





JAEI




November 2017 Environmental Prayer Diary


<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>In early October, Anglican primates from around the world met in Canterbury, England, to discuss action on climate change.</p> <p>Archbishop George Takeli, the Primate of Melanesia commented “The reflection by Archbishop Thabo was so deeply transforming – particularly in the invitation to see the world through the eyes of God. That was the greatest challenge and the life-transforming invitation that was given to us this morning when he asked how many provinces were affected by food security and climate change – I think the whole house did raise their hand up.”</p> <p>In a starkly powerful message”, he said: “some may see information on climate change on television and take it as interesting reading, as entertainment; some would read it in newspapers and treat it as something to occupy time, but for me – and especially for us in Melanesia – it is actually an urgent matter.”</p> <p>Climate Change is a world-wide crisis. Prayerfully reflect on your part in it.</p> <p>Read the full article http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2017/10/anglican-primates-discuss-action-on-climate-change.aspx</p>	 <p><i>Archbishop Thabo Makgoba and Archbishop George Takeli</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Christians believe that truthfulness matters, and that ‘fake news’ and misinformation have serious consequences. Some questions in climate science and policy are rightly the subject of debate, but there have been attempts to publicly discredit the climate science consensus and even, by some US authorities, to prevent people from even talking about it. We pray for the people who go to great lengths to understand and communicate the reality of climate change, that God will give them strength, courage and a platform for their findings.</p> <p>http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/faith-and-hope/prayer-guide/</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you have given us: For the universe. Let our wonder grow. For this world. Teach us better stewardship of earth and sea and sky. For people everywhere. Let us see your image in every human face, discern your hand in every human culture, and hear your voice in the silences as well; as in the talk of neighbours and friends. For our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is at work in the world.</p> <p><i>A prayer from Australia</i></p>	


<p>Saturday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>SDG Goal #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment <p><i>Pray</i> that this Target may be achieved.</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>“All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man. ... God wants us to help animals, if they need help. Every creature in distress has the same right to be protected.”</p> <p><i>Francis of Assisi</i></p>	
<p>Monday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in Armed Conflict and War</p> <p>The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict was established on 5th November, 2001 by the United Nations General Assembly, during Kofi Atta Annan's tenure as Secretary-General. Of this observance Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has since written, "We must use all of the tools at our disposal, from dialogue and mediation to preventive diplomacy, to keep the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources from fuelling and financing armed conflict and destabilizing the fragile foundations of peace."</p> <p>Though mankind has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage.</p> <p><i>“A church that does not provoke any crises, a gospel that does not unsettle, a word of God that does not get under anyone’s skin, a word of God that does not touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed—what gospel is that?”</i></p> <p>Archbishop Romero, April 16, 1978</p>	 <p><i>Gorillas killed in the “Coltan War” - Congo</i></p>



<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Read Matthew 13:24-43</p> <p>In this reading, Jesus speaks in parables in order to get his point across to the people in words they should be able to relate to and understand. In this way, he is making his teaching accessible.</p> <p>Jesus is teaching the crowds about negative influences that threaten the good ones; the seed and the darnel; and then about small beginnings leading to abundant results; the mustard seed growing into a flourishing tree; and the yeast rising to increase the size of the bread. These teachings in parables can be effectively applied to many, if not all of the issues facing communities and countries throughout the world, not forgetting issues of a global importance such as climate change.</p> <p>In war-torn countries where people are suffering, efforts by agencies to bring about peace (the seed) are often thwarted by warring factions (the darnel). The throwaway culture can also be seen as the darnel working against the seed, while the united efforts of the Climate Coalition and the countries committed to the Paris Climate agreement can be seen as the mustard seed grown into a flourishing tree.</p> <p>We might also measure our own lives against the criteria of seed or darnel and learn from the experience</p> <p><i>Lord, your parables are like pearls of wisdom shining there for us to see. Help us to learn from them how to be the seed and not the darnel; helping things to flourish like the mustard seed and, like the yeast, give rise to new life in you. Amen.</i></p> <p><i>This reflection and prayer were written by CAFOD volunteer Trevor Stockton from St Anthony of Padua parish, Wolverhampton.</i></p> <p>www.cafod.org.uk</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>8</p>	 <p>You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.</p> <p><small>© GANT/ Morten Bjørnøf</small></p>


