








JAEI

May 2017 Environmental Prayer Diary

- *Month of Morality in the Johannesburg Diocese*
- *International Biodiversity Month*

<p>Monday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>A Child's Prayer</p> <p>Thank you for the world so sweet Thank you for the food we eat Thank you for the birds that sing Thank you God, for everything. Amen.</p> 
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Taken from EWN: Thirst for Justice</p> <p>“Access to safe water and, even more, access to improved adequate sanitation is a major challenge in the world. Even after the declaration of water and sanitation as a human rights issue, today around 750 million people do not have access to safe drinking water, while close to 2 billion people have to drink contaminated water, and around 2.4 billion people (1 in every 3) do not have access to adequate and improved sanitation facilities. Access to safe water and improved adequate sanitation are still major challenges in Africa, where millions of people do not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. Thousands of children die every day due to consumption of contaminated water and poor sanitation facilities.” - <i>The Lagos Message: A Pilgrimage of Water Justice in Africa</i></p> <p>About half of the world's population without access to safe drinking water and about one third of world's population without access to adequate sanitation facilities, come from sub-Saharan Africa.</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.</i> https://water.oikoumene.org)</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Bless the Lord, all that grows in the ground; Sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever. - Daniel 3, 76</p> 

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Lord God before all time began, Yet you became a Son of Man, You stepped into the world you made, A world once good, now spoilt, decayed, As Son of Man your death reversed The chaos of creation's curse. The earth itself quaked on that day, Released from bondage to decay, All things are reconciled to you, Creation's hope is born anew. Redeemer Lord, we stand amazed And with your earth, we give you praise.</p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Friday – Day of Public Action and Day of Fasting and Prayer</p> <p>SDG Goal 9: <i>Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</i></p> <p>Ponder and pray about this this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate infrastructure leads to a lack of access to markets, jobs, information and training, creating a major barrier to doing business
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>6</p>	

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Easter 4 – Theme for the week: Morality in Public Service Reflection:</p> <p>Pope Francis - Laudato Si 153. “The quality of life in cities has much to do with systems of transport, which are often a source of much suffering for those who use them. Many cars, used by one or more people, circulate in cities, causing traffic congestion, raising the level of pollution, and consuming enormous quantities of non-renewable energy. This makes it necessary to build more roads and parking areas which spoil the urban landscape. Many specialists agree on the need to give priority to public transportation. Yet some measures needed will not prove easily acceptable to society unless substantial improvements are made in the systems themselves, which in many cities force people to put up with undignified conditions due to crowding, inconvenience, infrequent service and lack of safety.</p> <p>154. Respect for our dignity as human beings often jars with the chaotic realities that people have to endure in city life. Yet this should not make us overlook the abandonment and neglect also experienced by some rural populations which lack access to essential services and where some workers are reduced to conditions of servitude, without rights or even the hope of a more dignified life.”</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”</p> <p>Rachel Carson</p> 
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>A report published in “Biological Conservation” finds that human pressures and forest loss are causing the degradation of over 100 of the 229 Natural World Heritage Sites. It highlights the growing threats from outside the NWHs resulting from population pressures. Lead author of the report, James Watson of Queensland University, said: “The world would never accept the Acropolis being knocked down, nor a couple of pyramids being flattened for housing estates or roads, yet, right now, across our planet, we are letting many of our natural world heritage sites be fundamentally altered.”</p> <p>Pray for a solution to this problem http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/faith-and-hope/prayer-guide/</p>

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Prayer of creation O Lord our God, Creator of the cosmos and the universe, We bless you for all the creation. We have not truly kept all things which are in the earth, in the water or even in the sky; For all that we request your mercy O Lord. We often take creation like our own property and we do everything what we want; God, forgive us for that. Today, the earth and all creation has become men’s affaire, in which God, the creator is ignored; O Lord our God, have mercy and repair our errors. Those mistakes we have done to nature because of our poor management, have caused serious consequences in the life of the entire humanity, such as desertification, global warming, floods, in short, serious natural disasters. Our world needs to be renewed and that is not possible without God, the creator, That is why; we should beseech his mercy and his grace on all creation. Give us guidance, O, Lord our Creator. Give us power to restore the creation according to your only will We ask this in the name of Jesus-Christ, in whom all was created. Amen!</p> <p><i>By Ms Fidèle Fifamè Houssou-Gandonou</i> <i>Collected and submitted by Rev. Dr Simon K. Dossou, director for Theology, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, All Africa Conference of Churches</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe, which lacks nothing; for God created fine creatures and pleasant trees in order that humans might enjoy them.</p> <p><i>The Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p><i>Friday – Day of Public Action and Day of Fasting and Prayer</i></p> <p><i>SDG Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</i></p> <p>Cities are hubs for ideas, commerce, culture, science, productivity, social development and much more. At their best, cities have enabled people to advance socially and economically.</p> <p>However, many challenges exist to maintaining cities in a way that continues to create jobs and prosperity while not straining land and resources. Common urban challenges include congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, a shortage of adequate housing and declining infrastructure.</p> <p>The challenges cities face can be overcome in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty. The future we want includes cities of opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully</i> consider how you can contribute to the achievement of this Goal</p>


