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## Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes

August 29, 2021

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

### Social Justice Statement 2021-2022

#### Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

In their Social Justice Statement for 2021–22, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, the Australian Catholic Bishops say, “the signs of the times are clear - we know that we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour”. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded.

The Bishops invite us to join them in responding to Pope Francis’ invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si’ Goals. The Goals are: response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action.

Scripture, the theological tradition, Catholic social justice teaching, and the wisdom of the world - including insights of the First Nations - are all placed in dialogue with human experience. Four theological foundations for a genuinely Christian response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor emerge from this dialogue. They are: creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life.

Catholic families, communities and organisations are encouraged to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered by the Bishops; and, plan their next steps towards the Laudato Si’ Goals.

#### For the Parish Bulletin:

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. The Australian Bishops’ Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis’ invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si’ Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded.

*More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or Tel (02) 6201 9845.*

## Liturgy Notes

The following notes may be of use to link the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, with Social Justice Sunday, 29 August 2021.

### Welcome

Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Catholic Bishops have published their annual Social Justice Statement, which is this year titled: *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*.

The Statement calls us to listen, hear and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor through practical action. When one part of the Body of Christ is wounded, the other parts care for the afflicted part so that all can be healed and made whole. What affects one affects all, as everything and everyone is connected. We are invited to be lifegiving agents in the transformation of our communities in ways that reflect the mercy freely offered by our loving God.

As people of prayerful contemplation, dialogue, and action, we commit to right relationships in our covenant with God. It is clear that the signs of our times call for urgent action to defend, protect, and restore the earth and the dignity of the human person, especially those places, creatures, and people who are most vulnerable. In following God's law of living a moral life from the inside out, we upend and transcend any worldly standards that would diminish the sacredness of any part of God's creation. People are more important than profits, and the beauty of our natural world is a precious gift to us and to the generations who will follow. In transitioning to sustainable and just economic systems and practices, we commit to partnering with the work of the Spirit in renewing the face of the earth.

### Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift,  
put into our hearts the love of your name,  
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,  
you may nurture in us what is good  
and, by your watchful care,  
keep safe what you have nurtured.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### Readings

The readings for this Sunday challenge people to live in a way that actively expresses right relationship according to God's law. God's true moral law is not concerned with external acts of ritual purity, worldly standards, or social appearances. God's law offers an integrated interior life that grounds and directs outward right living. The way any person interacts with the world directly impacts on the physical and spiritual health of places, creatures, and people. Christians are called to do the inner work of the heart that leads to a way of living that joyfully gives and sustains life. This is the opposite of lip service through empty, self-serving words or rules. God invites us to covenant and conversion so that all can be welcomed, valued, and included in faithful, hopeful, and loving communities.

The Social Justice statement reminds us that God has heard the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. God asks us now as modern-day disciples to respond where we are and as we can so that the world can be infused and renewed with God's justice and mercy. The fruit we bear in what we do should reflect God's love. We take Christ down from the cross and contribute to resurrection every time we actively care for and protect the suffering earth, creatures, and people in need.

### **First Reading *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8***

In this reading, Moses reminds the people of Israel that they live and find peace in a covenantal relationship with God: meaningful laws and customs are an invitation to freedom and abundant life. Wisdom is handed down through generations to enable people to live, grow, and flourish. The land is seen as a precious and gracious gift from God, and God is faithful and good. In every generation, we are called to commit to relationships that care for sacred creation. What wisdom will you pass on to the next generation?

### **Responsorial Psalm *Ps 14:2-5***

The psalm acknowledges that justice and truth telling are central to the living of right relationships. This is also equated with kindness. We are called to faithfully follow God's way of being in the world, and this does not always follow the trends and priorities of society. Remaining faithful to God's law means staying rooted in truth, wherever that leads. What uncomfortable truth has called you to action for those who suffer?

### **Second Reading *James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27***

James is blunt in his call to action: people need to be doers of the word. Listening to the cries of the vulnerable and hurting impels people to respond with compassionate action. God's law is not a dead letter but has become a person who is alive in Christ. Transformed people offer the promise of new life to the suffering and afflicted by the witness of their lives. What action will you take to answer the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor today?

### **Gospel *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23***

Jesus makes it clear that what corrupts a person does not come from outside but from within. If hearts are shaped by the compassion and generosity of God, they will hear the cries of the afflicted, and act. The heart here is seen as the core of human will and desire. Real disciples do God's will when they heal and protect those who suffer, despite any worldly cost or false standard. Jesus is the fulfilment of the true law that others have distorted by their greed. In taking more than we need in any sphere of life, balance is disturbed and something or someone is harmed or deprived. God desires all to have enough to live free and full lives. How do you bring God's Kingdom to birth in the world?

