

## ADVENT SESSION 4, Fourth Week, 2015

**'Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light. It shines upon everyone who lives in the land of darkest shadows... A child has been born for us! He will rule with honesty and justice. Is 9:2,6,7**



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### **WHY? Share some reasons....**

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Pope Francis sharing his thoughts on Advent 2015 said: *"Jesus must be reborn in our hearts and lives during this season of Advent and every day of our lives through our love, kindness, mercy and forgiveness. Only then will we be able to:*

*Give people Jesus' hope by caring for those in need,  
Give them his peace by turning the other cheek when we are provoked,  
Give them God's love by encouraging those feeling sad or tired  
Give them His joy by encouraging and helping those who feel at  
the end of their strength,  
Showing them that we care and that God cares as well -  
when we do these kinds of things we will receive  
hope, peace, love, and joy in return."*

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIg-7kbnUt8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIg-7kbnUt8) 'Breath of Heaven, Mary's Song'

### **Time to reflect on what we have seen and heard.....**

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*"Those who accept God's offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness..."*

*Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor.*

*God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades..."* Pope Francis, Advent 2015



## Outcome of the UN'COP21' Climate Change Meeting...

The final, legally binding agreement was signed by all 200 country delegations to great rejoicing, at the end of the UN'COP21' meeting in Paris, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Activists have responded with caution because the 'People's Test', based on climate science and needs of communities affected most by climate change worldwide, reflects a 'fail' in four key areas: (Adapted from 'New Internationalist')

### 1. Catalyze immediate, urgent and drastic emission reductions;

**Outcome:** Emission cuts are based on Government voluntary pledges drawn up before COP21, will take global warming to 3.7 degrees Celsius, not below 2° needed to save Earth!

### 2. Provide adequate support for transformation;

**Outcome:** \$100 billion was pledged, even though \$1,000 billion is required annually for the transformation to a fossil-free world by 2020. **NB** Governments spend \$5,300 billion per year on direct / indirect subsidies to fossil fuels! (\$14,000 billion was used to bail out the banks!)

### 3. Deliver justice for impacted people

**Outcome:** Poorer nations hit by devastating floods and droughts deserve compensation and financial support to deal with loss and damage caused by rich countries' pollution. Agreement is denying them this through the clause: '*no basis for any liability and compensation*'. 'Big players' are alleged to have bribed and bullied poor nations into accepting this clause.

### 4. Focus on genuine, effective action rather than false solutions.

**Outcome:** Door left open for carbon trading mechanisms, already proved totally ineffective in cutting carbon emissions! No mention of fair solutions i.e. keep 80% fossil fuels in the ground; or to respect the land rights of forest people; or to promote clean, democratic energy...

See: <http://newint.org/features/web-exclusive/2015/12/12/cop21-paris-deal-epi-fail>

Pope Francis spoke prophetically in *Laudato Si* when he said: "*Society is enriched by a countless array of organisations, which work to promote the common good. Around these community actions relationships develop and a new social fabric emerges. In this way, the world and the quality of life of the poorest are cared for, with a sense of solidarity...in our common home, Mother Earth.*" LS 232,

**The world is waiting for the Infant Jesus to be born anew this Christmas...**

**...to journey with us through the Jubilee Year of Mercy!**



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Wishing you and all those you love every blessing of this Christmastide...

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