



“A Christian who doesn't safeguard creation, who doesn't make it flourish, is a Christian who isn't concerned with God's work.”

*Pope Francis.*

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Jeremiah 17: 5-8

Psalms 1: 1-4, 6

1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20

Luke 6: 17, 20-26

Among those who were murdered was Sister Dorothy Mae Stang, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. She was born in the United States, but later became a naturalised Brazilian. She began her ministry in Brazil in 1966 and dedicated her life to defending the Brazilian rainforest from rich and powerful ranchers who wished to destroy the forest and replace it with large plantations. She spoke up for the poor and helped peasants make a living by farming small plots and extracting forest products without deforestation. She also sought to protect peasants from criminal gangs working on behalf of ranchers who were after their plots.

On 12 February, 2005, Sister Stang was walking to a community meeting when two armed men blocked her. Undeterred, she continued a couple of steps but was shot by one of the men. She fell face down on the ground. Later, the gunman fired all four remaining rounds into her head, killing her. She was 73 years old.

Later, a witness, who had hidden himself in the bushes during Sister Stang's murder, said that when she was stopped by the men, one of them had asked if she had any weapon. **He heard her tell them that the only weapon she had was the Bible and that she then proceeded to read a passage from the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the poor in spirit ..."**

In the gospel passage today, we hear the words of Jesus, "Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as a criminal, on account of the Son of Man." Let us remember and pray for those who were martyred because they were faithful to the teachings of Christ to love God and to love their neighbour.✚

# NEWBEC

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH | 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time | 16 February 2025

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING AS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MONTHLY FOCUS & RATIONALE **ECOLOGY - CALLED TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THE URGENT MISSION OF SAVING MOTHER EARTH**

## Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit

Are you aware that thousands of people in different parts of the world have been murdered either because they worked to protect the environment or as journalists, covered stories of environmental issues, such as, illegal mining and logging, illegal toxic waste disposal, radiation, water issues, and much more? They were killed because they strongly believed in the importance of raising awareness about and acting against the abuse of the environment which also greatly affected the poor and the marginalised.

