

ADAPTED FROM a 2009 Document published by the
Diocesan Commission for Environmental Awareness,
Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton.

**Trinity Sunday (Year B) and World Environment Day
– a celebration of community.
June 2nd & 3rd, 2012.**

Remote Preparation

Have symbols for earth, fire, air and water ready for entrance procession.

- water in a clear container
- soil for the earth symbol in a clear container and a rock
- some feathers to represent the air
- a lit candle for fire

Introductory Rites

Introduction by Commentator:

We welcome everyone to our Eucharistic celebration. To all our visitors- a special welcome. We hope that your time with us is both prayerful and reflective.

On this day we celebrate both Trinity Sunday and World Environment Day.

World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5th. The United Nations has adopted the theme:
Green Economy: Does it include you? for the 2012 World Environment Day.

As we unite to celebrate Eucharist today, we are to celebrate the wonders of God's creation and reflect on our connection with the natural world. We offer our thanks and praise to the Christ who creates and sustains life in all its diverse forms.

Paleontologist, cosmologist and Passionist Priest, the late Thomas Berry said, "To know that Christ we first need to know the meaning and richness of the universe story. The universe story is the divine story, the human story, the story of the trees, the story of the rivers, of the stars, the planets, everything. It is simple as a kindergarten tale, yet as complex as all cosmology and all knowledge and all history. "

In his address, Light of the World, to the World Climate Conference in Copenhagen December 2009, Benedict XVI said: "In view of the threatening catastrophe, there is the recognition everywhere that we must make moral decisions....(But) how can the great moral will, which everybody affirms and everyone invokes, become a personal decision? For unless that happens, politics remains impotent. Who, therefore can ensure that this general awareness permeates the personal sphere? This can be done only by an authority that touches the conscience, that is close to the individual and does not merely call for eye-catching events....(Here the Church) not only has a major responsibility; she is, I would say, often the only hope. For she is so close to people's consciences that she can move them to particular acts of self

denial and can inculcate basic attitudes in souls.” In doing so she breathes through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In June, 2003 Pope John Paul II wrote *'the relationship between individuals or communities and the environment can never be detached from their relationship with God'* and it is fitting that we celebrate Trinity Sunday and World Environment Day today.... We are called to be mindful of the unity of Persons in God, the Creator of the universe, the God who calls us to live in loving relationship with all creation.

During the entrance procession symbols of the four elements (fire, water, air and earth) will be carried in...

All stand for the entrance

Entrance Procession:

Those carrying the candle, water, feathers and soil process in slowly and individually as the announcer reads the following

the lit candle – the fire – symbolic of the sun’s burning energy, powering our planet

the bowl of water – symbolic of oceans of life, rivers of fruitfulness, wetlands of purity, clouds of promise and glaciers of mystery

the feathers – symbolic of the air we breathe, this ancient mix of gases gives flight to birds, creates climatic patterns, fills our lungs with the same breath as all other beings for billions of years

the soil – the seedbed of life, holding the precious secrets of food and fertility, grounding lush rain forests, spanning vast deserts, holding grasslands, cloaking mountains and fringing seas.

The lit candle is placed on the altar and the other items are placed at the foot of the altar.

Entrance Hymn:

The entrance hymn commences once the objects have been placed – the Celebrant and other assistants enter.

Alternative Opening Rite

The liturgy could begin outside and allow people to stand and take a moment to appreciate their surroundings – the birds, the fresh air, creation, the beauty and wonder of creation.

Penitential Rite could be held outdoors – allowing people to pause and be mindful of the times that they have connected with the environment and the times that they have failed to respond to God’s invitation to appreciate creation.

The Gloria could be sung whilst walking into the Church.

Either sprinkling rite or Penitential rite

Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling Holy Water:

Celebrant: Dear friends, this water will be used to remind us of our baptism. Let us ask God to

bless it, and keep us faithful to the Spirit God has given us.

God, our Father, your gift of water brings freshness to the earth: it washes away our sins and brings us eternal life.

We ask you now to bless this water and to give us your protection on this day which you have made your own. Renew the living springs of your life within us and protect us - spirit and body, that we may be free from sin and come into your presence to receive your gift of salvation.

(Sprinkling of congregation)

May almighty God cleanse us of our sins, and through the eucharist we celebrate make us worthy to sit at his table in his heavenly kingdom.

AMEN

Penitential Rite:

Celebrant: Creator God, your power transforms all of creation – transform us.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, you give us courage and hope to manifest the unity we have in you – unite us.

Christ, have mercy.

A: Christ, have mercy.

C: Holy Spirit, you empower us to work for justice with people and the earth- empower us.

Lord, have mercy.

A: Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray to our God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
God, we praise you:

Father all-powerful, Christ Lord and Saviour, Spirit of love.

You reveal yourself in the depths of our being,
drawing us to share in your life and your love.

