

## BLOG FROM PARIS COP21 – Number 7

The last two days have been spent at a workshop on spirituality and ecology, with presentations by a number of faiths. Today (Saturday) saw myself and Fr Nigel presenting. My presentation was on the role of culture and religion in about how we think in areas such as the environment. For example, we have in Christianity a strong element of dualism, which seems to me to give rise to false dichotomies. Many Christians distinguish between a good heaven to which we go, and a bad earth which is corrupt and not our true home. Yet the Bible makes it clear that all creation – including the earth – is good. If we have this understanding, then what we are doing here in Paris makes some sense. Likewise, if the golden rule means anything, then it means that we look out for our neighbours, including those in the Pacific.



*Photo by Ben Knight of Displacement Solutions*

Fr Nigel then presented on the plight of Ontong Java, and on the spirituality of the Ontong Javanese Christians. Their Christianity is wholistic, in that their island home is seen as a gift from God, as is their culture. Therefore their home and culture have intrinsic value that ought to be preserved and promoted. The attached picture, taken in the early evening, shows some of the beauty of Fr Nigel's place, and its oneness in God's creation. His presentation was very well received, to rapturous applause and some tears from the audience.

*The Very Reverend Dr Keith Joseph  
Dean of Darwin*