

## **A prayer for our earth**

***All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.***

***You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.***

***Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.***

***Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.***

***O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this  
earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.***

***Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.***

***Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.***

***We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace. Amen***

*A prayer for our earth was published in Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.*

**Thought for the week  
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
27th February 2022**

*'Empty vessels make the most noise'* immediately came to mind on reading through this week's message from the Book of Ecclesiasticus. Although very short, this reading appears to have a number of nuances. We are advised to hear one speak before making judgement. This made me think about the various situations in daily life where we find ourselves having to speak, and as a consequence, inadvertently reveal a bit of ourselves to others....

We are told there is only ever one chance to make a first impression, ideally this must be a good one. Keep quiet in a group mingling session and you risk being perceived as dull or boring..... talk too much in a similar setting and you might find people quickly leaving.

So how does one get to speak appropriately, whatever the setting? Some people seem to have a natural flair and do this with relative ease...Others have had to learn, through trial and error. Today's world is awash with courses and workshops galore, helping people learn how to speak confidently to a varied audience. The world of work certainly requires this as a key skill, starting with the interview process.

In the same way we invest in interview preparation, or recall details of a book read ages ago to contribute to a mingling session or perhaps learn a new language for travel, could we perhaps also apply these principles to our 'soul speech' development?

Could we invest time to teach, learn and store in our hearts and souls the language of love, compassion, patience and all the goodness that would eventually manifest itself whenever we speak?

I think this is a lifelong conscious decision and would probably take considerable effort, certainly in the initial stages. But I also think that this has to be part of equipping ourselves to do the Lord's work well, as we do our day jobs, study and go about our day to day life.... 'Continuous improvement' is a corporate mantra, why not adopt this to improve the store of goodness in us to enable us to speak and relate to others as we should?

We will slip up sometimes, but with any luck we will have a patient and compassionate audience to help us along, rather than judge on first impressions. If this is part of the Lord's work for us, then we should be encouraged by St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians to never give in, never admit defeat, keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that in the Lord, we cannot be labouring in vain.

A Parishioner



**We ask you to please pray for the following people  
who continue to ask for your prayers;**

Please pray for Savanna Clark (age 2 with heart trouble)

Please pray for Shirley Trollop

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) that she may be able to have an operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is very poorly

Please pray for Beth Selwood

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grand-son Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 9 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for the children and teachers of the Parish

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose  
anniversaries occur at this time including;**

Michael Coulehan, Wyn Hyman, Andrew Britton,  
Violet Kathleen Taylor, George Jones, Pauline Joyce  
Margaret Seymore, Patricia Bateman, Alfred May,  
Eleanor Fanning, Henry Ernest Gibbons,  
Thomas Hoban, Oscar Roman Lambrano,  
Christine Lester, Patricia Nicholson,  
Lillian and Leslie Peach, Jerome Reilly,  
Lambertus van Bree, Timothy Keogh,  
Caetano Coutinho, Honey Cooke, Gus Weldon