



Those who till their land will have plenty of food,  
but those who follow worthless pursuits have no sense.

— Proverbs 12:11

In the remote atoll of Ontong Java, our partner, the Anglican Church of Melanesia, is accompanying local farmers in a permaculture project that introduces innovative farming techniques to improve the food supply by combating soil salinity and rising sea levels. The project began in 2010 and two years later saw its first harvest, providing a variety of fruits and vegetables to the island community.

Access to the atoll is very limited, with one boat making its way on the six-day, round-trip journey once every forty days. At the beginning of the project, diocesan staff would stay on one of the islands for those forty days and work hard in preparing the land, planting the crops and training the farmers in the new methods. It was a considerable sacrifice for them to spend those forty days away from their families, tilling the land in an unfamiliar environment. But the blessing of a plentiful harvest each year was a much-valued reward.

As each of us journeys through the forty-day Lenten season, let us reflect on our efforts in “tilling the land.”

— Nagulan Nesiah