

Wed., 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**To all members of our International English-Speaking Community of the Parish of Luxembourg Notre-Dame**

As announced yesterday, we will this week read step by step “*The Mass on the World*” written in 1923 by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) a Jesuit priest, a theologian and a palaeontologist, whilst he was working as part of a team in palaeontological fieldwork in the Ordos desert, a barren landscape, west of Peking, near the border with Inner Mongolia.



Sources: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordos\\_Desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordos_Desert)

<https://teihard.com>

**Introduction**

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was in the middle of a desert, participating in palaeontological fieldwork. As a priest, he had no bread and no wine to celebrate Mass. So, he decided to subsume the situation and wrote the *Mass on the World*.

This piece of mystic literature is divided in five parts, echoing the Eucharistic prayer but with clear differences:

1. The offering (echoing the Offertory)
2. Fire over the Earth (echoing the Epiclesis, when the priest calls the Holy Spirit on the offerings)
3. Fire in the Earth (echoing the transubstantiation of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ)
4. Communion (echoing... communion)
5. Prayer (echoing the concluding prayer)

Today, let us first listen to a large excerpt of Part I, *The Offering*, in its original French version, accompanied by a masterful piece of organ.

Extrait de la Messe sur le Monde : <https://www.ndweb.org/2013/06/messe-sur-le-monde/>

*To be continued...*

“Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth” (Ps 123 (124), v. 8)

Fr HP