

15TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Isaiah 55: 10–11; Psalm 64 (65); Romans 8: 18–23; Matthew 13: 1–23

The readings this Sunday are very much linked by images of nature, water, rain, growing crops and harvest.

- These readings provide us with the best opportunity to focus on the needs of our environment, the Lord's creation.

The image of the sower is sending strong messages that it is everyone's responsibility to care for and protect the environment.

- It is horrifying that we have to fight our own governments to save the environment.

If there are issues about the environment, it would not be wrong to suggest that it's largely due to misplaced materialism.

Mahatma Gandhi once said: *"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed"*

- That's where misplaced materialism come in.

We all need to understand that as human beings we cannot separate ourselves from mother earth, we cannot just do what we like.

We are a thread in the inter-connected web of life, such that whatever humanity does will have repercussions not only on the planet, but on human life itself.

Q: Why should we sacrifice a healthy environment for a strong economy?

This not right!

We are responsible for creating a healthy environment.

The Earth is what we all have in common

If we are going to improve the quality of the environment, the only way forward is to get everybody involved.

Q: how can we get involved?

It is in small ways – doing small things such as



- a) Making recycling a priority in our daily.
- b) Refusing single-use items (especially plastic) - Using Reusable Bags
- c) Or sticking to a Reusable Water Bottles
- d) Scaling Back On Washing Clothes.
- e) Similarly using our Dishwasher Only When It's Full
- f) Donating our Old Technology
- g) Using a Mug at the Office Instead of Polystyrene Cups

Today is that day we could pray for

- those who care for the environment but also for
- those who seem intent on destroying it.

Let us pray that we may be on the right side of the coin in our small ways.