<p>Saturday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>“The logic of production and consumption, however, grows ever more elusive. Through the ages of humanity's precarious survival on this earth, the meeting of basic survival needs provided a ready justification for productive activity. Were we inclined so to direct our energies, it might still do so: there is more than enough hunger and sheer dismal misery still with us. For the most part, though, we manage to ignore such need. The logic of our production is not that of need but of affluence with lacks such automatic justification. If affluence is to be justified, it cannot be by need but by some greater good, be it meeting the needs of others, caring for the natural world, or creating higher values of culture. ...Yet individually and collectively we sacrifice precious life and resources to producing and paying for [items such as ever-larger television sets] - and we are constantly assured that we must do so to "stimulate the economy." Production itself has become the justification of ever more absurd consumption: we consume to produce, produce to consume; all other considerations must stand aside.”</p> <p>Erazim Kohak (Czech philosopher and Professor Emeritus of Environmental Ethics)</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Easter 5 - Theme for the Week: Morality in our Personal Lives Reflection:</p> <p>Pope Francis - <i>Laudato Si</i> “229. We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. We have had enough of immorality and the mockery of ethics, goodness, faith and honesty. It is time to acknowledge that light-hearted superficiality has done us no good. When the foundations of social life are corroded, what ensues are battles over conflicting interests, new forms of violence and brutality, and obstacles to the growth of a genuine culture of care for the environment.”</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>God, we are one in you, and all that we do affects the whole; make us aware of our power to seed the world with good or ill by every thought, word and deed. The gifts of the earth are distributed unevenly, we long to lift up those in need; soften the hearts of those who place personal or national gain above the good of the whole.</p> <div data-bbox="1084 1329 1487 1724" data-label="Image"> </div>

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>“The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil.” <i>Based on Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-7</i></p> <p>We are God’s special creation. It is God who fashions us and who breathes life into us. And how do we respond to this great gift of life? When faced with the many choices we have to make, do we respond in the way of the first man and woman in Genesis by being swayed by those around us, or do we try and follow Jesus’ example and put our relationship with God first? It is difficult: our culture whispers in our ear that, never mind bread, we cannot survive without the latest mobile phone, TV or car. At times we think the only way to get on is to be seen doing great things and sharing them on social media. What seems to come first is worshipping the gods of our world – be it celebrities, consumer goods or personal fitness regimes. When making decisions, rather than looking to the word of God, our reference point is sometimes “what’s in it for me?”</p> <p><i>God of Life,</i> <i>Breathe in us once more, so that guided by your Spirit in the decisions that we make, we may choose what is life-giving for ourselves and for all people in our world.</i></p> <p><i>This reflection and prayer were written by Sue Cooper from Corpus Christi parish, Wokingham. www.cafod.org.uk</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p><i>God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth. ... Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind.’ (Genesis 1.20, 24)</i></p> <p>We thank you for the integrity and diversity of all living creatures. Enlarge within us a sense of fellowship with our brothers and sisters, the animals, with whom we share the earth and who love the sweetness of life. Grant us compassion in our dealings with all creatures great and small Amen</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Newcastle in the Church of England (Praying for the Earth)</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>"We are bankrupting our natural economy. All over the world, ecosystem services are a massive undervalued subsidy provided by the environment." <i>General Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary</i></p>

