

Blessed Sacrament Congregation Newsletter

St Francis' Church
Melbourne



St Peter Julian's Church
Sydney

November 2023 Volume 10

Living without fossil fuels by Jo Dirks, SSS

Pope Francis' new document on the global warming crisis is addressed, significantly, *'to all people of good will.'* Released on 4 October 2023, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, it follows on his 2015 encyclical, *'Laudato Si'*, his first on the environment. Called *Laudate Deum* (Praise God) the title echoes a frequent refrain in the psalms, especially Psalm 148, which tells the heavens, angels, sun and the moon to praise the Lord.

Remembering St Francis' great love of nature, revealed in his song to 'Brother Sun' and 'Sister Moon', the pope urges us strongly to face the climate challenges of our own day with courage and immediate action. What can we do?

Showing no fear of entering into the political domain Pope Francis reminds his readers that the resolutions of the UN Climate Panel have largely gone unheeded by industrial leaders and politicians since their first meeting in 1992. In the meantime our earth's warming levels have increased dangerously. The 2015 Paris meeting was significant in formulating the resolution to keep global warming 'well under 2C and preferably 1.5C'. The Pope's words are meant to lead people to an examination of our global conscience. *'We need to rethink among other things the question of human power, its meaning and its limits. For our power has frenetically increased in a few decades.'* [Laudate Deum, par. 28]

Especially disturbing is the rapid increase of greenhouse gas emissions [par. 13]. As a lay student at a tertiary college in his native Argentina, Pope Francis, as Jorge Bergoglio, had a solid grounding in the science of these emissions, principally methane gas and carbon dioxide emissions. He fully understands that: *'The change in average surface temperatures cannot be explained except as the result of the increase of greenhouse gases.'* [par. 14] and *'The necessary transition towards clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy, and the abandonment of fossil fuels, is not progressing at the necessary speed.'* [par. 55]

The Pope noted the *'move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes'...* Without decisive action, the world would face 'the point of no return', he said. *'Our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.'* ... He called for *'a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the western model'*, but noted that he had faced opposition for his views.'

'Nonetheless, we risk remaining trapped in the mindset of pasting and papering over cracks, while beneath the surface there is a continuing deterioration to which we continue to contribute. To suppose that all problems in the future will be able to be solved by new technical interventions is a form of homicidal pragmatism, like pushing a snowball downhill.' He hopes for the UN: *'to produce binding forms of energy transition that meet three conditions: that they be efficient, obligatory and readily monitored.'*

Pope Francis also appealed to save children from the future: *'every family ought to realise that the future of their children is at stake.'* Michael Leunig's superb cartoon in the Spectrum section of 'The Age', 14 October 2023, encapsulates this dilemma. An angel holding a child flies past a darkened planet Earth.

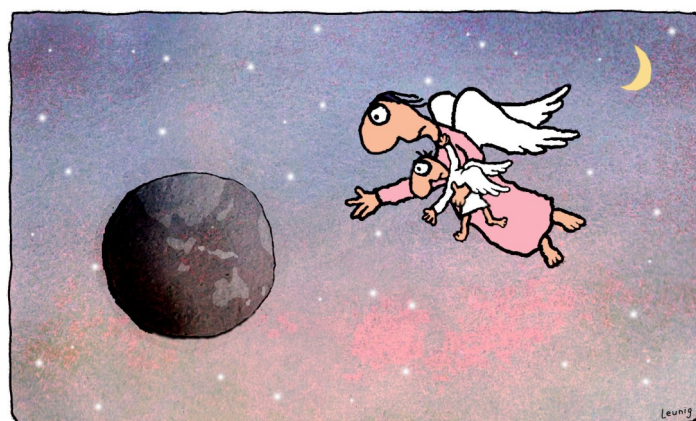


Image courtesy of Michael Leunig

ST. PETER JULIAN'S CHURCH

Monday to Friday 7.30am, 12.10pm, & 5.30pm
(Public Holidays 12.10pm only)
Saturday 12.10pm, & 5.30pm (Vigil)
1st Saturday of each month
12.10pm (Healing Mass)
Sunday 9.30am, 12.30pm, & 3.30pm (English)
Chinese Mass 11.00am
Korean Mass 5.00pm
Filipino Mass 1st Sunday of each month 1.30pm
Indonesian Mass 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month 3.30pm

NOVENA & EUCHARISTIC BENEDICTION

Friday 12.45pm (after the 12.10 Mass)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 12.00pm
12.45pm to 2.00pm
Saturday 10.30am to 12.00pm
12.45pm to 2.00pm
Sunday 1.30pm to 3.00pm
(except on the 1st Sunday of each month)

RECONCILIATION

Thursday, Friday & Saturday 11.00am to 12.00pm

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 7.00am to 6.15pm
Saturday 10.30am to 6.45pm
Sunday 9.00am to 6.15pm

For updates, please see our website:

www.stpeterjuliansydney.com

and our Facebook page,

or call (02) 9270 6940 (24 hour information line)

St Mary's Singers at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney Presents

Church Music through the Year

St Mary's Singers features a program of liturgical choral music in the magnificent St Mary's Cathedral. The program includes:-
For unto us a child is born, Handel; *Emendemus in melius*, Byrd;
Hallelujah Chorus, Handel; *Veni Creator Spiritus* Chant for Pentecost;
Ave Maria, Mendelssohn; *Coronation Mass (Krönungsmesse)* Mozart;
Salve Regina, Liszt; *The heavens are telling* (The Creation) Haydn.

Date: Friday, 17th November 2023

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

Cost: Premium \$35/General \$25/Concession \$15/Under 16 years free

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/1097546>

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal

An estimated one million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psychosocial needs.

'This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict.'
Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia.

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. **Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.**
You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone **1800 024 413**



**GAZA CRISIS
APPEAL**

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



DONATE NOW
www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413

ST PETER JULIAN'S BOOK STORE

Columban Calendars (2024) and a beautiful selection of cane calendars (2024), Christmas cards and nativity sets are all now available to purchase. Orders can be done over the phone and sent via post (postage will apply).

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm
Sunday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Telephone: (02) 9270 6900

Email: haymarket@blessedsacrament.com.au

El Roi: The God Who Sees Me (Women's Retreat)
Prepare for Advent through this women's retreat with the MGL Sisters, as we spend time together listening to God's unique heart of love for each one of us. This retreat is supported by the Catholic Women's Network in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Date: Friday 17 November to Sunday 19 November

Venue:

Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Road, Varroville

Bookings:

<http://www.trybooking.com/CFBRE> (by 3 November)

Contact: Berna at mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is pro-actively committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all who participate in the life of St Peter Julian's Church.



Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "sister, and brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

(Sourced from www.majellan.media)

St Peter Julian's Church

641 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Postal Address:

PO Box K334, Haymarket NSW 1240

Phone:

(02) 9270 6900

(02) 9270 6940 (24-hour church information line)

Fax:

(02) 9270 6933

Email:

haymarket@blessedsacrament.com.au

Website:

www.stpeterjuliansydney.com

