The Francis Effect II: Praised Be You – On Care for our Common Home

Twelve prominent Catholic leaders, including Catholic Earthcare Director Jacqui Rémond; ecological theologian Father Denis Edwards; and Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council Thelma Parker, joined together to offer their perspectives on Pope Francis’ encyclical ‘Laudato Si’ with its focus on ecology and creation. The book offers readers insight and challenges to what Pope Francis calls “the greatest moral challenge of our time.”

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Laudato Si On the Care of Our Common Home by Pope Francis

This upcoming encyclical from Pope Francis on environmental issues has been widely anticipated around the world. It is tipped to emphasise the importance of nurturing all of creation and grasping the nettle in dealing with the ecological and environmental challenges the world is facing, through a shift in political and economic thinking that is life enhancing, especially for those in poverty.

Care for our Common Home: An Australian Group Reading Guide to Pope Francis’ Laudato Si by Bill Huebsch

A 32 pages group reading guide offering an accessible way to take up the challenges and opportunities raised by Pope Francis’ new encyclical Laudato si’. This reading guide offers reflections, discussion guides and unique Australian case studies and is ideal for everyone in a parish or school community.

This guide to Laudato Si’ features:
- A summary of the text cross-referenced to the original paragraphs
- Additional commentary relating the Encyclical in a truly Australian context
- Discussion questions for six study sessions
- Evocative photos related to the text and the issues Pope Francis call us to address
A Modern Credo: telling the Christ story within the context of creation
by Kevin Treston

Drawing on his many years of communicating the Christ story within different cultural settings, Kevin Treston offers an inclusive approach to telling the Christ story within the context of creation. For two thousand years the Christ story has been a significant influence on the story of humankind, especially in Western countries. However, there is now clear evidence that the Christ story is being marginalised here as well.

A growing awareness about ecological concerns and sustainability of the earth’s resources is now challenging people to review their ecological responsibilities. Modern science and cosmology observe an interrelatedness among all things in creation. All cultural and religious traditions stand on the common ground of the earth.

Contents:
1. Telling the Christ story
2. The beginning and the ongoing story
3. The story of God revealing
4. Telling the Jesus story
5. The story of God as Trinity
6. The story of the Christian community
7. The creation-centre Christ story
8. Beliefs about the human story
9. Creation-centre spirituality for personal stories
10. Where to now?
Ecology with Denis Edwards

Jesus and the Natural World by Denis Edwards
Denis Edwards encourages Christians to wholeheartedly embrace ecological conversion and to connect with people around the globe in their deepening commitment to the survival of life on Earth.

He shows that stewardship is pivotal in the Christian message, and that the process of conversion includes a responsibility that all creation is a precious gift that is to be loved, respected and protected.

Ecology at the Heart of Faith by Denis Edwards
In a world born of the "big bang," Edwards shows that humanity and the world are together being made into the image of God.

The heart of faith is an ecological communion that holds together and grows in love toward the fullness of life imaged in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Denis Edwards helps the general reader, the preacher, the spiritual director, the student, and the theologian tear down the walls that too often separate mysticism, theology, prophecy, poetry, and science.

Jesus the Wisdom of God: An Ecological Theology by Denis Edwards
A trinitarian theology of God's interaction with creation, in which Jesus is the Wisdom of God, and the Wisdom of God in Biblical tradition is a precursor. Human beings in this generation are called to an ecological praxis, based on our inter-relationships on the planet Earth and an understanding of Earth's place in the expanding universe.

Breath of Life: A Theology of the Creator Spirit by Denis Edwards
Creator Spirit begins not with Pentecost but with the origin of the universe as much as fifteen billion years ago.

The book sketches a theological narrative of the Creator Spirit as a story with four great episodes: creation, grace, the Christ-event, and the church. He recovers the radical narrative and event character of the Biblical notion of truth, and presents the Creator Spirit as companion to all creatures in their travail. This same Spirit is imaged as making space for a universe of creatures co-dependently evolving within the dynamic life of Trinitarian Communion.
And More from Denis Edwards

How God Acts: Creation, redemption, and special divine action by Denis Edwards

From providence and miracles to resurrection and intercessory prayer, Edwards shows how a basically noninterventionist model of divine action does justice to the universe as we know and also to central convictions of Christian faith about the goodness of God, the promises of God, and the fulfillment of creation. Here is wonderfully lucid theology supporting an excitement of how God is at work in the universe.

