






JAEI


April 2017 Environmental Prayer Diary


<p>Saturday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>A Child's Prayer for the Earth</p> <p>Thank you for the sun, the sky, for all the things that like to fly, the shining rain that turns grass green, the earth we know - the world unseen - for stars and night, and once again the every-morning sun. Amen.</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Though the theoretical construct of [nature as] a mechanically ordered matter in motion may bear little resemblance to the living nature of the field and the forest and so may never have appeared convincing before, it is a faithful reflection of a world of artefacts and as such compelling to a humanity whose experience with nature is restricted to contact with artefacts.</p> <p>Erazim Kohak</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Pray for your own Parish and Community to embrace green living</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Water</p> <p>We are very aware of the toll that drought wroughts in communities and our environment – we pray especially for the Western Cape at this time.</p> <p>Drought is no stranger to Africa either.</p> <p>Taken from EWN:</p> <p>Disaster currently prevailing in the Horn of Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa is adversely affected as a result of climate change as it becomes drier and drought prone. According to the International Federation of the Red Cross, over 20 million people in Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia are currently affected by drought. The majority of the victims are women and children. Now the government of Kenya has declared a drought, a national disaster (23 out of 47 counties are facing severe drought). Kenya's Drought Management Authority says that about 2.7 million people are in need, and livestock are threatened. During this drought, young girls and women in these countries can spend up to eight hours a day fetching around 20 litres of water. Currently many children are out of school.</p> <p><i>(The Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) is a network of churches and Christian organizations promoting people's access to water around the world. https://water.oikoumene.org)</i></p>

Wednesday	5	<p>“The reduction of the earth to an object simply for human's use/ possession is unthinkable in most traditional cultures... the earth belongs to itself and to all the component members of the community.”</p> <p>Thomas Berry</p>
Thursday	6	<p>SDG Target #15</p> <p>Ponder and pray about this this:</p> <p>Of the 8,300 animal breeds known, 8 per cent are extinct and 22 per cent are at risk of extinction</p>
Friday	7	<p>World Health Day</p> <p>Today is World Health Day. Let’s thank God for the gift of nutrition, clean water and health care—and for the blessing of providing health care to the families we work with! For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. (John 6:33)</p>
Saturday	8	<p>“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”</p> <p>Rachel Carson</p> 
Sunday	9	<p>Prayer of thanksgiving for the Earth</p> <p>O amazing Creator, there is no end to the awe we feel in the face of your magnificent creation. Words cannot convey our gratitude for such an undeserved gift. We praise you for the beauty that stops us in our tracks wherever we turn. We revere you for the fecundity of creation that has spewed forth life and goodness for billions of years. We thank you for the multitude of ways that the natural world sustains and nourishes us in body and spirit. We are humbled that we are part of such a display of your glory. Our hearts overflow with love for You, revealed in the wonder of creation. May all the angels and saints join us in our song of gratitude, praising You forever and ever. Amen.</p>
Monday	10	<p>Bacteria across the world are developing resistance to antibiotics, leaving us with no treatment for previously curable diseases. According to the director of the WHO “Doctors facing patients will have to say, ‘I’m sorry – there’s nothing I can do for you.’ With few replacement products in the pipeline, the world is heading to a post-antibiotic era in which common infections will once again kill.” At the heart of the problem is the way we produce our food. Industrial farming keeps livestock in such unhealthy conditions that they would become ill without antibiotics. But rather than improving conditions, big farms dose their animals with antibiotics to avoid diseases, even though feeding a constant low dose of antibiotics creates the perfect environment for bacteria to develop resistance. These resistant bacteria can then enter the human food chain and spread across the entire population.</p> <p>Pray for a solution to this problem</p> <p>http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/faith-and-hope/prayer-guide/</p>

Tuesday	11	We are the earth, made of the same stuff; there is no other, no division between us and "lower" or "higher" forms of being. <i>Estella Lauder</i>
Wednesday	12	"Change is not what we expect from religious people. They tend to love the past more than the present or the future." <i>Richard Rohr</i>
Thursday	13	Pray the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship among them that sustains all life, we pray: <i>Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.</i>
Friday	14	SDG Target #15 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products. <i>Pray</i> that there will be the will and resources so that this goal may be attained
Saturday	15	Father, we pray that your people, whether they be ministers, scientists or lay people, may find the strength to give clear witness of the need to care for the world that you created. May they speak out courageously on the changes in lifestyle that are now seen to be necessary to protect your creation. Amen.
Sunday	16	"Look at the birds in the sky" <i>Based on Matthew 6:24-34</i> Jesus reveals to us that God is a generous father who created the earth and has provided enough for everything and everyone on it to flourish. Even the birds have been given enough to eat and the flowers beautiful clothes to wear. However, the reality is that so many of our brothers and sisters struggle to get enough to eat or drink. This is partly because a minority of the population are using up more than their fair share of the world's natural resources. We live in a consumerist society which dictates that we need to accumulate an excessive amount of food and material goods in order to flourish. The consequence of this extravagant wealth comes at a price, as it means that many in our global family are left lacking. Jesus presents us with alternative values which challenge our society's emphasis on materialism and consumerism. Jesus tells us that if we prioritise the building up of God's Kingdom on earth, and work for justice and fairness for all, then "all these things will be given to you." God has provided enough for everyone on this earth to share, therefore by working for a fair distribution of the world's resources, all on earth shall flourish. In this way, we will be able to answer Jesus' call to serve God over money. <i>God of love,</i> <i>We give you thanks for the abundance of your creation, for you have provided the fruits of the earth for all to enjoy. Inspire us to share what we have so that all your children may live life to the full.</i> <i>Amen.</i> <i>This reflection and prayer were written by Charlotte Bray, who is currently taking part in the Step into the Gap programme. www.cafod.org.uk</i>


