

ADVENT SESSIONS BASED ON 'LAUDATO SI' 2015

Mercy and Justice Have Embraced (Ps 85:10)

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.... The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth." (Luke 3:4-5)

Pope Francis: Extracts from address to the UN, Nairobi, Kenya, 26th Nov 2015...

'... An important meeting on climate change **UN 'COP21'** will be held in Paris, where the international community as such will once again confront these issues. It would be sad, and I dare say even catastrophic, were particular interests to prevail over the common good and lead to manipulating information in order to protect their own plans and projects.

In this international context, we are confronted with a choice which cannot be ignored: either to improve or to destroy the environment. Every step we take, whether large or small, individual or collective, in caring for creation opens a sure path for that *"generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings"* Laudato Si. (LS) 211'.

Francis believes that the climate is a common good, which belongs to all and is meant for all. In this context; *"climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic and political"*.. (LS 23). It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity today. Our response *"needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged"* (LS. 93). Francis goes on to say: 'that the destruction of the environment is also accompanied by a relentless process of **exclusion**'.

Q. What is your response to the above, especially around the term 'exclusion'?



Pope Francis paid a surprise visit to the Jesuit orphanage in Manila,

YouTube clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAJu0353w9I>

Time to reflect on what we have seen and heard.... Share with your neighbour.

The UN 'COP21' meeting represents an important stage in the process of developing a new energy system. This will have to depend on a minimal use of fossil fuels, aim at energy efficiency and makes use of energy sources with little or no carbon content. We are faced with a great political and economic obligation, to rethink and correct the dysfunctions and distortions of the current model of development....

'A Voice Calling in the Wilderness' OR....?

*"I express my hope that COP21 will achieve a global and "transformational" agreement based on the principles of: 1) **solidarity**, 2) **justice**, 3) **equality** and 4) **participation**; an agreement that targets three complex and interdependent goals:*

Lessening the impact of climate change,

Fighting poverty and

Ensuring respect for human dignity

Pope Francis' PRAYER for the EARTH....



www.flickr.com/photos/trocaire/

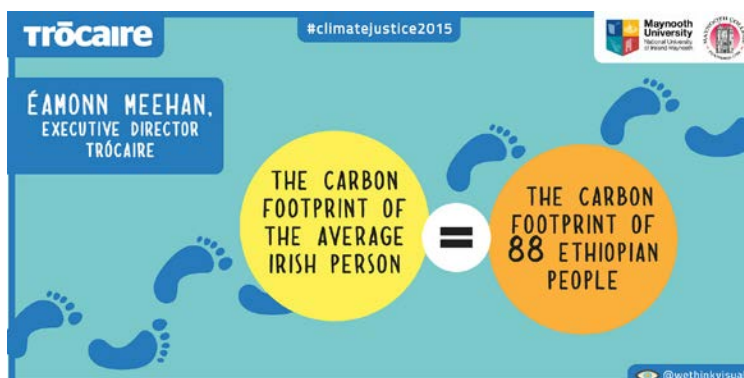
All Powerful God you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. *You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty.*

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.

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



www.flickr.com/photos/trocaire/

Personal challenge: In this coming week could I do anything to lessen my 'carbon footprint'?
<http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/> OR <http://www.foe.ie/justoneearth/carboncalculator/>

NB: *'Mercy and Justice have Embraced'*; this beauty-full Advent theme will be enriched with special significance as we embark on the 'Year of Mercy' with the universal church, December 8th. We'll explore this next week...

Homework! Visit: www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters and www.mercyworld.org

Thanks to Denise Boyle fmdm, Global Action Mercy International Association
December 1, 2015