

## Thought for the Week 22 April

### Reflections on "Saying Yes to Life"

This year's Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, by Ruth Valerio proved more relevant than ever.

One group member reflected:

'We've been able to continue with the Lent book in the isolation of our home and have just finished watching the video for this week with the Oceanographer. It's a good learning experience and is making me ever more aware of the responsibility each of us has to help prevent global warming! I think my thought for this week is the realisation of a kind of paradox in that whilst being confronted with the horrors of Coronavirus on a global level, we are inadvertently helping our planet for example, by reducing air travel and causing less pollution.

Is the current situation we find ourselves in, God or nature's way of telling us to stop, be still and quiet for a while?'

There were echoes of this sentiment in Pope Francis' address, "Urbi et orbi", on 27 March. The Pope stressed our dependence and inter-connectedness in this wake-up call:

*'Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?'* Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!".'

God is awake; perhaps we are now starting to wake up too. Ruth Valerio ended her book with this message:

'As we wake the sleeping giant of the Church, so we must wake the sleeper inside of ourselves too. We know, biblically, that we are called to look after our common home....

Resurrection churches, resurrection lives. This is the calling that is on us as we look at all that God has made and say yes to life.'

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, God wants us to appreciate more than ever our common home where all (that is, all humans, all creatures, the whole creation) thrive best together.

Further resources, including interviews with prominent environmentalists, are available at:

[www.spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources](http://www.spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources)