



For 2nd Sunday of Lent

Abouts 35 Years ago on a trip with the kids in our caravan we visited the Parkes Space Observatory. I remember everyone was OOing and Ahing about the heaven, I was quite devastated. The immensity of size, the number of stars and ----- took my breath away, and almost my faith. The eternity of creation I was just a spot, how could God be aware of each tiny insignificant person.

I thought of this when I read the First reading today from Genesis. God takes Abram and shows him the stars, and can you count them? They number the descendants you will have. Abram believed him.

This Creator God that we believe in loves us and has given us the world and all in it. His love for all creation is shown in all its diversity and beauty. We human beings are equally part of this creation.

Our Christian teaching and practice has, for much of its history, focused mainly on human beings as beloved recipients of divine care. The rest of the world was just a backdrop, and the natural world we were taught was for our use. I remember at school being taught of the pyramid of creation, with God at the peak, mankind on the next step and then the other animals, then reptiles, insects, gradually stepping down to plants, eventually finishing with rocks. A very neat way of putting everything in its place put there for us.

The wild animals of the forest are mine,

And the cattle on a thousand hills.

I know all the birds of the air,

And all that moves in the field is mine.

\Psalm 50:10-11

Beliefs have consequences. As we understood this superior place in creation, we used and abused the world that had been gifted to all of creation.

However, indifference to our planet as led to ecological crises caused by unfair distribution of resources. Ravaging explorations cause much harm to our earth and all in it. Indifference hassled to ecological crises caused by the unfair distribution of resources. The ecological harm causes human poverty, huge business interests often lead to ruination of the earth, air and sea, effecting the lives of thousands.

There is a call among believers to face the fact that our earth is in trouble. Even sceptics have agreed that the weather patterns have changed and there are serious weather events have caused extraordinary suffering and loss to people, animals, water ways and resources.

There is an awakening among believers to face the fact that our earth is in trouble, and are calling on communities of believers to act. We Catholics need to expand our knowledge of the environment and animal species because we cannot fight to save what we don't love.

We can begin to transform public understanding of the living God as saviour of the Earth and all its creatures, including we humans, into a community of life. We are part of creation. How shall the land, sea and even the very air that we all breath unless we lose our capacity for self delusion, and repair the earth that we share with all other living things. We have caused the mess and so we need to try and repair it.

In our 3rd reading Peter, James and John joined Jesus to climb the mountain to pray. While there they witness, in Jesus the glory of God. The beauty and splendour of the creative God. What they saw profoundly moved them. They saw the beauty and power of the creative God.

Thus says God, the bountiful Lord,

Who created the heavens and stretched them out,

Who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

Who gives breath to its people

And spirit to those who walk on it:

I the faithful Lord have called you for justice.

Isaiah 42:5-6

Beliefs have consequences. The God who loves us has given us the world and all in it. His love for creation is shown in its diversity and beauty. According to science as well as theology there is only on community.

God is love and all of creation came from love. To know God as creator is to appreciate all creatures, including us. To know God as creator is to appreciate all living creatures as a part of the earth, the sea, the plants and all the animals. As well as all the minerals that are part of the earth.

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