

Reflection Thursday Week 23 – 2021

Reflect again on St Paul's words to the Colossians:

We are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves us, and he wants to clothe us in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. God asks us to be open and welcoming towards each other and non-judgemental. In other words, bear with one another and forgive one another as soon as a quarrel or disagreement begins. The Lord has forgiven us - it is only right that we do the same. We are asked to nurture the gifts and blessings God has given us and to complete them by living them with love. Our urgent prayer is that the peace of Christ reign in our hearts and in the hearts of those around us because we are all essential members of one body – the body of Christ. Let us always be truly thankful. We pray that the message of Christ, in all its richness, will always find a home in us. We want to help each other live in God's way by word and example and yearn to be inspired by the wisdom of God. With hearts full of gratitude, with words of praise of God on our lips, we hope never to say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A Prayer of Gratitude for Creation

God of the universe, we thank You for Your many good gifts -
for the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits,
for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.
Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted
and wasted what You have given us.

Transform our hearts and minds so that we learn to care and share,
to touch the earth with gentleness and with love,
respecting all living things.

We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste,
greed and indifference,
and we pray that the day will come when everyone has enough food and clean water.
Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species
and help us to willingly share your gifts today and always. Amen.

Fiona Murdoch, Eco-Congregation Ireland

A Father in Iraq gave his daughter a state-of-the-art bag for her birthday.

She said: *"Thanks for the **BaghDAD!!**"*