

**New monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!  
From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!**

**Growing a Culture of Peace**

In the face of growing violence in our world, Christians are called to be peacemakers. “If you want to cultivate peace, protect Creation,” wrote Pope Benedict XVI in his 2010 New Year message for the World Day of Peace. Peace also involves being actively engaged in bringing about a just community. When people make the connections between peace, ecology and justice and live accordingly, a culture of peace can grow.

This monthly bulletin is for parish and school newsletters. It focuses on topics connected with peace, ecology and justice, and includes a brief **Reflection** related to the scripture of the first Sunday of each month, a **Fact File**, an **Action**, and a **Link** to more information. As well as being in Word to copy into bulletins, it is available in pdf format as a handout.

To subscribe email [pej.cmi@columban.org.au](mailto:pej.cmi@columban.org.au)

For further information contact:

Anne Lanyon, Co-ordinator, Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace,  
Ecology and Justice, Locked Bag 2002, Strathfield NSW 2135

Ph 02 9352 8021 Fax 02 9746 8033

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, Third Sunday in Lent**

**Growing a Culture of Peace**

**2. Protect Creation**

**Reflection:** “*He went to look for fruit on (the fig tree), but did not find any*” Luke 13:7  
God’s gifts are life-giving, intended to multiply and grow. We are all human – we can forget about God and seek other gods – power, money, possessions. Lent is a time to turn back to the Gospel and be life-giving. The earth on which all life depends is being abused. Let us turn back to celebrating and protecting creation.

**Fact File:** It is the year of Biodiversity. Australia supports almost 10 per cent of the biological diversity on earth. In 200 years it has the largest documented decline mainly due to human activities: exploitation, habitat loss and climate change.

([www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/index.html))

**Action:** Participate in the Bush Blitz to catalogue species in your garden.

[www.bushblitz.org.au/](http://www.bushblitz.org.au/)

Organise a school, parish or neighbourhood involvement in Earth Hour, March 27<sup>th</sup>

[www.earthhour.org.au/](http://www.earthhour.org.au/)

**Learn More:** Catholic Earthcare Australia [www.catholicearthcareoz.net/](http://www.catholicearthcareoz.net/)