One God, three persons,
be near to the people formed in your image,
close to the world your love brings to life.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Deuteronomy 4:32-34. 39-40

Psalm 32 (or appropriate Hymn)

Romans 8:14-17

Matthew 28:16-20

**See accompanying notes for suggestions re homily*

The General Intercessions

Celebrant: What we believe of our Creator, we believe of the Word and of the Holy Spirit. God our God is One. In trust we pray,

FOR THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH; that they demonstrate their life in the Trinity by their respect for the Environment and by their leadership on Creation issues. Let us pray to the Lord

FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH; that the Holy Trinity will guide all who try to live their Faith. Let us pray to the Lord

FOR ALL OF US; that we will be careers and advocates of Creation and work to ensure that all God's children receive what they need to live their unique lives as a full part of the Great Work of Creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE; that the Blessed Trinity, Eternal Unity, may continue to bless our families, communities and all the people of the earth in their search for mutual love and respect, in recognizing sameness, and in respecting difference. Let us pray to the Lord

FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE MORE THAN WE NEED; Blessed Trinity, God of Fairness and Justice, help us to reexamine the relationship between the lives we live and our journey of Faith in the Great Work of Creation. We pray to the Lord.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE; God Creator, help me to reflect and act on what I can do in my life to help theirs. We pray to the Lord

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE COME TO THE END OF LIFE'S JOURNEY; we pray you are one with the Trinity. Let us pray to the Lord

The concluding prayer is the World Environment Day Prayer below

World Environment Day Prayer

Creator of the universe,

we pray in gratitude and praise.

You were there at the beginning of all things,
shaping our world, and preparing it for us.

You have provided the mountains and the trees,
the waters and the earth.

Help us to be caretakers of your gifts,
protecting the land from abuse,
and ready to share with all in need.

Show us how to use our science and technology
in creative ways.

Deepen our awareness of our connectedness with all your creation,
so that future generations will also enjoy every blessing.

AMEN

Michael Gormly SSC (in 2004 Social Justice Calendar, ACSJC)

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of the Gifts

Highlight 'God of all creation' in both prayers

Prayer over the Gifts:

Preface of the Holy Trinity

Eucharistic Prayer:

RITE OF COMMUNION

Prayer after Communion:

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing:

Celebrant: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

God loves justice and right and fills the earth with love. May God bless you with a passion for justice and a love of creation. **AMEN.**

Jesus promises to be with us to the end of time. May God bless you with the eyes to see and the ears to hear the Word of God in your environment. **AMEN.**

The Spirit unites us as children of God. May God bless you with reverence for all creation. **AMEN.**

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

Some Hymn Suggestions

- You Are Near (Glory & Praise 1 # 59)
- Sing a New Song (Glory & Praise 1 # 47)
- Sing to the Mountains (Glory & Praise 1 # 48)
- Glory and praise to Our God (Glory & Praise 1 # 17)
- All the Ends of the Earth
- Mighty Lord
- Trinity Song – Frank Anderson
- Canticle of Creation – Trish Watts
- Celebrate (AOV vol 1 #44)
- Gather Your People (AOV vol 1 #71)
- How Shall I Call You (AOV vol 1 #47)
- Wake Up (AOV vol 1 #8)
- 'For the Beauty of the Earth', AOV, vol 1, no 123
- 'Mighty Lord', John Foley
- 'Sing Out Earth and Skies'
- All Creation Sings (AOV vol 2 #45)
- Creator and Poet – Hymn for Environmental Sunday (AOV vol 2 #84)

*Homily Suggestions

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

The listener is

- Presented with a reminder of all the great things that God has done on earth and in the heavens.
- Encouraged to be mindful of the many signs God present within their history.
- Given clear message that God is God in heaven above and on earth beneath
- Reminded that the prospects of future generations depend on the conduct of the present one.

Making the Connection between the reading and World Environment Day

Creation can be considered as a primary revelation of God (St Bonaventure) – in creation we the hand of God

Our stewardship of the earth has direct consequences for present generations and for future generations. The World Environment Day theme for 2012 invites the citizens of the earth to unite for the good of the planet.

Psalm 32

- Gives something of character reference for God; God is faithful, trustworthy, concern about justice and right, loving, creative, the one who sustains life.

Making the Connection between the Psalm and World Environment Day

- The whole of creation experiences the attributes of God as named above and in the psalm –
- everything exists through the word of God
- The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as 'the breath of God' translates as the Hebrew word *Ruah* and the Greek *pneuma*. 'The breath of God is understood as the life-giving and empowering presence of God in nature, the history of Israel and in the lives of individual human beings (Denis Edwards, *Ecology and the Heart of Faith*, p.28). The breath of God does not distinguish between one group of people and another, nor between elements of creation – all are loved and sustained by God.

Romans 5:1-5

The second reading links dignity with being children of God and joint heirs with Jesus. This vision has strong connections with Catholic Social Teaching on the respect for human dignity, life and for human rights.

Making the Connection between the reading and World Environment Day

The Holy Spirit is a point of unity for the community of God – Abba Father. This community and family of God can be extended to include all of creation.

John 16:12-15

Jesus instructs the disciples in the use of the formula for baptism. All three members of the trinity are given equal status within the formula.

The followers of Jesus are commissioned to go out and share the vision of community with the whole world.

Making the Connection between Trinity Sunday and World Environment Day

The setting for this passage is in the outdoors – at the mountain. Jesus tells his disciples that 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given (to him).' The words authority and author share the same Latin root word *auctor*, which means 'creator' or 'originator'. The first story of creation in Genesis portrays God and the Spirit as being active in bringing creation to birth. Jesus' words here link him directly with the act of creation (of heaven and earth). This is further reinforced in Paul's writings wherein Jesus is portrayed as the one who not only unifies creation, but is at the heart of creation (Col 1:15-20).