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Diocesan e-News

EXPLORING FAITH COMMITMENT AND ECOLOGY IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Fr Barry Ryan and Sr Veronica Lawson have acted as the facilitators of a very interesting and informative series of workshops “Exploring Faith Commitment and Ecology in the Jubilee Year of Mercy” during the past six months. Over thirty people are enrolled in the daytime session and another thirty or more in the evening session, which both take place about once a month.

We have been looking at what the author John Haught, in his book *Resting on the Future*, describes as a “Catholic Theology for an Unfinished Universe”. He refutes the purely scientific, atheistic view of a universe governed entirely by the laws of physics, but he also refutes the more traditional type of religious belief which turns its back on this world in favour of some type of heaven elsewhere. His view is that the universe has a dramatic, narrative character which is full of possibilities and is still coming into being on its journey to the future towards which God is drawing it. We see God as being in everything and everything being in God, and we have our part to play in the narrative of the universe.

This ties in very well with Pope Francis’s call to all citizens of the world to care for the earth which is our home, and to care for each other as well as for all the creatures who share our planet. Clearly, the theme is also connected with that of mercy, a quality desperately needed today by our earth and by many of its citizens, human and non-human.



I would advise anyone who would like to gain an idea of what our workshops are about, to have a look on the website www.mirpvoices.org, click on Main Menu: Speakers and listen to some of the speakers being interviewed. John Haught, Elizabeth Johnson and Sr Veronica are among the contributors, all of whom are well worth listening to. Finally, I wish to thank both Fr Barry and Sr Veronica for the opportunity to participate in these thought-provoking sessions.

Margot de Deugd