Monday	17	Lord, we praise and thank you for your great gifts of freedom and inventiveness, and we pray for the wisdom to use them aright in your service and in the service of all your creation.
Tuesday	18	<p>Creator God, you have called us to be keepers of your Earth. Through greed we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and are drowning in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother Earth.</p> <p>Archbishop Desmond Tutu</p>
Wednesday	19	<p>All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.</p> <p>Pope Francis</p>
Thursday	20	<p>SDG Target #15 Ponder and pray about this: Forests cover 30 per cent of the Earth's surface and in addition to providing food security and shelter, forests are key to combating climate change, protecting biodiversity and the homes of the indigenous population. Thirteen million hectares of forests are being lost every year while the persistent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares.</p> <p>Deforestation and desertification – caused by human activities and climate change – pose major challenges to sustainable development and have affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in the fight against poverty. Efforts are being made to manage forests and combat desertification</p>
Friday	21	

		<p>Earth Day Earth Day 2017's Campaign is Environmental & Climate Literacy</p>  <p>Education is the foundation for progress. We need to build a global citizenry fluent in the concepts of climate change and aware of its unprecedented threat to our planet. We need to empower everyone with the knowledge to inspire action in defence of environmental protection. Environmental and climate literacy is the engine not only for creating green knowledge and advancing environmental and climate laws and policies but also for accelerating green technologies and jobs.</p> <p>A Prayer for Earth Day</p> <p><i>As we are called to see ourselves and each other as earthen vessels that hold God's presence and bring God's gifts to the world, so too, this very world and all that is above, around and within it are earthen vessels - just as easily shattered, just as much in need of our loving attentiveness and support. May our hands align with God's in caressing and shaping these vessels.</i></p> <p>Let us pray for trees, plants, crops, and forests. Let us pray for water, oceans, rivers, streams and ponds. Let us pray for air, wind, climate and weather. Let us pray for sun, clean energy and prevention of global warning. Let us pray for animals, especially endangered species. Let us pray for all humankind. Let us pray for recycling and moderate personal consumption. Let us pray for proper use of chemicals and disposal of toxic waste. Let us pray for Earth and unity.</p> <p>Creator God, we thank you for all of creation. We ask your forgiveness where we have failed to be just stewards. And we now ask for your guidance in restoring the face of the earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God.</p> <p>Peace be to this community. Peace be to this land. Peace be to all people. Amen.</p> <p>Be sure to observe YOUR Earth Day</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Meditate on Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Reflection: Pope Francis - <i>Laudato Si</i></p> <p>"Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal."</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>

Tuesday	25	<p>“A human being is a vessel that God has built for himself and filled with his inspiration so that his works are perfected in it.”</p> <p>Hildegard of Bingen</p>
Wednesday	26	<p>Father, as we read and see daily in our newspapers and television programmes the devastation caused by the selfish promotion of political and economic ideologies, we pray earnestly for a change of heart among the nations and for a massive diversion of human resources towards the relief of human suffering and the restoration of your world.</p>
Thursday	27	<p>“Act as if everything depended on you: wait as if everything depended on God.” St. Ignatius Loyola</p>
Friday	28	 <p>One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." "Son", the man said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference for that one." ~Loren Eiseley</p>
Saturday	29	<p>Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare https://www.opcw.org/</p> <p>The Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is an annual event held on April 29 as a "tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism. "It is officially recognised by the United Nations (UN) and has been celebrated since 2005. On the 2013 observance day, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gave a speech where he stated:</p> <p><i>“On this Remembrance Day, I urge the international community to intensify efforts to rid the world of chemical weapons, along with all other weapons of mass destruction. Let us work together to bring all States under the Convention and promote its full implementation. This is how we can best honour past victims and liberate future generations from the threat of chemical weapons”</i></p> <p>Let us all join with everyone around the world to prayer for the victims as well as the banning of this horrific scourge.</p>

Sunday	30	<p>“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.” — John Muir</p>
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Closing Prayer



Lord,

Please help us to be more like you in every way possible. You created every creature on this beautiful planet Earth and we as humans always make mistakes but, we must learn to ask your forgiveness. When we hurt and endanger animals and plants, we are really hurting. Please help us to learn to treat everything on this Earth better and as we want to be treated.

Amen

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