunrise and felt that your God was part of you and the creation? At a time of loss or tragedy have you sought the peace of solitude, a quiet place? Does the flight of a bird lift your spirit "on eagles wings"?

We are aware of what Patriarch Bartholomew calls sin (*Laudato si*) as the human species overfishes the oceans and pollutes them with river of plastics. As the lungs of the earth, the great forests of the Amazon and Congo basins are clear-felled or burnt.

On the east coast of Australia, we have just experienced a series of predicted events of

drought, devastating fires, and flood. All events driven by climate change linked to the world's continued and expanding use of fossil fuels

The oceans, outside the usually recognized national limits, and Antarctica can be identified as "global commons". In some places, countries have declared marine parks. On land, the great national parks, game reserves, and Crown land are a type of "commons". The United Nations states that approximately 11% of land surface is reserved. These areas represent places where human activity is curtailed. Other species are afforded protection that allows them to flourish, to give testament to the creation of god-with-us.

"Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes ... The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action here and now." – *Laudato si'*, #161

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER – RESPECT THE PLANET'S RESOURCES

PAUL GURR O.Carm sends us this song FROM INDONESIA LAUDATO SI

"Nikke Lingga was a little girl in Sumbul when I was there in 1973. She is now an FMM Sister and has composed this song, based on Laudato Si, in both English and Bahasa.

[Click here for the English version.](#)

CONTEMPLATING SCRIPTURE ECOLOGICALLY

(Sirach 27:30-28; Ps 102, Rm 14:7-9, Mt 18:21-35)

The scriptures of the second Sunday

recall that while the seriousness of the ecological crisis demands urgent and passionate prophetic action, it must remain non-judgmental and forgiving. They invite reflection on how much we have been forgiven and still need forgiveness so that we may be patient and forgiving of others.

TO PONDER:

- How has God patiently increased our awareness of the preciousness of the gifts of creation?
- What do we most appreciate, enjoy and rely on in nature? How can we come to recognise it more as a gift from God?
- How can we expand our consciousness of the ways we continue to live unconcerned about waste, pollution, a 'throw away culture,' overuse of resources, inequality and poverty?

PRAYERFUL MEDITATION THROUGH MUSIC

(contributed by Antonietta Skelton, a Perth Lay Carmelite)

For the Beauty of the Earth

by John Rutter

WHAT ACTION CAN WE TAKE/WHAT CAN WE DO?

Some steps for saving rainforests - ecosystems around the world can be abbreviated as **TREES**:

- **Teach** others about the importance of the environment and how they can help save rainforests. Discuss with your family.
- **Restore** damaged ecosystems by planting trees on land where forests have been cut down

Restoring a rainforest in Gerringong NSW



CARMELITE WHITEFRIARS

COLLEGE students

in Melbourne recently were encouraged to pause and take a look at a tree in their garden or within the grounds in honour of National Tree Planting Day.

The students came up with many reasons why trees are important:

They provide us with oxygen, improve soil quality, capture carbon dioxide, help us save on our energy bills, capture rainwater, improve mental health, create jobs, increase business, provide habitats to fauna and just look fantastic.

[Take a look at their great effort!](#)



Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.

Pope Francis Laudato Si #13

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Creator of Life,
In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all that you have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.

Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation. Amen.