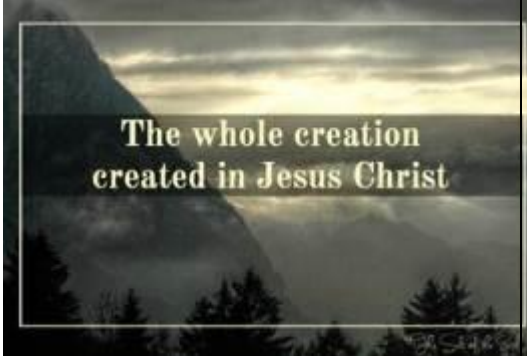
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>9</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Is God calling you to be a prophet?</p> <p>Care for Creation is an urgent matter. We are called to be guardians of the Earth. Now is the time when God is raising up prophets - in our churches, organisations, home groups, Dioceses, however large or small the group you are part of - is God calling YOU to be a prophet?</p> <p>Prophets, by their very nature, cannot be at the center of any social structure. Rather, they are “on the edge of the inside.” They cannot be fully insiders, but they cannot throw rocks from outside either. They must be educated inside the system, knowing and living the rules, before they can critique what is non- essential or not so important. Jesus did this masterfully (see Matthew 5:17-48)</p> <p>This is what Martin Luther King, Jr. taught the United States, what Gandhi taught British-occupied India, and what Nelson Mandela taught South Africa. Only with great respect for and understanding of the rules can a prophet know how to properly break those very same rules—for the sake of a greater purpose and value. A prophet critiques a system by quoting its own documents, constitutions, heroes, and Scriptures against its present practice. This is their secret: systems are best unlocked from inside.</p> <p>Holding the tension of opposites is the necessary education of the prophet, yet the Church has given little energy to what Paul says is the second most important charism for the building of the church (1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11).</p> <p>Is God calling you to be a missionary of the Fifth Mark of Mission- "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth"</p> <p>"Here am I Lord, Send me"</p> <p><i>Adapted from Richard Rohr</i></p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Spirit of truth and judgement, who alone can exorcise the greed and covetousness that stains so much of this world, give us wisdom that we may name and shame what is evil, and help to point the way that leads to peace.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>"Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies."</p> <p>Psalm 148:1-4</p> 
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>SDG Goal #1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions  <p>Pray that this Target may be achieved</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Up to 12 million tonnes of plastic enter our oceans every year. That is one full rubbish truck every minute. Single-use plastic packaging for food and drink is a particularly common form of waste. About 20% of marine litter is made up of fishing gear and items lost at sea by accident or illegal dumping. The other 80% comes from the land. It is our rubbish.</p>  <p>New research shows that the plastic produced since the 1950s is equivalent in weight to 1 billion elephants. Just 9% of this has been recycled. Most of the rest has been sent to landfill, burnt or simply discarded. These items are carried by wind and rain into drainage systems and rivers, eventually reaching the sea. Microbeads in cosmetics will be banned from 2018, but plastic in cotton buds, facewipes and sanitary products and even plastic fibres in clothing all pass through our drainage systems to the oceans, where they flow in ocean currents all round the world. Even uninhabited islands in the Pacific and Arctic have become dumping grounds for plastic.</p> <p>http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/faith-and-hope/prayer-guide/</p>

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Reflection: Pope Francis - Laudato Si</p> <p>“26. Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms, simply making efforts to reduce some of the negative impacts of climate change. However, many of these symptoms indicate that such effects will continue to worsen if we continue with current models of production and consumption. There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy. Worldwide there is minimal access to clean and renewable energy. There is still a need to develop adequate storage technologies. Some countries have made considerable progress, although it is far from constituting a significant proportion. Investments have also been made in means of production and transportation which consume less energy and require fewer raw materials, as well as in methods of construction and renovating buildings which improve their energy efficiency. But these good practices are still far from widespread.”</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>
<p>Friday</p>		 <p>"Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark." Rabindranath Tagore</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Dear Father, please teach us how to live simply, that others may simply live, to be more sensitive towards your created world and to care for all the life in it. Turn us from our arrogant ways, where humans appear to hold unbridled power over all your creation. Redeem us all, redeem your world, heal its wounds and dry its tears, for the sake of your Son, who died for our salvation.</p>

