

## **Novena to Mary, Untier of Knots**

### **Day 7- Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> October, Untying the Knots of exploitation and abuse of the Environment and our common home**

**Opening Hymn: I watch the sunrise** - see *Hymn No.29 on separate white Hymn sheets*

#### ***Welcome and Introduction by Fr John***

*On each day of the novena, so far, we have been reflecting on potential knots in our lives: injustice, disappointment, grief, loss, hopelessness, betrayal, resentment, physical and mental suffering in all its forms, addiction, family disunity, relationship breakdown, confusion, separation, grief and loss, conflict and discord etc.*

*Tonight we welcome again Fr Kevin Hughes MHM who will now lead us to ponder the knot of exploitation of the Environment.*

#### **Fr Kevin: Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus, Son of the Living God through you all things were created. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, to whom we bring, this evening, the knots of our tangled lives. In your Incarnation you became part of this earth, and you gaze upon this world with human eyes, eyes of love and compassion. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Pour out on us your blessings, you who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen

#### **A Reading from the book of Genesis (2: 5-9, 15-25)**

*This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.*

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **Hymn: Laudato Si**

#### **Refrain:**

**Laudato si', O mi' Signore, Laudato si', O mi' Signore,  
Laudato si', O mi' Signore, Laudato si', O mi' Signore.**

Yes, be praised in all your creatures, brother sun and sister moon; in the stars and in the wind, air and fire and flowing water. **Refrain**

For our sister mother earth, she who feeds us and sustains us; for her fruits, her grass, her flowers, for the mountains and the oceans. **Refrain**

Praise for those who spread forgiveness, those who share your peace with others, bearing trials and sickness bravely! Even sister death won't harm us. **Refrain**

For our life is but a song, and the reason for our singing is to praise you for the music; join the dance of all creation. **Refrain**

Praise to you, Father Most Holy, praise and thanks to you Lord Jesus, praise to you, most Holy Spirit, life and joy of all creation! **Refrain**

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (13: 1-9)**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Homily**

*Time of silence to ponder the knots of exploitation and abuse and steps we can take to protect the Environment.*

*A long ribbon will be held out in front of the altar on which we can attach our own small ribbons which represents one small step we can take to reverse some of the damage to the Environment. Please feel free to unite to make a collective decision with family or friends who are with you this evening. Anyone who wishes to do so please come forward to receive a small ribbon which you will then tie on the large ribbon. All ribbons will then be placed in the basket at the feet of Mary Untier of Knots.*

*During this time we will sing the following hymns as time allows:-*

**Hymn: Colours of Day** - see Hymn No.30 on separate white Hymn sheets

**Hymn: I the Lord of Sea and Sky** - see Hymn No.31 on separate white Hymn sheets

### **Bidding Prayers read by Fr Kevin:-**

We bring to Mary the Untier of knots, that she will intercede for and with us, to Our Father, all our knots.

For the times when we have refused to make all things new, when we have refused to be part of the new creation in Christ. **Pause**

For the times when we have preferred things over people. **Pause**

For the times when we choose social media over human interaction. **Pause**

For the times when we do not prioritise the poor. **Pause**

For the times we have treated others as second class humans. **Pause**

For the times that my pro-life stance has been weak and selective. **Pause**

For the times I stand on the side lines watching and refusing to do what is needed. **Pause**

For the times we have failed to treat our planet and its resources as a gift to be shared. **Pause**

**Hymn: All things bright and beautiful** - see *Hymn No.32 on separate white Hymn sheets*

**Daily Novena Prayer to Mary, Untier of Knots** – see *words on white Novena Hymns sheet*

**Daily Novena Hymn: Hail Queen of Heav'n, the Ocean Star** – see *Hymn No.1 on separate white Hymn sheets*

*Thank you for coming to our Novena - Please feel free to take this copy service sheet away with you*

Pope Francis urges us:-

Given the complexity of the ecological crisis and its multiple causes, we need to realize that the solutions will not emerge from just one way of interpreting and transforming reality. Respect must also be shown for the various cultural riches of different peoples, their art and poetry, their interior life and spirituality. If we are truly concerned to develop an ecology capable of remedying the damage we have done, *no branch of the sciences and no form of wisdom can be left out*, and that includes religion and the language particular to it.

Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather 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.