





JAEI

February 2018 Environmental Prayer Diary


<p>Thursday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>“For last month’s words belong to last month’s language and next month’s words await another voice.” <i>T.S. Eliot</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>World Wetland Day 2018 theme – Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future</p> <p>Urban wetlands make cities liveable in many ways – not only as places to enjoy but for the role they play as water filters and in flood control. Lakes, ponds, rivers and streams enhance the landscape and are regarded as desirable places to live next to or overlook. Less appealing are swampy areas or ephemeral wetlands periodically wet. There has been a tendency to drain such areas for urban development, especially if they have been neglected and overgrown in weeds. This approach ignores the benefits wetlands provide in absorbing and storing excess rainfall and providing ‘green space’ for urban dwellers. Wetlands deserve to be loved!</p> <div data-bbox="1182 600 1513 957" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>World Wetlands Day 2 February 2018</p>  <p>Wetlands for a sustainable urban future</p> </div> <p>Show you care – cover this day with Prayer!</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>“The world of life, of spontaneity, the world of dawn and sunset and starlight, the world of soil and sunshine, of meadow and woodland, of hickory and oak and maple and hemlock and pineland forests, of wildlife dwelling around us, of the river and its wellbeing--all of this [is] the integral community in which we live.” <i>Thomas Berry</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Lord’s Prayer Our Father who art in heaven</p> <p>Lord of heaven and earth, help us to enter into communion with your gift of this world. Help us to connect with our environment so that we come to respect and reverence it. Let its beauty and magnificence humble us so that we may enter into right relationship with it.</p> <p>“The Earth is the first sacrament of God’s love for humanity.” John Fullenbach</p> <p>In communion with this sacrament let human beings be drawn in understanding and compassion for all living things, to walk humbly with our God, in the knowledge that we are part of the whole, in its fragility and interdependence.</p>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>SDG Goal #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries <p><i>Pray</i> that this Target may be achieved.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>“Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”</p> <p><i>St Francis of Assisi</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p><i>Lord's Prayer</i></p> <p>..... <i>Hallowed be thy name</i></p> <p>Our earth in holy. Help us to grow in awareness of its sacredness, by living sustainably. Grow in us your love for the earth's beauty, by bringing us to the stillness of your presence, for “nothing in creation is so like God... like stillness.” Meister Eckhart</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>8</p>	<div data-bbox="641 1029 1323 1648" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>9</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>Saturday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>We celebrate and honour the gift of fire. Fire has held mystery since the first Flaring Forth. The fire's heat warms us and gives us light. Fire is used to purify and to cook food that nourishes us. It symbolizes the presence and love of God and a passionate love of life, of others, of all creation. Lovers speak of the fire of love in their hearts.</p> <p>May the power, warmth, passion, and mystery of fire be given us. May its radiance permeate deep within our spirit.</p> <p>For the original Flaring Forth, for the searing explosion that began all we know of the Universe - We give thanks.</p> <p>For the collapse and explosions of the supernovas that delivered to the Universe new elements that would "one day sparkle as life, as consciousness, as memories of beauty laced into genetic coding." - We give thanks.</p> <p>For the Sun that dominates our solar system and that makes life on Earth possible. - We give thanks.</p> <p>For the distance Earth stays from Sun, for Earth's axis, for the gravitational spin assisted by our Moon - We give thanks.</p> <p>For the many positive ways humans have harnessed the fire of the Sun to keep warm, to see, to grow food, to cook, and for those working to sustain healthful food and energy systems - We give thanks.</p> <p>For our ancestors who, eons ago, celebrated the longest night of the year and the promise of brighter day - We give thanks.</p> <p>For the birth of Jesus and the enlightenment he brought to the world - We give thanks.</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>..... Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven</p> <p>Let us be vigilant to the needs of our earth, upholding its rights to exist in all its diversity and multiplicity. When Jesus spoke about the Kingdom in the Gospels he delivered powerful messages calling for people to resist the urge to be dominating beings. By your love and understanding show us how to make gains for all humanity without making creation suffer. Lord, let us see the vision of your kingdom here on earth.</p> <p>"God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees, flowers and stars." Martin Luther</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers the animals to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us.</p> <p>We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail.</p> <p>May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of live.</p> <p>St. Basil the Great</p>


