



Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit

(John 12:24)

Ponder

Thomas Merton wrote in 'Seeds of Contemplation' : *"A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying [God]. It "consents," so to speak, to [God's] creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God, and therefore a tree imitates God by being a tree"*



Ponder some more . . .

Think of the fruit tree, any fruit tree. The fruit tree freely GIVES of itself – it stands firmly rooted and its branches reach out into the world offering goodness, freely, to anyone who will take it. What if this was an image of the church? Giving, giving and giving again, year after year, time after time, because through the giving of itself, of its fruit, the tree plants the seeds of new life, new fruit trees grow, new branches develop, and new fruit comes forth. So it is with the kingdom of God. The Church that gives of itself, that reaches out into the world with life-giving goodness will fulfil its purpose in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, giving glory to God.



Let us pray:

Read 2 Cor 5:14-21

God of new life, help us to die to self. God of new life, in

Christ you reconciled the whole of creation to you. God of new life, help us to live for Christ. God of new life, may we fulfil your ministry of reconciliation by living carefully in this beautiful world. For Christ's sake, Amen

Get Active:

- ✿ Prune some of your 'non-eco' habits and replace them with new life-giving habits.
- ✿ Give new life to old stuff—recycle and reuse.
- ✿ Plant a fruit tree and give thanks for its gifts.
- ✿ Check out Countryfile's website, in particular its section on

"How to live a greener life"








Playing with Plants



You will need: A collection of objects, or a list of them – e.g. cotton clothes, rice, plastic, glass, woollen jumper, milk, chocolate, toothpaste, honey, teabags, aluminium can, mobile phone, wooden furniture, newspaper, rubber, cork, metal.

What you do: Collect a selection of items – be imaginative with these items, as you might be surprised the mistakes that will be made when sorting them out.

-  Sort items into 2 piles (or lists) – those that are made from plants and those that are not.
-  Make a display with all the items, demonstrating which are made from plants and which are not.
-  Think about what is made from plants across the world and make a giant poster showing everything you can think of (use pictures from old magazines).
-  Find out about the importance of plants for food, medicines, and the world environment.
-  Create an information poster about this.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

World Earth Day 22nd April <https://www.earthday.org/>

Take a look at the **Fashion for the Earth** section on this website:

Cotton is called the ‘dirtiest’ crop.

Pesticides from cotton farming get into rivers and groundwater contaminating land, air, food and drinking water.

Every year 150 million trees are cut down to make fabrics.

The fashion industry is a major contributor to biodiversity loss.

You could organise:

A swishing (clothes swap) event.

A secondhand, thrift or vintage fashion show.

A nearly new sale.

Share information and concerns about the environmental impacts of fast fashion.



Eco Church webinar 25th April

Thinking of becoming an Eco Church?

Why not sign up for this webinar ...

An introduction to Eco Church and getting started [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZFeTWDIfSVOCilgGJTL22Q)

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