Human Experience of God by Denis Edwards

Departing from human experience the book deals with the theological underpinnings of religious experience, then draws practical conclusions or implications for the spiritual life.

Care for Creation: a Franciscan spirituality of the earth by Ilia Delio, Keith Douglass Warner, Pamela Wood; foreword by Denis Edwards.

Francis of Assisi is the saint most closely identified with caring for and celebrating the things of the earth. This book takes both a theological and practical approach to developing a Franciscan spirituality of the earth. Four sections focus on:

- The relationship between the earth as God’s creation and Jesus as the Incarnation of God;
- The implication of Francis’ Canticle of Creation for our time;
- The role of contemplative prayer as a key to discovering Francis’ awe and respect for creation;
- Conversion in the Franciscan tradition.

Each section offers reflective action opportunities designed to bring the book’s ecological and theological insights into the reader’s daily life and nurture a Franciscan spirituality of the earth. Prayers, meditations, spiritual practices and group activities are offered which provide a practical, hands-on approach to reconnecting with the earth and acting in right relationship.
Contributing more to the conversation

Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love by Elizabeth Johnson
Elizabeth Johnson shows how the narratives of evolution and salvation are not just parallel stories but shed light on each other. The unpredictable creativity of matter is disclosed as the sphere of the working of the Holy Spirit.

She brings us to a new understanding of the role of pain and death, and radically deepens our understanding of a cosmic redemption.

Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love leads to the conclusion that love of the natural world is an intrinsic element of faith in God and that far from being an add-on, ecological care is at the centre of moral life.

The Green Bible: understand the bible’s powerful message for the earth; foreword by Desmond Tutu
The Green Bible will equip and encourage you to see God’s vision for creation and help you engage in the work of healing and sustaining it.

This first Bible of its kind includes inspirational essays from key leaders such as N. T. Wright, Barbara Brown Taylor, Brian McLaren, Matthew Sleeth, Pope John Paul II, and Wendell Berry. As you read the scriptures anew, The Green Bible will help you see that caring for the earth is not only a calling, but a lifestyle.

Environmental Justice and Climate Change: Assessing Pope Benedict XVI’s Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States

‘Environmental Justice and Climate Change: Assessing Pope Benedict XVI’s Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States’ provides the most thorough theological treatment available on Benedict XVI’s statements on human responsibility for addressing environmental degradation. Contributors include lay, ordained, and religious Catholic theologians, a philosopher, and bishops highlighting the contributions Pope Benedict has made to Catholic teaching while offering fruitful directions for advancing concern about ongoing threats to the integrity of Earth.
Creation is Groaning: Biblical and Theological Perspectives by Mary L Coloe

In *Creation is Groaning*, a set of highly regarded theologians and Scripture scholars offer a theology and spirituality of creation based on principles of eco-justice and environmental responsibility.

Contributors to this volume are Denis Edwards, Antoinette Collins, Dermot Nestor, Laurie Woods, Mary Coloe, and Anthony Kelly.

Key elements of their project include:

- Tracing the development of Israel's view of creation through different historical situations and key writings, with a particular focus on what ethical responsibilities toward creation emerge from its theology.

- Considering the cosmic impact of the Jesus event as Paul and John understood it.

Together, the authors establish a firm foundation for a new ethic that promotes the flourishing of all planetary life and a just global community.

Earth, Faith and Mission: The Theology and Practice of Earth-care by Clive Ayre

‘Earth Faith, and Mission’ is essentially about the way in which these three critical aspects of the Christian Church and life relate with one another, and argues that Earth-care is not an "optional extra" or a side issue, but part of what Christian mission is about.

The book begins with an overview of the environmental threats in our time and goes on to outline some common responses to the natural world. The biblical and theological basis of ecological mission becomes the strong basis for the inclusion of creation care on the Church's mission agenda.

Then after considering "the big picture", or the way in which a consensus has emerged across many confessional lines, the book addresses practical questions of what an Earth-friendly approach to mission looks like. The final issue is what it might mean to face the future with hope.

