



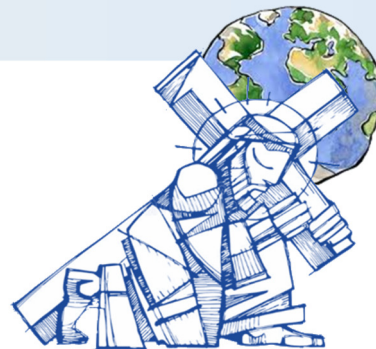
WEAVED FROM POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
LAUDATO SI'



MUMBAI ARCHDIOCESE

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- ✚ We walk these steps of the Way of the cross in our discipleship and love for Jesus.
- ✚ We walk these steps to be mindful of the awful suffering unleashed on our sister, mother Earth by our mindless apathy and greed.
- ✚ We walk these steps honouring all our sisters and brothers who worked and are working for the restoration of our planet.
- ✚ And Christ walks with us. He sees the poisoning of the lakes, rivers and seas, His heart is moved by the stripping of the earth by extractive companies. He sorrowfully hears the howling of the trees as they are felled. He is silenced into sadness by the wailing of dodos, pandas and other endangered species. He chokes in our contaminated air...



1. *Jesus is condemned*

The planet is condemned by human actions

Nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion that ...
given dominion over the earth justifies
absolute domination ...

LS, 67



Our unending avarice and inexcusable apathy are condemning life on our wondrous planet to death. For the first time in the history of the planet, the future lies in the hands of one of its creatures – humans.

There's a song that wants to sing itself through us. It could either be a heart-breaking requiem for an irreplaceable planet. Or it could be the most beautiful song of our rebirth as Earth's custodians. The fate of Earth is in our hands.

Chant (based on American spiritual, WERE YOU THERE):

Were you there when they crucified the Earth?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble.

2. Jesus is handed his cross

People made poor suffer the most



Millions in the third world countries have a difficult cross of poverty to carry, especially in lands devastated by war and conflict. We are not faced with two separate crises, one ecological and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and ecological.

The cry of the poor and the cry of the planet made poor are inseparable. It is our lifestyle which places a heavy burden on the Earth and on the poor.

Chant (based on Taize chant JESUS REMEMBER ME):

Jesus, we remember you, as we dream of your kingdom?

3. Jesus falls the first time

Water ecosystems are collapsing



The magnificent cycle of life-giving water connects all of life on our planet. Of the three planetary resources – land, air and water – Pope Francis focuses extensively on the issue of water.

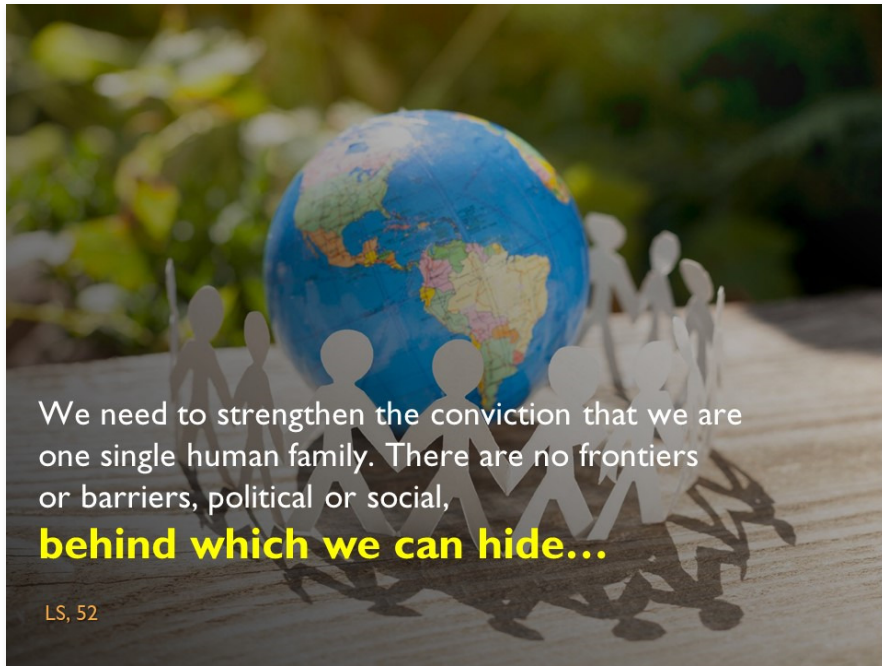
2.5 billion people in the world lack access to safe water and basic sanitation. Our apathy for conserving water is threatening life almost everywhere. Our water bodies are flowing and filled with poisons.

Chant:

Were you there when they crucified the Earth?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble.

4. *Joining with Mary, Simon, Veronica* **In solidarity with the planet made poor**



Despite the challenges, in every corner of the planet there are today many people of good will who are courageously and actively coming forward to care for our common home and halt the climate crisis.

