**Blessed are you, Lord, God of ALL CREATION**

**A short Eco-Thought based (usually) on the Sunday Liturgy**

**The First Sunday of Lent 21st February 2021**

From the first reading: God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you.’

God pledges never to destroy his creation. Can we make that same pledge to God and safeguard the gift God has given us? Think of one practical step that you will take this Lent and beyond.

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**The Second Sunday of Lent 28th February 2021**

The Gospel of the Second Sunday of Lent is always one of the accounts of the Transfiguration. Jesus is revealed in glory as the Beloved Son of God, fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets, on the mountain top. Throughout the Scriptures the mountain top has been one of the chief places of encounter with God. Why do you think that may be so? Our own Diocese is placed under the protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

As we recognise the Lord in the Eucharist, let us recognise him too in the beauty of creation, of which he has made us guardians.

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**The Third Sunday of Lent 7th March 2021**

The First Reading today gives us the Ten Commandments. Concerning ‘Keep the Sabbath day holy’ we hear ‘in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold but on the sabbath day he rested.’ The whole of creation is the work of our Creator God. What, I wonder, did our Creator God do on the eighth day, according to the spirit of the Genesis account? I think that, after his Sabbath rest, God carried on his enduring work of creation and, in Jesus, re-creation.

God’s task of bringing the whole of creation to its fulfilment is not ended. God has the broader vision but we can take necessary steps so that creation is not ended but fulfilled. What step can I take this Lent to live more simply and sustainably?

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**The Fourth Sunday of Lent 14th March 2021**

Today is, according to a long-standing English tradition, Mothering Sunday. We pray in thanksgiving for our mothers. We pray to for our Mother the Church. But let’s not forget to pray for the Earth which is our Mother.

May we make our own today and always the words of St. Francis of Assisi: Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our Mother, who nourishes us and sustains us, bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds and flowers of many colours.

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**The Fifth Sunday of Lent 21st March 2021**

‘Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single harvest; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.’

Take time over these next two weeks to notice signs of new life in the natural world around you; new growth making its way from beneath the winter soil, leaves returning, springtime making its presence felt, albeit often hesitantly.

And let the cycle of dying and rising in nature deepen our resolve to draw closer in these two weeks to Jesus and walk with him on his journey through the Cross to the Resurrection.

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**Palm Sunday 28th March 2021**

The drama of this week starts on the Mount of Olives. On Thursday evening we relive the Lord taking bread and wine to be his Body and Blood. Olives, bread, wine, the dying and rising of Jesus.

There can be no olive oil without the crushing of the olives.

Bread needs flour but flour cannot be made without the crushing of the wheat.

And wine comes forth from the crushed grapes.

There can be no Easter without Good Friday. As olives and wheat and grapes, crushed, give rise to something new, so the life of Jesus offered by himself to be crushed as a sacrifice for sin, gives rise, in the Resurrection to new life for Jesus and for ourselves.