<p>Friday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p><i>Friday – Day of Public Action and Day of Fasting and Prayer</i></p> <p>SDG Goal 1: <i>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</i></p> <p>Extreme poverty rates have been cut by more than half since 1990. While this is a remarkable achievement, one in five people in developing regions still live on less than \$1.25 a day, and there are millions more who make little more than this daily amount, plus many people risk slipping back into poverty.</p> <p>Poverty is more than the lack of income and resources to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. Economic growth must be inclusive to provide sustainable jobs and promote equality</p> <p><i>Prayerfully</i> consider how you can contribute to the achievement of this Goal.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Lord we thank you for this beautiful world with its amazing variety of animals and plants.</p> <p>But Lord, humankind have brought a quarter of the world's mammals, and one fifth of the world's plants to the threat of extinction.</p> <p>Please help us to understand your world more - to appreciate the beauty of nature,</p> <p>Please help us to find ways of preserving your world and ways of preventing the destruction of habitats and soil, and of saving species from extinction.</p> <p>Encourage us to make wildlife conservation areas in our churchyards, gardens, parks and farms and to celebrate the diversity of your Creation.</p> <p>Help us to support wildlife conservation charities with our money and our words.</p> <p>May we never forget that we are stewards of your creation and that we hold it in trust for future generations.</p> <p>Amen</p>



<p>Sunday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Easter 6 - Theme for the Week: The Morality of Community Reflection:</p> <p>Pope Francis - <i>Laudato Si</i></p> <p>“231. Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also “macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones”. That is why the Church set before the world the ideal of a “civilization of love”. Social love is the key to authentic development: “In order to make society more human, more worthy of the human person, love in social life – political, economic and cultural – must be given renewed value, becoming the constant and highest norm for all activity”. In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a “culture of care” which permeates all of society. When we feel that God is calling us to intervene with others in these social dynamics, we should realize that this too is part of our spirituality, which is an exercise of charity and, as such, matures and sanctifies us.</p> <p>232. Not everyone is called to engage directly in political life. Society is also enriched by a countless array of organizations which work to promote the common good and to defend the environment, whether natural or urban. Some, for example, show concern for a public place (a building, a fountain, an abandoned monument, a landscape, a square), and strive to protect, restore, improve or beautify it as something belonging to everyone. Around these community actions, relationships develop or are recovered and a new social fabric emerges. Thus, a community can break out of the indifference induced by consumerism. These actions cultivate a shared identity, with a story which can be remembered and handed on. In this way, the world, and the quality of life of the poorest, are cared for, with a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us. These community actions, when they express self-giving love, can also become intense spiritual experiences.”</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>22 May – International Biodiversity Day <i>Theme for 2017: Biodiversity and sustainable tourism</i></p> <p>This year’s theme was chosen to align with the UN International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. Biodiversity, at the level of species and ecosystems, provides an important foundation for many aspects of tourism.</p> <div data-bbox="1063 1417 1461 1753" data-label="Image"> </div>

	<p>Recognition of the great importance to tourism economies of attractive landscapes and a rich biodiversity underpins the political and economic case for biodiversity conservation. Many issues addressed under the Convention on Biological Diversity directly affect the tourism sector. A well-managed tourist sector can contribute significantly to reducing threats to, and maintain or increase, key wildlife populations and biodiversity values through tourism revenue.</p> <p>Shona prayer from Zimbabwe</p> <p>Great Spirit, piling up rocks into towering mountains, when you stamp on the stone, the dust rises and fills the land. Father, you sew the heavens like cloth: knit together what is below. Caller-forth of the branching trees, you bring forth the shoots that stand erect. Wonderful one, you live in the midst of the sheltering rocks. You give rain to humankind. Hear us, O Lord! Show mercy when we beg you. Gracious One, you are on high with the spirits of the great. You raise the grass-covered hills above the earth and create the rivers.</p> <p><i>The Prayers of African Religion, John Mbiti, © 1975, SPCK, London, UK, [in the United States, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY, USA] pages 148-49.</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>23</p> <p>World Turtle Day</p> <p>World Turtle Day celebrates these noble reptiles and their place in the world, and encourages people to take action to help protect them – both the land tortoises and the ever-endangered sea turtle.</p> <p>The critically endangered Geometric tortoise of the Western Cape is arguably the third most endangered tortoise world-wide – through habitat destruction and illegal trade.</p> 

A Prayer for a tortoise!

By the late K.A.Gray, Exmouth, Devon

We are thy creatures – helpless, dumb, Brought from our land of warmth and sun.
Bless us in thy tender care, and listen to our voiceless prayer

Stretch forth thine own protective hand, and keep us in our native land.
We love our climate – England’s cold, yet men import us to be sold.

We’re tethered by a leg when caught, and wait and wait whilst more are sought.
Spare us, O God, this awful pain and being packed for boat and train.

We suffer hunger, thirst and fear and death itself is very near.
Oh, listen to the voiceless cry of piteous babies doomed to die.

