



“The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God’s love for humanity”

Pope St. John Paul II

Sin, however, says Pope Francis, has broken this relationship. Now, there is a disharmony between these three vital relationships. As a result, human beings refuse to acknowledge their limitations and have assumed the place of God. They think of themselves as having “dominion” over the earth. And this “false” idea that human beings can “use” and exploit other human beings and the earth for their own purposes has been handed down over thousands of years from one generation to another. Like “the blind guiding the blind”, each generation leads the next down the road to further chaos and destruction of humanity and the earth.

The gospel passage today highlights the broken relationship between God, human beings and nature with the imagery of the tree and its fruit: “There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit...”. **Basically, when a person does not have a close relationship with God, he fails to have a true relationship with his or her neighbour and with the earth.**

This is why Pope Francis speaks of the need for an integral ecology, that is, one that respects and considers one’s relationship with God, neighbour and the earth. As the Pope points out, “A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings”

(n. 91). It means when we speak about safeguarding and caring for the environment, we must also speak about loving and caring for our neighbour, most especially the marginalised, the poor and oppressed and vice-versa.✝

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

- Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7
- Psalms 91: 2-3, 13-16
- 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58
- Luke 6: 39-45

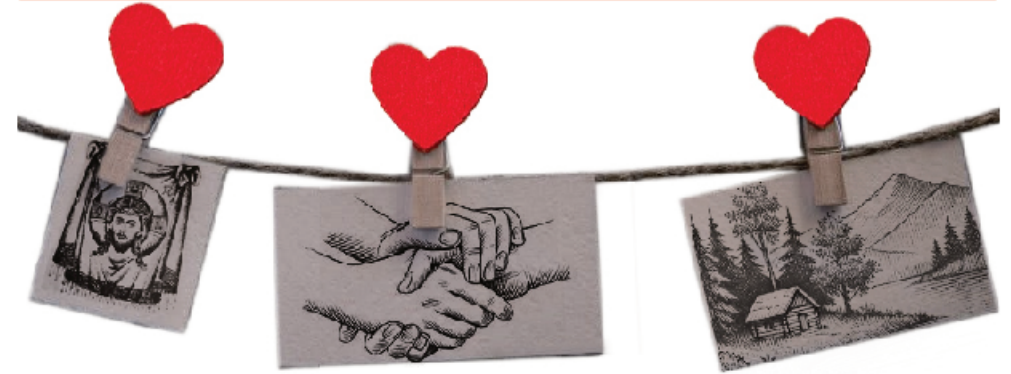
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NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 2 March 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE



MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE

FAMILY – CALLED TO NURTURE FAMILY VALUES AND RELATIONSHIPS

To Love God, Neighbour and the Earth

Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, helps us understand that human life is founded on three fundamental relationships – with God, with our neighbour and the earth itself

(n. 66). Interestingly, a sense of this vital relationship between God, human beings and the earth can be sensed in the imagery used in today’s psalm, that is, the one who is close to God will “flourish like a palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar”; he or she will “flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green...”