## Reflection on the Readings/Homily Points

There are many today who do not accept hard truths, who promote false news, and whose main concern is for their own power, comfort, gain, notoriety, celebrity, image, or profit. Truth is replaced with versions of reality that serve an agenda, or interpretations of events that make people less uncomfortable about their attitudes and choices. People, animals, and the earth can be rationalised as commodities to exploit, use, abuse, and discard. The desire to possess, dominate and consume disrupts the delicate balance and harmony needed to sustain healthy communities and ecosystems. Countries are increasingly referred to as economies, and the values of an often-grasping marketplace push to replace the intrinsic value and uniqueness of each integral part of God's sacred creation.

A sacramental vision of a dynamically connected, diverse, and inclusive universe is one that is rooted in the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Kingdom and Reign of God. As Christians, we are called to open and form our hearts in this radical and counter-cultural vision that expresses God's true law as part of a mutual and loving covenant relationship. Moses reminds the people of Israel and us today that there is wisdom and understanding in following God's law. Those who have opened and shaped their hearts to God's law of love see, hear, speak, and live the truth of this way of being and acting in the world every day. This contributes to God's Kingdom breaking through in the here and now.

The psalmist encourages people to stand firm in God's truth and to act justly in dealing with people in their daily lives, including their business dealings. God's presence is found in integrated and right relationships with people, characterised by detachment from material gain, especially when it comes at the hurt and expense of others. This psalm highlights an ongoing temptation in our world for people to seek material riches and social advantage as false markers of blessedness and success. God is not interested in status as defined by worldly standards but completely subverts and rejects any system or behaviour that seeks to exploit, disadvantage, or harm anyone or anything.

James gets to the heart of things in calling people to listen to the God who dwells within them and to take action to defend those most defenceless and vulnerable as a visible marker of their true identity in Christ. God's goodness never changes and never ends. We are called to embrace and foster this in ourselves, doing our part to come to the aid of all who most need our help. God has created each with purpose and value, just as they are.

Jesus calls out the hypocrisy and self-serving behaviour of anyone, especially leaders, who would seek to absolve themselves from the real work of conversion of heart and life. Hiding behind the details of traditions, rules, and the finer points of external rituals alone is not what is called for in faithfully following Christ. Our beautiful Christian traditions, prayers, liturgies, and rituals point us to the gift and glory of God and God's beloved creation. Our faith is built on who we are following, what we believe, and how we relate to others in Christ. Relationships of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness are direct encounters with God's amazing grace alive and active in our hearts and lives. This is where we are asked to focus, and to live.

## Prayers of the Faithful

*The following intercessions are offered for incorporation in your Prayers of the Faithful.*

**Presider:** Let us bring our prayers to the God of all creation and accompany in prayer all those who most need God's mercy and healing.

*For the church:*

That the Body of Christ listens attentively and responds with transformative practical action to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Let us pray to the Lord: **R. Lord hear our prayer**

*For our church and civic leaders:*

That all leaders respect and partner with the lived wisdom of First Nations people in actively caring for country and nurturing healthy, integrated communities.

Let us pray to the Lord: **R. Lord hear our prayer**

*For environmentally degraded parts of the earth, and for those living in poverty:*

That government, business, and community policies and practices at the local, national, and international level honour, reflect and protect the sacredness of all places, creatures, and people.

Let us pray to the Lord: **R. Lord hear our prayer**

*For all of us here:*

That we be trustworthy stewards, active protectors, and reverent carers of our earth and her people through conscious and just living.

Let us pray to the Lord: **R. Lord hear our prayer**

**Presider:** God of the universe, you are the living Word, planted deep in our hearts. Grant us the wisdom, courage, and commitment to love and care for your magnificent world of never-ending wonders. Direct our ideas, discernment, and action so that all can fulfil their sacred promise and purpose, according to your law. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Suggested Music

### Music Resources

As One Voice 1 (AOV1)  
As One Voice 2 (AOV2)  
As One Voice Next Generation (AOVNG)  
Catholic Worship Book II (CWB II)  
Digital Download (DD)

### Entrance

All Are Welcome (Haugen)	CWBII 535, DD (GIA)
All Creatures of Our God and King (Arr Vaughan-Williams)	CWBII 446, DD (OCP)
All Creatures of Our God and King (Arr Rick Modlin)	DD (OCP)
All the Ends of the Earth	AOV1-76
As We Gather	CWBII 451
Blessed Jesus, At Your Word	CWBII 457
Christ, Be Our Light (Farrell)	AOV2 -3, CWBII 540, DD (OCP)
Gather Your People, O Lord (Hurd)	AOV1-71, CWBII 490, DD (GIA)
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	AOV1-54
Love is His Word	CWBII 553
Praise to You, O Christ Our Saviour	AOV1-28, CWBII 587
Sacred Creation (Zaragoza)	DD (OCP)
Send Down the Fire (Haugen)	AOV2-164, CWBII 389, DD (GIA)
Sing, All Creation (Crandal)	DD (OCP)
The Law of Christ (Connolly)	DD (Willow)
The Summons (Bell)	AOVNG 149, CWBII 645, DD (GIA)

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 14 *The just will live in the presence of the Lord* (Herry): **Free DD** from Marist Music

<http://www.maristmusic.org.au/responsorial-psalms-yr-b> or

DD (GIA) Tony Alonso:

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/the-one-who-does-justice-pdf-d1036247>

### Gospel Acclamation James 1:18 (JB)

CWBII 43 (Alternate tone)

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The Father gave us birth by his **message of** truth,  
that we might be as the first fruit of **his creation**.

