



“Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyle”.

St John Paul II

The first reading today shows us how the Lord hears the “cry of the poor” and calls those who “crush the poor” to accountability. Today’s climate emergency is the result of an inequitable economic system that makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. It is a violent, extractive, oppressive and inherently unjust system. Multinational companies and rich countries ‘rule’ the world with power, money and technology while failing to take accountability for the fact that they have been the biggest contributors to global heating. Pope Francis identifies these as the structural causes of the global ecological crisis which are rooted in selfishness and an insatiable quest for power and wealth (*Laudato Si’* Chap. 3).

Poor nations in the Global South suffering the worst impacts of climate change while having contributed little to the problem is tantamount to “crushing the poor”. More than 91% of deaths caused by climate-related disasters of the past 50 years occurred in developing countries.

In today’s Gospel, we are told that we cannot serve both God and money. What does that mean in today’s ecological context? For those of us who live in cities, we need to consider if our lifestyles are truly ecological or are perpetuating an inequitable, wasteful economic system that adversely impacts the poor and the planet. Cities only cover 2% of the world’s land surface, but consume over 75% of the planet’s material resources. They account for around 75% of global energy consumption and 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Look at our consumption and waste patterns. How much is bought and thrown away? Are energy and water being saved? Are the 7Rs being practised (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle, Redesign and Regenerate)? Are any actions being taken to build Earth resilience like clean-ups, local-tree planting, advocacy and biodiversity conservation? Urbanites need to take ecological accountability if they are to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor with a sincere and contrite heart. Every decision makes a difference. ✚

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

- Amos 8: 4-7
- Psalms 112: 1-2, 4-8
- 1 Timothy 2: 1-8
- Luke 16: 1-13 (or 10-13)

NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 21 Sept 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE
ECOLOGY (STEWARDSHIP)
CALLED TO AVOID WASTAGE, ACT NOW!

The Earth Cries Out: Will We Listen?

Many people mistake the ecological mission as simply to do with environmental activities. This is a narrow and erroneous view. Ecology has to do with the relationships between humans and their natural, social and built environments. In *Laudato Si’* #49, Pope Francis writes, “Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” His Holiness makes it very clear that the ecological mission is one of justice for both people and nature.