



Pathways: Hope for the Journey

4th Sunday Advent C - 20 December 2015

THE FACE OF GOD

Be Saved, Ps 79

Prayers Points

*Fill our hearts with love,
The power of the Spirit sanctifies Mary,
Celebrate Christ coming as Saviour
The exiled remnant come
Live secure: he will be our peace
The shepherd, the vine carer
Neither offer sacrifice or holocaust to God
May God's will be done to me
Blessed is the fruit of your womb.*

Chinese Philosophy

Habitat is a key word in the science of ecology. Plants and animals are 'happy' if their habitat is right, secure and helping each other to grow. For the human habitat, Chinese philosophy has contributed: the Confucian idea of humanity and nature as one; the Daoist view of reflecting nature's lessons; the Buddhist belief that all living things are equally important. The phrase of Pope Francis 'integral ecology' has a similar message.

Contradictions

Ecology teaches about the cycles of dying and rising in the natural world, mysterious evolution and transitions to new things. Likewise, Scripture presents us with contradictions in stories of an exiled remnant people (Israel) that flourished in a barren land. The message for us in these stories is one of hope as we find God present with us (Emmanuel), in the often messy contradictions of modern life.

Action

- Give a copy of *Laudato Si'* as a Christmas present. www.paulinebooks.com.au
- Help grow habitat in your own place. Gain inspiration from Community Gardens. <http://communitygarden.org.au>



Prayers of the Faithful

- Lord, you bless us in the story of the earth's cycles of dying and transformation. Help us to view our trials as stepping stones.
- Lord, you never abandoned your exiled remnant Israel. Help us create the Church anew in every age.
- Lord you taught that you do not want sacrifice but for us to do your will. Help us to accept Jesus as the light of our lives.
- Holy Trinity, you come to us as Jesus, Son of the Father, born of Mary and the Holy Spirit. May we experience you in the face of the Christ present today.
- Lord you do greater works than we can imagine. Expand our hearts and minds. Give us courage to find you in this world.

Profile

Dame Marie Bashir, past Governor of NSW, is known as a person of compassion and joy. Born in Narrandera, she held various medical positions. She says she was inspired by the stories of others - from the Wiradjuri people to the works of great composers and school friends.

***All is not lost. Human beings,
while capable of the worst, are also
capable of rising above themselves,
choosing again what is good, and
making a new start.***

Laudato Si', #205

A donation for the use of this resource is appreciated

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