We too are invited to co-partner in Christ's present mission to care for our planet. The way each of us does it may vary. Mary, Simon and Veronica reached out to Jesus differently. Though our mission is the same, our own resourcefulness and interests will shape how we can be earth's guardians.

Chant :

Jesus, we remember you, as we dream of your kingdom?

5. *Jesus falls the second time* **Land ecosystems are collapsing**



The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. Internally we are hollow and dry and that's reflects in our outer world.

The pollution of the planet is only an outward reflection of an inner psychic pollution. We are not taking responsibility for our inner space. Am I aware of this inner desertification happening to me? What do I feel is causing this?

Chant:

Were you there when crucified the Earth?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble.

6. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Weeping for the future generations



Does it cross our minds that our actions are going to have life-threatening consequences for future generations? Are we so self-absorbed that it is impossible for us to imagine the state of the planet we are leaving for our future generations?

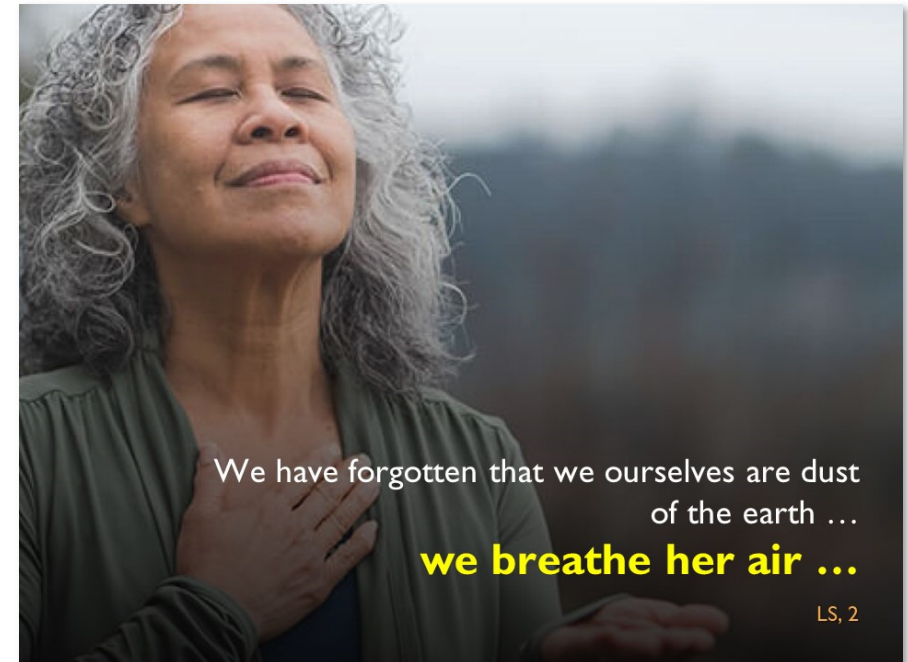
Whenever we walk upon Mother Earth, we need to place our feet gently because we know that the faces of future generations are looking up at us from beneath the ground. If future generations could speak, what would they say?

Chant :

Jesus, we remember you, as we dream of your kingdom?

7. Jesus falls the third time

Air ecology is collapsing



We take so much for granted. The ubiquitous air for instance. Mindfully breathing, we recall that the air and our breath is connected in rhythm to the breath of all people – those here and others elsewhere – breathing in and out at this very moment.

We gently expand our imagination to see our breath mutually exchanged with trees and plant life, Expanding again we become aware of how our breath connects us to the entire life matrix of the planet.

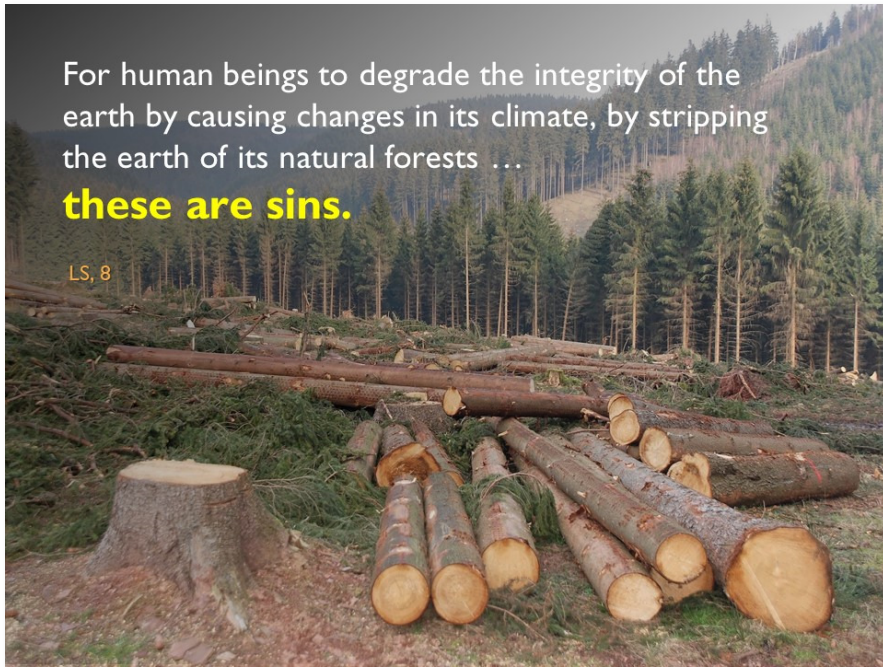
Chant:

Were you there when they crucified the Earth?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble.