In this book we hear a genuine call to eco-mission in the current environmental crisis.
And more ..... 

**Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth (essays by several contributors)**

Showing the deep connection between our present ecological crisis and our lack of awareness of the sacred nature of creation, this series of essays from spiritual and environmental leaders around the world shows how humanity can transform its relationship with the Earth.

Combining the thoughts and beliefs from a diverse range of essayists, this collection highlights the current ecological crisis and articulates a much-needed spiritual response to it.

Perspectives from Buddhism, Sufism, Christianity, and Native American beliefs as well as physics, deep psychology, and other environmental disciplines, make this a well-rounded contribution.

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**The Environment by Pope Benedict XVI**

Pope Benedict has not been shy in regards to issues of the environment. He has spoken frequently about everyone’s right to food, right to water and responsible sharing. He has spoken about the real meaning of progress and development and what that means for our planet of limited resources. He has discussed climate change, the connection between science and nature and how the path of cultivating peace is directly linked to protecting creation.

An unprecedented collection of excerpts from what Pope Benedict has had to say regarding the environment, this book is a treasure trove of insights and inspiration surrounding the Church and the world in which we live.
God in Evolution...

The God of Evolution: A Trinitarian Theology by Denis Edwards

The God of Evolution is an insightful, thought-provoking work that shifts the boundaries of theology by examining the traditional understanding of God and melding it with evolutionary ideas.

Edwards begins by looking at the biblical stories of origin and the evolutionary world view. From there he examines the nature of God and God’s power, the nature of human persons, including an exploration of original sin and grace, the divine-human relationship, and the impact of an evolutionary world view on the understanding of the Holy Spirit and the person of Jesus.

In these discussions Edwards weaves together the insights of contemporary scientific thinkers and the ideas of theologians such as Teilhard de Chardin, Karl Rahner, and Jürgen Moltmann in a careful and nuanced way.

Emergence For Life Not Fall From Grace: Making Sense of the Jesus Story in the Light of Evolution by Kevin Treston

Kevin Treston proposes a telling of the Christian story from the perspective of Emergence, rather than Fall, as an evolutionary faith journey. Such a story challenges the Christian church to respond creatively to the whole new world with such issues as globalisation, cyber technology, growing disparity between rich and poor, scientific consciousness, ecumenism, gender equity movements and a growing ecological crisis.

The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love by Ilia Delio

The award-winning author of Christ in Evolution and The Emergent Christ breaks new ground with this capstone in a trilogy that opens our eyes to the everywhere active, all powerful, all intelligent Love that guides and directs our new awareness of interrelatedness and inter-being.

She writes: "We all have a part to play in this unfolding Love; we are wholes within wholes; persons within persons; religions within religions. We are one body and we seek one mind and heart so that the whole may become more whole, more personal and unified in love. This is our Christian vocation, to live in the Christ who is rising up from the ashes of death to become for us the God of the future."
God in Evolution...

The Emergent Christ: exploring the meaning of Catholic in an evolutionary universe by Ilia Delio

Ilia Delio makes fascinating sense of the universe, beginning with the story of cosmic evolution, coursing through the meaning of God in evolution and the emergence of Christ, and concluding with new ways of seeing Christ in all things. Ilia Delio reveals the sacrament of God at work in the world.

She also explores the spiritual evolution within each of us and suggests that it will change the cosmos as well as the church.

She shows that we are at a stage in evolution where our choices will determine what happens next. "Love," she writes, "always seeks the best for the beloved but God is a beggar of love who waits at the soul's door without daring to force it open.

The question of Christ emerging as the personal center of the universe is not a question of yes or no but a question of how that love will evolve." She makes one thing perfectly clear: it is happening and the evidence is astounding.

The Emergent Christ is an antidote to the new atheism that says there is no place in evolution for God, let alone a God of love. It is also a spiritual tonic for Christians interested in understanding their place and purpose in this evolving universe.

Christ in Evolution by Ilia Delio

Ilia Delilo transcends the debate on evolution and intelligent design to reveal the Christ who is at the centre of our lives in a complete universe. She draws on mystics and theologians to show the love of God at the heart of a total redemptive process taking place in the human consciousness.

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