We’re stacked in pet shops tray on tray or in the window for display.
People stop and look and stare, they know it’s cruel – but do they care?

Living playthings for a child. Little creatures from the wild!
When we are hurt, we cannot cry to ask for help from passers-by.

The climate’s altogether wrong the summer’s short, the winters long
So few who buy us know our needs and give us most unusual feeds.

And when we have to hibernate - to wake in spring, the spring is late.
And some of us will wake no more until we reach the heavenly shore.


And there we’ll find the warmth and sun, and fresh green food for everyone.
Free to roam as thou intended, little tortoises befriended.

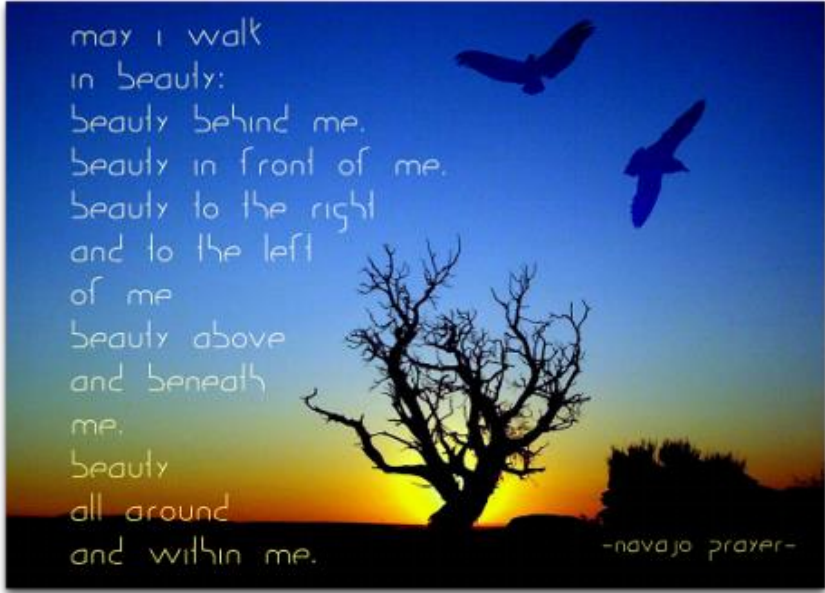
Oh, bless the work of those who try to stop the wretched men who buy.
Helpless creatures thou hast made. Please God, stop the Tortoise Trade!!!
Oh, bless us in thy tender care and listen to our voiceless prayer.

(Miss Gray was the original lone voice protesting about the cruelty involved in the worldwide trade in chelonians which eventually resulted in the importation ban into the UK in 1984. She wrote a number of poems to be sold and used to raise funds for her work and for other animal conservation organisations)

Wednesday 24

God of heaven and earth, you are calling us to play our part in the care of your creation and to manage carefully the land you have given us to tend. We pray for wisdom as we seek an agriculture designed, not for money-making, but for feeding the world. Guide our policy-makers, planners and farmers, and help us all to understand that we hold land, not in perpetuity, but in trust for generations to come.

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>“Love, which, in concert with Abstinence, established Faith, and which, along with Patience, builds up Chastity, is like the columns that sustain the four corners of a house. For it was that same Love which planted a glorious garden redolent with precious herbs and noble flowers--roses and lilies--which breathed forth a wondrous fragrance, that garden on which the true Solomon was accustomed to feast his eyes.”</p> <p><i>Hildegard of Bingen</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Friday – Day of Public Action and Day of Fasting and Prayer</p> <p>SDG Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies</p> <p>Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels</p> <p>Prayerfully consider how you can contribute to the achievement of this Goal.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Prayerfully consider how to nurture biodiversity on church land by creating safe habitat for indigenous species and to support local communities by sharing land resources for local food production</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Easter 7 - Theme for the Week: The Morality of Dependence</p> <p>Reflection:</p> <p>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</p> <p>13. The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world’s poorest. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>29</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>When man moves away from nature his heart becomes hard. <i>Native American (Lakota) Proverb</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>As we come to the end of another month and continue to embrace the challenges of our lives and our world, We ask your blessing, Oh God - Bless us with wisdom to care for the earth.</p> <p>Lord, you who established the dance of creation, You marvelled at the lilies of the field, You transform chaos to order, We pray that you will lead us to transform our lives and the Church to reflect your glory in creation.</p> <p><i>Amen</i></p>



Prayers, dreams and seeds are similar in nature. They all have nothing within but they have the potential of creating everything.

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