*or Alleluia* from *Mass of A Joyful Heart*  
Use chant verse (Angrisano) DD (OCP)

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

### Procession of the Gifts

A Trusting Psalm (Bates)	AOV1-115, CWBII 293
As Long as our Table (Gibson)	DD (GIA)
Be Still For the Presence of the Lord	CWBII 454
Come to the Water (Anderson)	AOV1-74, CWBII 473
Drink Living Water	AOV2-44
For the Fruits of All Creation	CWBII 488
In Labour All Creation Groans	AOV2-40, CWBII 521
Open My Eyes (Manibusan)	AOV1-166, CWBII 582
Tend the Ground (Stephan)	DD (OCP)
Servant Song	CWBII 461
The Cry of the Poor (Foley)	AOV1-83, CWBII 618, DD (OCP)
The Word is in Your Heart (Moore)	DD GIA
Who Will Speak? (Farrell)	AOV2-102
Your Love is Finer than Life (Haugen)	CWBII 567, DD (GIA)

### ***Communion***

As Grains of Wheat	AOV2-153, DD (OCP)
At the Table of Jesus (Alonso)	DD (GIA)
By Our Love (Kendzia)	DD (OCP)
Gift of Finest Wheat	CWBII 651
God of Mercy (Manalo)	DD (OCP)
Grant to Us, O Lord	CWBII 291
Here at this Table (Whitaker)	DD (OCP)
Here I Am, Lord	AOV1-90, CWBII 518
On Eagle's Wings (Joncas)	AOV1-153, CWBII 654
One Bread, One Body	AOV1-129, CWBII 579
Our Blessing Cup (Hurd)	AOV1-7
Remembrance (Maher)	DD (OCP)
Return to God (Haugen)	CWBII 298, DD (GIA)
Seed, Scattered and Sown (Soper)	CWBII 592, DD (OCP)
Spirit and Grace (Manalo)	DD (OCP)
Take and Eat (Joncas)	CWBII 608
Touch the Earth Lightly (Alonso)	DD (GIA)
Touch the Earth Lightly	CWBII 631
Ubi Caritas (Taize)	CWBII 634
We Belong to You (Thomsen)	DD (OCP)
What You Have Done For Me (Alonso)	DD (GIA)
Where there is Charity and Love (Connolly)	CWBII 638

### ***Thanksgiving***

All Creation Sings	AOV2-45
All People that On Earth Do Dwell	AOV1-25, CWBII 448
Amazing Grace	AOV1 29, CWBII 450
Cosmic Praise	CWBII 599
For the Beauty of the Earth	AOV1-123, CWBII 487
For the Beauty of the Earth (Rosen)	DD (GIA)
Father, We Give You Thanks	CWBII 485
Sing to God with Joy and Gladness (Bell)	CWBII 603
Your Grace is Enough (Maher)	AOVNG-156

### ***Recessional***

A New Heart for a New World	AOV1-158
Be Thou My Vision	AOV1-9, CWBII 455
City of God	AOV1-57, CWBII 453
God Has Chosen Me	AOV1-21, CWBII 495
God of Day and God of Darkness	CWBII 498
Go Make A Difference (Angrisano)	AOVNG 52, DD (OCP)
Go Out, Go Out (Stephan)	DD (OCP)
Go Out in the World (Bolduc)	DD (OCP)
Lead Me, Lord (Becker)	DD (OCP)
Shine Jesus, Shine (Kendrick)	AOV2-59, CWBII 550
Sing to the Mountains (Dufford)	AOV1-92, CWBII 604
Song For Human Rights	AOV2-135, CWBII 606
Take the Word of God With You (Walker)	CWBII 607
The Voice of God	CWBII 621
They'll Know We Are Christians (Scholtes)	AOV1-130
Though the Mountains May Fall (Schutte)	AOV1-182

**The following prayer, issued with the Statement as a prayer card, could be given to parishioners or printed on the bulletin and said together.**

***Prayer: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor***

Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:  
the bush grown more silent,  
the birdsong less vibrant,  
the stream's sluggish ripple.  
Have mercy and open our ears.

Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:  
the soil depleted,  
the sky smudged,  
the oceans rubbished and the great currents slowed.  
Have mercy and help us to see.

Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:  
the workers who struggle to get by,  
the women subjected to violence,  
the people who are excluded.  
Have mercy and help us to see.

Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:  
the sound of hungry children,  
the distress of the mentally ill,  
the silent pain of homeless women and men.  
Have mercy and open our ears.

Send your Spirit upon us Lord to renew our sight,  
to restore our hearing,  
and to reclaim your reign of justice for all people  
and peace for creation.

AMEN

*Liturgy notes and music suggestions prepared by Fiona Dyball*

**More information and downloadable resources related to the Statement from the Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) Tel (02) 6201 9845.**