

Welcome to this special day where we bless our beautiful Mt. La Verna. Andy, Lorrie and Meredith attended a Franciscan conference stimulating for them a vision of people finding a place for quiet time in the presence of God - and this became a reality today. We thank John Clowes for the labouring on the magnificent spiritual garden - symbolising a special space for *the presence of God* (Bethlehem), it will have Indigenous symbols of fire, water and air and be a place of quiet, personal solitude and reflection. Just as Francis went to his prayerful and peaceful place to be with God, our children, parents and teachers will have a private, beautiful and symbol filled place to talk to Jesus also. We have been on a journey of discovery together for this plan to come to fruition. We welcome the angels who have been seen hanging around "the house of God" already! The lattice will have native passion fruit growing over it as a sign of; How God provides for us (bush tucker); Remind us of Jesus passion; Provide privacy through nature's screen. Francis spent a lot of time contemplating/praying and being still in the outdoors in order to really know what God wanted him to do. May we enjoy this time as we utilise our special space.

The name is *Mt La Verna* which is where Francis went often to pray and had his first vision where angels *gave him the gift of the five wounds of Christ*. He preached to man and beast the universal ability and duty of all creatures to praise God (a common theme in the Psalms) and the duty of men to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves.

We are asked to be strong and assertive yet warm and gentle - with each other and with our beautiful Environment! We pause to recognise the traditional custodians of the land - the Gooreng Gooreng people who for thousands of years have touched upon the mystery of God's Spirit in themselves and in creation. We welcome Jackie Johnson for her great inspiration and we thank her for her talent and commitment.

***Our Future Begins with Humility to create Solidarity –
this requires
God's Guidance!***

**Holy God of Holy Wisdom,
in Jesus Christ
You call us from our foolishness
to be Your children,
coming us amongst like a kookaburra,
singing the song of a new day.
Give us that same spirit of solidarity
which was in Christ Jesus,
that we may bear Your easy yoke,
casting our burdens upon You**

**and resting in Your Love.
In the power of the Holy Spirit
who leads us all into a new future.
Amen.**

At the end of the work Guidance, is "dance". Doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realises that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. The dance takes attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance from the other. When we think of the "G" at the start of the word "God" may we think of God, followed by "u" and "i". "God, "u" and "i" dance." Let us pray that God's mercies and blessings be upon us all on this day and every day. Let us trust God to lead and to guide us through each season of our lives. AMEN

God gave us the sky, land and sea. Thank you God for the beautiful skies above us, the land we walk on and the sea we swim in.

God has filled our world with life. Thank you God for all the wonderful plants and animals that share our world and make it a beautiful place to live.

God has filled our world with light. Thank you God for this gift. Our sun shines brightly and helps us to see and take care of the world you have given us.

But most importantly, God has filled our world with people from many different backgrounds. Thank you God for giving us the gift of life so that we could enjoy your beautiful world.

Legend suggests that St. Francis could talk to and be understood by animals, he was like a bright star always caring for and helping others and the environment. May we all shine our lights like bright stars for all to see!

Play Song – This Little Light of Mine

As people exit/mill around and enjoy/look at the space put on the School Prayer in Song