Sunday	19	<p>We give you thanks, Father, for the men and women of resource and determination who have taken the lead in the struggle to protect your creation from exploitation and degradation. Help us in our turn to give of ourselves, not counting the cost, for the sake of your Son who died to redeem us.</p>
Monday	20	<p>Enabling women to choose the number and spacing of their children can help communities to create a robust environment and gives people a chance to leave poverty behind. CHASE Africa (Community Health & Sustainable Environment) works through partners in Kenya and Uganda to integrate health and family planning with better conservation of their environment. 78,000 women have been helped with family planning and 201,000 people reached by its health clinics.</p> <p>Praise God for this initiative</p> <p>http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/faith-and-hope/prayer-guide/</p>
Tuesday	21	<p>World Fisheries Day</p> <p>World Fisheries day is celebrated every year on November 21 throughout the world by fishing communities. World Fisheries Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water. Water forms a continuum, whether contained in rivers, lakes, and ocean.</p> <p>A fishing prayer</p> <p>For all the fishermen on earth I say this prayer today Be generous to them, O Lord And help them on their way As once you talked to peter and He cast his humble net So may their daily catch become As great as it can get But also in my prayer I ask This miracle again That they not only search the sea But try to fish for men To fish for souls to do Your will And spread Your gospel true As Your disciples on this earth To praise and honour You I pray that every fisherman wherever he may be Will turn his thoughts to You and to The Sea of Galilee</p> <p>By: James J. Metcalfe</p> 

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart</p> <p><i>Helen Keller</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>23</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Buy Nothing Day</p> <p><i>Buy Nothing Day</i> is a global holiday from consumerism - Spend a Day Without Spending!</p> <p>The anarchy that ensues on Black Friday has now become an absurd dystopian phenomenon. The big retailers use the event to spin out highly competitive one day offers, which often creates a rabid free for all. Black Friday is creating a brand of shoppers who will trample and fight each other to get their hands on next year's landfill</p> <p>Will you resist the urge to splurge? Or will Black Friday bully you into buying things you probably don't need. Join the global network in over 60 countries who will be celebrating Buy Nothing Day and if Black Friday does tempt you to go shopping - just remember to DO NOTHING.</p> <p>Buy Nothing Day isn't about changing your lifestyle for just one day – but the start of a life-changing lifestyle commitment. Make a commitment to shopping less and living more.</p> 

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Big Birding Day</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa's 33rd Birding Big Day (BBD) will take place on Saturday 25 November 2017. During Birding Big Day 2016 more than a thousand birders recorded 654 species, a record, and also raised some valuable funds for bird conservation. During the 2017 event we hope to break this record and have even more birders out enjoying nature</p> <p>Why don't YOU take part – get outdoors & have a lot of fun in God's awesome Creation!</p> <p>Visit www.birdlifesasa.org.za for all the details.</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>"But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind. Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food?"</p> <p>Job 12:7-25.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Every creature, every plant, every rock and grain of sand proclaims the glory of its Creator, worships through colour, shape, scent and form.</p> <p>A multi-sensory song of praise. Creator God, may we join with the whole of your creation, in praising you, our Creator, through the fragrance and melody of our lives.</p> 
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>As people of faith, we are called into covenant. Your covenant of faithfulness and love extends to the whole creation. We pray for the healing of the earth, that present and future generations may enjoy the fruits of creation, and continue to glorify and praise you. in song, has been a groan of travail</p>

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>od our creator, whose good earth is entrusted to our care, delight and tenderness, we pray:</p> <p>For all who are in captivity to debt, whose lives are cramped by fear from which there is no turning except through abundant harvest;</p> <p>For all who depend on the earth for their daily food and fuel, whose forests are destroyed for the profit of a few;</p> <p>For all who labour in poverty, who are oppressed by unjust laws, who are banned from speaking the truth, and who long for a harvest of justice;</p> <p>For all who are in captivity to greed and waste and boredom, whose harvest joy is choked with things they do not need.</p> <p>Turn us again from our captivity and restore our vision, that our mouths may be filled with laughter and our tongues with singing.</p> <p><i>Janet Morley</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>30</p>	