

Reflection Wednesday Week 22 – 2021

September is the month to reflect on Creation. A Red Alert has been issued because the progress of climate change is approaching the point where creation will implode all too quickly – a true end of the world. It is an urgent call to live life more healthily, in which dignity and respect of others is paramount. A world where people come before money and we rediscover the great love and beauty that creation offers us. Where we allow the richness and wisdom of creation to teach us about God; its creator and ours. Let us not delay in taking up this tremendous life-filled opportunity.

A Poem for **Papatūānuku – Mother Earth** (abridged) by Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, after the NZ lockdown, March 2020.

*Rest now, Mother Earth, breathe easy and settle
right here where you are.
We'll not move upon you for a while,
we'll stop, we'll cease,
we'll slow down and stay home,
and draw each other close and be kind.
Kinder than we've ever been.
I wish we could say we were doing it for you as much as for ourselves,
but we're doing it anyway.
It's right - It's time!
Time to think -- about others,
to remove our shoes,
press hands to soil, sift grains between fingers.
Time to notice to whom we belong.
For now, it's just you and the wind,
and the forests, the oceans and the sky full of rain.
Embrace it, this sacrifice of solitude we have carved out for you -
a small offering.
People said it wasn't possible
to ground flights, stay home and stop our habits of consumption
but it was. It always was.
We were just afraid of how much it was going to hurt –
and it did hurt and will continue to hurt
but not as much as you have been hurt.
So be still now.
Rest – Breathe – Recover - Heal – and we will do the same.*