

**Some international efforts to focus our attention in recent years are:**

**Kyoto Protocol (Dec 1997)** was the first international agreement in which many of the world's industrial nations concluded a verifiable agreement to reduce their emissions of six greenhouse gases in order to prevent global warming. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing emissions.

**Paris Climate Summit Agreement (Nov 2015)** sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

**Marrakech action proclamation for our climate and sustainable development (Nov 2016)** successfully demonstrated to the world that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is underway and the constructive spirit of multilateral cooperation on climate change continues.



(Five Finger Strand, Co. Donegal)

## *Thoughts page*



## **MARK OF MISSION 5**

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

## **TREASURE**

The Bible's vision of salvation is universal in its scope. We are called to promote the well-being of the human community and its environment, so that Creation may live in harmony.

## **SCRIPTURAL REFLECTIONS**

“Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created” (Ps 148:3-5).

Romans tell us that Creation is an unfinished task. It groans in anticipation of the Kingdom and the revelation of the sons of God. “For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now”. (Rom 8:22) The Book of Revelation gives us a vision of the whole of creation will be transformed in God’s kingdom. *“Then I heard the whole creation, everything in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea, say, ‘Blessing and honour and glory and might be to our God who sits upon the throne and to the lamb, forever and ever.’”* (Revelation 5:13)

The 5th Mark of Mission encourages us to treasure Creation and grow in our appreciation of how God has invited us to cooperate with him building it up.

### **God’s Care for Creation**

Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers

growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these.

Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you who have so little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?" It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.' **Mt 6:24-34**

### **Exercise A**

God has given humanity a special place in his creation. From your reading of the passage from Matthew:

1. What is the appropriate attitude of the human person to creation?
2. Where do you find this attitude in your own life?
3. Where are the challenges to this attitude for you?

### **Exercise B**

**Some environmental challenges we face today**

**Loss of Biodiversity**

**Climate change**

**Waste disposal**

**Natural resource depletion**

**Food shortages**

**Pollution and Health repercussions**

**Deforestation**

**Ocean acidification**

**Ozone layer depletion**

When you look at the environment around you – in your parish, nationally, internationally, where do you see the greatest need in building up God’s creation or in restoring it from the damage that has been done to it?