<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>SDG Goal #3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol <p><i>Pray</i> that this Target may be achieved</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>In Our End Is Our Beginning <i>Returning to Love</i></p> <p>T. S. Eliot writes, “We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time” (Little Gidding, Part V, “Four Quartets”). We return where we began, to the eternal embrace of Divine Love. We were formed by original blessing, but we’ve heard so often the story of “original sin” that we have to be reminded of our beginnings in beauty and union.</p> <p>Rob Bell shared at CAC’s CONSPIRE event this year how the Christian Creation narrative is uniquely hopeful. The creation poem in Genesis 1 is a “confrontive story,” portraying something radically different than the common creation stories of its time; rather than “violence and destruction,” the Genesis mythos shows “overflowing joy and creativity.” Knowing we began as an expression of God’s desire for relationship allows us to trust that life is headed somewhere good, into new forms of Love making itself known, oneing all things in a whole and expanding universe. As one Pauline translation puts it “The whole of creation is standing on tip toe to see the full revelation of the children of God” (Romans 8:19).</p> <p>The story ends where it begins: in life and now even in “life more abundantly” (John 10:10). This Life came from “nowhere” (<i>creatio ex nihilo</i>) and now has my name upon it. From death—the small dyings to the False Self and our eventual physical death—comes resurrection into our True Self, who we have been all along but have simply forgotten. As you look back on a year almost ended and forward to a year about to begin, recall the ways in which God has been inviting you to return, again and again, to Love, which is the same as returning to God.</p> <p>Gateway to Silence: God, keep me in your truth.</p> <p>Richard Rohr https://cac.org/returning-to-love-2014-12-30/</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Lord’s Prayer <i>..... Give us this day our daily bread</i></p> <p>“We live in the network of cosmic influences as we live in the human crowd or among myriad of stars.” Teilhard de Chardin</p> <p>Lord we are a special small part in your great creation. Help us to understand that our daily bread is to be shared, and that our responsibility for that sharing goes beyond our family, friends and people of our country. Our responsibility is global.</p>	



<p>Friday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Reflection:</p> <p><i>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</i></p> <p>“67. We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us. This allows us to respond to the charge that Judaeo-Christian thinking, on the basis of the Genesis account which grants man “dominion” over the earth (cf. <i>Gen</i> 1:28), has encouraged the unbridled exploitation of nature by painting him as domineering and destructive by nature. This is not a correct interpretation of the Bible as understood by the Church. Although it is true that we Christians have at times incorrectly interpreted the Scriptures, nowadays we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God’s image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. The biblical texts are to be read in their context, with an appropriate hermeneutic, recognizing that they tell us to “till and keep” the garden of the world (cf. <i>Gen</i> 2:15). “Tilling” refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while “keeping” means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. “The earth is the Lord’s” (<i>Ps</i> 24:1); to him belongs “the earth with all that is within it” (<i>Dt</i> 10:14). Thus God rejects every claim to absolute ownership: “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with me” (<i>Lev</i> 25:23).”</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>World Pangolin Day</p> <p>World Pangolin Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about these unique mammals - and their plight. Pangolin numbers are rapidly declining in Africa and Asia.</p> <p>The demand for pangolins comes mostly from China, where pangolin scales are unfortunately believed to be a cure-all of sorts and pangolin flesh is considered a delicacy. In Vietnam, pangolins are frequently offered at restaurants catering to wealthy patrons who want to eat rare and endangered wildlife. There is no evidence to support claims regarding medicinal properties of pangolin scales or any other part of the pangolin</p> <p>Pangolin poaching in South Africa... has reached epic proportions – rivalling rhino poaching in many instances.</p> <p>All eight species of the mammal world wide - also known as scaly anteaters – have been placed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s ‘red list’.</p> <p>Pray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for a change of heart amongst poachers & that these people would find more ethical incomes • all involved in the conservation of these incredible and unique animals. <div data-bbox="1224 989 1552 1293" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1105 1631 1536 1906" data-label="Image"> </div>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>..... <i>And forgive us trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us</i></p> <p>Lord, God of all creation, enter into our hearts and minds. Let us see that our reparations for making good of this earth relies on our change of heart, of being counter-cultural. Give us the will to do good for this earth.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>'A different dimension of loss' - Inside the great insect die-off</p> <p>Scientists have identified 2 million species of living things. No one knows how many more are out there, and tens of thousands may be vanishing before we have even had a chance to encounter them. The Earth is ridiculously, burstingly full of life and new species are being discovered by the hundreds and thousands.</p> <p>Everywhere, invertebrates are threatened by climate change, competition from invasive species and habitat loss. Insect abundance seems to be declining precipitously, even in places where their habitats have not suffered notable new losses.</p> <p>The sixth-extinction estimates are “biased towards a very small portion of biodiversity”. When it comes to invertebrates – the slugs, crabs, worms, snails, spiders, octopuses and, above all, insects that make up the bulk of the world's animal species – we are guessing at the number of species being affected.</p> <p>Consider this A world without insects would spell disaster for animals all the way up the food chain. Even humans need insects in order to live, and so do plants and animals. It all has to with the circle of life, the planet's food chain and the reproduction of plants through pollination.</p> <p>Animals that mainly eat insects, such as birds and frogs, would die from lack of food, and later on, the animals that eat those birds and frogs would also die of hunger. Eventually, animals at the top of the food chain, including bears, leopards, and humans, would face extinction, too.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people are averse to “creepie-crawlies” – are you one of them? • Consider how you can protect our precious invertebrate fauna • Consider planting indigenous vegetation to encourage a wide range of biodiversity – including invertebrates. <p>Acknowledgement: <i>The Guardian & https://science.howstuffworks.com</i></p> <div data-bbox="1057 583 1555 1060" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>If we die, we're taking you with us.</p> </div>

