The Cathedral Coronavirus Chronicle

St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney — 21 August 2021 — Twenty-second edition

"it could be worse . . . "

ear Cathedral Parishioners and friends all,

It could be worse, we could be living in Afghanistan.

Next Sunday, 29th August, is "Social Justice Sunday" in the Catholic Church.

Consider the injustices which continue against so many people and communities, the huge failures in statesmanship and governance nationally internationally which seem to characterise these days; the incompetence, corruption. power-grabbing and selfrighteousness on daily display globally and closer to home; the immense suffering and longterm damage to communities and individuals done by the Covid pandemic and some measures used in response to it.

How do we react to all this? Surely, we are called to prayer and to action.

The 2021 annual Social Justice Statement by the Australian Catholic Bishops says that "the signs of the times are clear - we know that we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour."

So how might we foster a change of heart, mind, and behaviour, in the midst of pandemic, lockdowns, wars, despotic regimes and all the other things which oppress and which call for action in the name social justice?

"The Bishops invite us to join them in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Goals are: response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics: sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education: and community engagement and participatory action." (https://socialjustice.catholic.or g.au/)

Personally, I don't feel quite ready for a seven year ecological journey just at the moment. But maybe I will do later this year, when the lockdown ends, when hopefully we can visit family and friends, when kids can go to school, when people can go to work and feel valued, when we can gather and celebrate life together, when the phone calls from anti-vaxxers in a bunker somewhere telling me mv DNA is being modified have stopped, and when I'm no longer being watched with suspicion by the police for walking along the street minding my business, and when we can all join together in the cathedral for Mass and the sacraments.

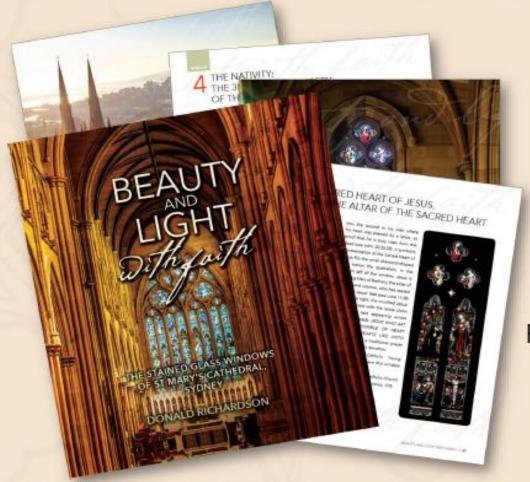
But it could be worse. And I continually hear of people doing good and kind things for others during this lockdown: "integral ecology" in action! Love is always "sustainable."

Peace.

Fr Don Richardson, **Dean**

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SIGN THE NO EUTHANASIA PETITION TO PREVENT STATE-SANCTIONED KILLING IN NSW

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is urging all Catholics to sign an e-petition to prevent the NSW parliament passing laws that sanction the killing of vulnerable human beings. There is never a good time to introduce laws such as this, but to do so in the middle of a pandemic and amidst lockdowns adversely affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions is unconscionable.

Please sign this petition, calling on the Government to keep us focused on the present challenges and once they have been met, let us focus on medicine at its best and not its most lethal. Click image below



