

# ADVENT REFLECTION 2019

## Week 2: Repentance

### SCRIPTURE

*The wolf lives with the lamb,  
the panther lies down with the kid,  
calf and lion cub feed together  
with a little boy to lead them.  
The cow and the bear make friends,  
Their young lie down together.  
The lion eats straw like the ox.  
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;  
into the viper's lair  
the young child puts his hand.  
They do no hurt, no harm,  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the country is filled with the knowledge  
of the Lord  
as the waters swell the sea.*

Isaiah 11: 6-9

### LIVE SIMPLY PRAYER

*Compassionate and loving God,  
you created the world for us all to share,  
a world of beauty and plenty.  
Create in us a desire to live simply,  
so that our lives may reflect your generosity.*

*Creator God,  
you gave us responsibility for the earth,  
a world of riches and delight.  
Create in us a desire to live sustainably,  
so that those who follow after us  
may enjoy the fruits of your creation*

*God of peace and justice,  
you give us the capacity to change,  
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.  
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,  
so that the pillars of injustice crumble  
and those now crushed are set free.  
Amen.*

LiveSimply/CAFOD

### ACTION IDEAS

- Become a member of the Catholic Peace organisation Pax Christi ([www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk))
- Find out more about the work of the Campaign Against Arms Trade ([www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk))
- Join Green Christian – formerly known as Christian Ecology Link ([www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk))

### BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS

This Sunday's first reading paints an idyllic vision of harmony and mutual co-operation between all living creatures – a stark contrast to the world around us today. God weeps to see the lack of tolerance – racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, scant regard for the weak, the poor, those who are physically or mentally infirm, and the mindless destruction of the beautiful planet He has entrusted to our care.

Is this the world we want for ourselves and future generations? Let's direct our efforts and prayers towards building bridges between communities and groups of all kinds rather than building walls that foster hate and division. Let's also do everything possible to reduce our carbon footprint and try to conserve natural resources by adopting a 'greener' lifestyle.

### REFLECTION

- Is there hostility in my local community, especially towards newcomers from other countries?
- Can I help foster peace and harmony?
- Do I treat everyone with respect and stand up for the rights of others?
- Do I look out for the stranger and offer friendship and support?
- Can I join a neighbourhood interfaith group?
- Is there tension within my own family? What can I do to resolve it?
- What changes might I make to my current lifestyle to focus more fully on the needs of others?
- What changes can I make to be less wasteful of natural resources?
- Do I really need so many possessions?
- Can I adopt a simpler lifestyle?

### ACTIVITY

- Everyone is invited to take 2 paper leaves: one a green holly leaf on which to write a word or phrase that expresses personal regret or concern for an issue in the wider world, the second a red poinsettia leaf for their hopes and dreams
- Florist's wire is attached to the leaves and they are displayed in a vase for everyone to see.
- Pray for our concerns and think of ways to make our hopes and dreams for a fairer world become a reality.

*In due course John the Baptist appeared: he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message:  
'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.'*

Matthew 3:1