8. Jesus Is Stripped

Earth is striped bare by mindless deforestation



The earth is being stripped bare of her forests at a fiercely alarming rate. Around half of the forests that once covered our planet are gone. Every hour, at least 4,500 acres of earth's forests fall to chain saws or bulldozers. At that rate, another one third of the planets' forests will be destroyed in the next fifteen years,

We see the value of a tree in terms of fruits or timber, or may be even oxygen, when are we going to see its value as a creation of God and as our sibling?

Chant :

Jesus, we remember you, as we dream of your kingdom?

9. Jesus Breathes His Last



Is This How the World Ends?

Lyrics by Lenora Rand. Music by Hannah Rand. © 2021 Plural Guild Music

1. The sky is filled with fire tonight,
The smoke fills our lungs.
What are we doing? What have we done?
The water's running dark tonight,
We drink in our ruin.
What are we doing? What have we done?

CH: We can't say we didn't know,
We can't say we didn't see.
Our tears don't mean a thing,
If we turn away again.
Is this how the world ends

2. The city's washed in tears tonight,
Hope is on the run.
What are we doing? What have we done?

3. For the beauty of the earth,
For all life that lives on it,
Forgive us, help us speak the truth.
Help us love the way you do

Find the song on YouTube, <https://youtu.be/tXEKYG-JXuY>

10. Jesus' body is taken down

Requiem for the extinct species



Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us.

We have no such right.

LS, 33

We share the planet with approximately ten million species of living beings. The human is just one of these living species, and actually among the most recent.

Presently life species are going extinct at the rate of one every five minutes. If the current rates continue, there will be no living species left within the next one hundred years, including humans, since we are interdependent with other living beings.

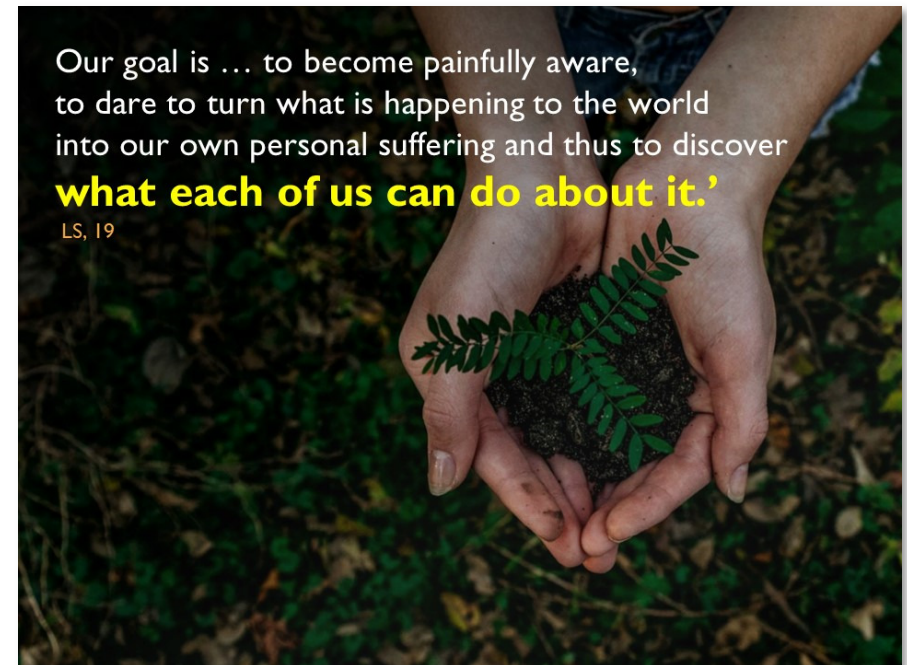
Chant:

Were you there when they crucified the Earth?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble.

11. Jesus is laid in the tomb

Another World Is Possible



Our goal is ... to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover

what each of us can do about it.'

LS, 19

An Indian author once wrote, "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing."

Our hope is that while we human beings, are certainly capable of the worst, we are also capable of rising above that. The first step is to welcome and comprehend scientific research on climate change. The next is to realise that our planet, our common home is on fire. And the only acceptable response to a house on fire is an extremely quick and decisive response.

Chant :

Jesus, we remember you, as we dream of your kindom?