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Read Genesis 2: 7-9, 3:1-7</p> <p><i>“The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil.”</i></p> <p>We are God’s special creation. It is God who fashions us and who breathes life into us.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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>Lent brings us a time to re-centre our lives, to rediscover what is of true value and life-giving. Perhaps we can be inspired by Patrick from Mbala village in Zambia. As a child he was left at an orphan centre as there was not enough food. However, thanks to CAFOD partners, Patrick completed his education and now uses his talents to teach basic tailoring to people living with disabilities. What motivates Patrick is his desire to share what he has learnt with other people for the good of society.</p> <p><i>God of Life,</i></p> <p><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>Amen.</i></p> <p><i>This reflection was written by Sue Cooper from Corpus Christi parish, Wokingham.</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>“Man cannot live without joy; therefore when he is deprived of true spiritual joys it is necessary that he become addicted to carnal pleasures.”</p> <p><i>St Thomas Aquinas (13th Century)</i></p> <div data-bbox="1252 1304 1528 1612" data-label="Image"> </div>

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>“There were no boundaries or borders. It was as if my mind had once long ago made up a story about separate objects with boundaries but the story wasn't true. The true story is that there is a luminous, spacious energy that flows through everything all the time. It's within matter, within things as well as within space, and you can tune in to it at any time, just like changing the frequency on the radio. There is no distance between this essence and ourselves. It is not otherworldly. It is right here, closer than our own flesh.”</p> <p><i>Vijali Hamilton</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>God of life, Creator of all God of life, Creator of the earth and all that it contains, you rested and beheld all that you had made and you saw that it was good. Encourage us to lift our heads from the daily grind and know that we are always in your sight. Empower us to break the chains that bind us in unfulfilling work, and to bring hope to those that toil unseen. Open our eyes to see what is truly important And lead us to seek the real wealth that only comes from you, making itself felt in dignity and justice for all. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.</p> <p><i>Catherine Gorman/CAFOD</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>24</p>	<div data-bbox="609 1117 1351 1816" data-label="Image"> <p style="text-align: center;"> Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures. <i>-Dalai Lama</i> </p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Over Force</p> </div>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>..... And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.</p> <p>"If we approach nature and the environment without openness to beauty and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty for our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs." Pope Francis</p> <p>God in our heart and mind, Help us to see the gift of your creation as something to behold. Give us right- judgement and knowledge to understand it Give us wisdom to cherish it. And send us your grace to act responsibly, giving glory to you and your creation.</p> <p>Amen</p> <p>Denise Goodwin http://www.erea.edu.au</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>O Lord, all the world belongs to You</p> <p>O Lord, all the world belongs to You and You are always making all things new. What is wrong, You forgive, and the new life You give is what's turning the world upside down.</p> <p>The world's only loving to its friends, but Your way of loving never ends, loving enemies too; and this loving with You is what's turning the world upside down.</p> <p>The world lives divided and apart, You draw men together, and we start in our friendship to see that in harmony we can be turning the world upside down.</p> <p>The world wants the wealth to live in state, but You show a new way to be great: like a servant You came, and if we do the same, we'll be turning the world upside down.</p> <p>O Lord, all the world belongs to You and You are always making all things new. What is wrong, You forgive, and the new life You give is what's turning the world upside down.</p> <p>©1965 Josef Weinberger</p> 

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>27</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Leap day for Frogs</p> <p>Many of our frogs and toads face enormous challenges. These amphibians are critically important to the food web, which ultimately affects us.</p> <p>Pray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for those involved in conservation efforts of these valuable animals • Consider personal actions to protect these valuable animals <div data-bbox="1143 842 1544 1203" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  <p><i>The Giant bullfrog is a threatened species in South Africa because of habitat lost and pollution of waterways.</i></p> </div>



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