

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: 11<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

### **Sharing and caring**

I am in need of something to cheer me this week. Something that will lift my spirits in the midst of the death and devastation from tornado and earthquake and tsunami. Being human seems so puny in the face of the might of nature. Living in an urban environment like Auckland seems to immunise us against depth of feeling for those living precariously on the edge of the sea, or in the vulnerability of overcrowded cities. We are pretty comfortable thanks! How would we manage if our showers and stoves and coffee or supermarkets were not available to us for whatever reason especially reasons beyond our control? How neighbourly would we be? My spirits lifted when I read in the paper on Monday, this past week, of an urban foraging project in Auckland that seeks to identify food available for the gathering; food that is growing in public places like the grass verges of streets, or is surplus to the requirements of property owners (as happens with lemons and grapefruit from time to time). I thought then, that perhaps we would be able to find the depth of feeling for one another that would make it possible to work together to survive in the face of a disaster. It is so easy in our urban environment to become cut off from one another. Perhaps we will be able to actively plant so there is a deliberate produce surplus that we can share, perhaps we can grow fruit tree and nut trees on our grass verges with fruit, free for the picking. I am hoping that we do not need a disaster to encourage us to find our community spirit again, that we will re-evaluate our capacity to share, that we will re-evaluate how we use both our public and our private land. Apparently you can Google and find free food sources in the city! At St Columba it is a good thing that we are doing in making some of our land available to a community of urban gardeners to grow and harvest food. Do you have you land you could share this way? Do you have produce you could share? Not everyone has their own 'vine and fig tree'; will you invite someone to share yours? How much more basic can our work for justice be than ensuring there is food enough for all. This week a campaign to raise the basic wage to \$16 ph has begun. Can you support this?

**Susan**