



THE COMMUNITY OF CREATION

... bring to mind the picture of our planet taken from the moon. There it is, a beautiful blue marble spinning against the vast black background of space. Now imagine that under its shielding atmosphere there exists a network of living creatures ranging in size from wee microorganisms to giant sequoias and massive blue whales, including humans toward the larger end of the scale, all interacting with the land, water, and air of their different ecosystems. In scientific terms this enveloping skein of life is called the biosphere. In faith terms it is called the community of creation. Picture yourself as an indigenous member of this community.

The basis for this sense of community, of course, is the belief that the whole world comes from the hand of the one gracious God who created everything out of love. Not only that, but throughout time every creature with its relationships is held in existence by the same vivifying Giver of life. At the end, all will be gathered into a new heaven and a new earth by the same divine, ineffable love. Such is the doctrine of creation in its threefold fullness.

Elizabeth A Johnson, *Creation and the Cross* (New York: Orbis 2018) 199

Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things: "For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made; for you would not have made anything if you had hated it" (*Wis* 11:24).
Laudato Si' n77

HOLY GROUND

The God of grace is always present in the heart of the world, reaching out in love to all creation and giving himself to our minds and hearts through the gift of grace. But this ever-present and self-giving God does not relate to creation from a distant heaven, nor from a glorious and distant future state.

In Christ, God is united irrevocably to our earth. The Word became flesh in the time and space of this world, ate its food, drank its wine, and breathed the air of this planet. With his coming, the earth becomes holy ground in a new manner, so as to inspire new ways of respecting and caring for the world in which he lived and gave himself in death.

An ecological conversion to hope in God contests the idols of a consumerist culture. Through the power of the Spirit, hope moves beyond dependence on worldly supports and systems in order to reject the idolatrous self-projections inherent in consumerist culture. This means taking to heart the last words of John's Letter. 'Little children, keep yourselves from idols' (1 Jn 5:21)



Anthony J Kelly CSsR, *Laudato Si' An Integral Ecology and the Catholic Vision* (Adelaide Theology, 2016) 175

WHAT KIND OF WORLD
DO WE WANT TO LEAVE
TO THOSE WHO COME AFTER US,
TO CHILDREN WHO ARE NOW GROWING UP?

Laudato Si' n160

SOME LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Waste of all kinds is a huge contemporary issue. Despite the many people who carefully recycle, a very large amount of our waste ends up in landfill. Figures from the Environment Protection Authority illustrate this. In 2018-19 Australians generated **74 million tonnes of waste**, 43 million tonnes was recycled, **27 million tonnes went to landfill**.

SHAREWASTE

www.sharewaste.com

Give your waste a second chance

If you are fortunate enough to have a garden, creating compost for the garden from kitchen scraps is easy. For people who live in apartments, this isn't possible.

Go the website to find out how this works.

Sharewaste connects people who wish to recycle their kitchen scraps with their neighbours who are already composting, worm-farming or keep chickens. You can divert waste from landfill while getting to know the people in your local community.

WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Visit the website, go the environment section for a range of great resources to encourage sustainable living, such as:

- ♦ Green City Plan 2028
- ♦ Bushcare volunteer program
- ♦ Subscribe to *Live Well in Willoughby*
- ♦ Community Gardens - map of locations - how to start one or participate in one.



THE HUB COMMUNITY GARDEN
30 - 32 Devonshire St Chatswood

PSALM 148

Praise God all you heavens,
sun and moon. All stars of light,
all waters above the heavens,
let the glory of praise resound.

All loveliness comes from God
who made creation never to pass away.

Praise God, all the earth,
sea creatures and all waters,
lightening and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds and rain,
all who fulfil God's word,
let the glory of praise resound.

All hills and mountain peaks,
valleys and plains, orchards and forests,
beasts, wild and tame,
all reptiles and birds on the wing,
let the glory of praise resound.

Leaders of the earth and every nation,
young women and men,
the elders with the young,
all you who live on the earth,
let the glory of praise resound.

Let God be praised!
Let God alone be praised!
The splendour of God's holy name
reaches beyond earth and sky.

God is the strength of all the faithful.
of all who draw near.

Hearts will be comforted,
spirits renewed.
To the God of Blessing,
let the glory of praise resound.

Liturgy of the Hours
Benedictine Sisters of Erie PA

