

## **A New Earth: The Environmental Challenge**

On behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference I present the Social Justice Statement for 2002, A new earth: The environmental challenge. In line with the Australian Bishops' commitment to address environmental issues and Pope John Paul II's call for ecological conversion, the focus of this year's statement is on the environment.

The Statement moves us to gratitude and reverence for God's creative love, revealed in the vast, ancient universe. It shows us that Christ is the One who reconciles and renews the whole of creation and, using Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun as a base, it addresses major environmental problems. Margaret Hill's paintings add another dimension to our appreciation of God's care for the whole of creation.

Pope John Paul II has raised environmental issues with increasing frequency and the Statement demonstrates the corresponding development of Catholic social teaching in this area.

The Bishops have produced an educational video, The Garden Planet, with a booklet for discussion and action, which complements this Statement. An ecumenical kit on this theme is also being produced, encouraging a broader approach to the celebration of Social Justice Sunday and action on environmental issues. For details of these and other resources, refer to the 'Suggestions for Action' at the conclusion of the statement.

With every blessing,

William M Morris, DDBishop of ToowoombaChairman Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Here are a few links from the Social Justice Sunday Kit

[A New Earth - The Environmental Challenge](#)

[Around the World in 80 Ways](#)

[Australia's Environment - A Fact Sheet](#)

[Environmentally Sustainable Transport duo to launch the 2002 Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Sunday statement](#)

Note: These files may take a little while to download. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view them.