




JAEI

June 2018 Environmental Prayer Diary

- **World Environment Month**



(The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)

<p>Friday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>“Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending.”</p> <p>Carl Bard <i>Author and Poet</i></p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>God of the sun and moon, of the mountains, deserts and plains, God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams, God of all creatures that live and move on this sacred Earth, we are formed by Christ into your people called to bring the world into your marvellous light. May we know our ecological vocation so that we will care for this earth which you have created. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> <p><i>Prayer adapted from ‘Ecological Conversion’ in Spirited – Prayers for Young People (Brisbane WYD Secretariat)</i></p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Gracious God, we gather today with people everywhere to observe World Environment Sunday.</p> <p>You call us to be in solidarity – through our prayer and actions – with people adversely affected by climate change, destruction of the environment by needless destruction of habitats and pollution .</p> <p>We recognize that Earth will only be our home as long as we learn to respect and care for the whole community of life and learn humility about our place in it, that we take action to protect and restore the integrity of life systems, and that we work for sustainable development for all people.</p> <p>Change our hearts. Fill our hearts with a burning desire for your ‘kingdom’ where you live and reign for ever and ever, Amen.</p>	

Monday	4	<p>"All Life has just one home, the earth, and we as the dominant species must take care of it."</p> <p>Dame Daphne Sheldrick</p>
Tuesday	5	<p>World Environment Day</p> <p>World Environment Day is a UN Environment-led global event, the single largest celebration of our environment each year, which takes place on June 5 and is celebrated by thousands of communities worldwide. Most of all, World Environment Day is a day of everyone around the world to take ownership of their environment and to actively engage in the protection of our earth.</p> <p>Since its inception in 1974, WED has developed into a global platform for raising awareness and taking action on increasingly urgent issues, from marine pollution and global warming to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.</p> <p>"Beat Plastic Pollution", the theme for World Environment 2018, urges governments, industry, communities, and individuals to come together and explore sustainable alternatives and urgently reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastic polluting our oceans, damaging marine life and threatening human health.</p> <p>So today, on World Environment Day, we contemplate our personal and communal action toward the preservation of the environment. As part of God's creation, we are given the privilege of protecting the environment and ensuring responsible action for created life. This responsibility includes reflecting on our use of natural resources, thinking about how we manage our waste and keeping the environment clean</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>God of all creation, as we look at the environment, your divine power and immense love are ever present. We thank you for the beautiful creation and abundant resources you have provided your children. We ask for your help in revealing how we can be better stewards of your creation. Help us to use only the resources we need, never being selfish by taking more than necessary. Please give us the opportunity to appropriately share our wealth with those who are less fortunate instead of disposing of our surplus. Help us to remember that the environment is home to all life and that we must take up the responsibility to ensure all life is respected. We thank you for this day and ask for your blessing on this journey.</p> <p>Amen.</p>








<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Psalm 8</p> <p>Lord our God, the whole world tells the greatness of your name. Your glory reaches beyond the stars. Even the babble of infants declares your strength, Your power to halt the enemy and avenger. I see your handiwork in the heavens: the moon and the stars you set in place. What is humankind that you remember them, the human race that you care for them? You treat them like gods, dressing them in glory and splendour. You give them charge of the earth, laying all at their feet: cattle and sheep, wild beasts, birds of the sky, fish of the sea, every swimming creature. Lord our God, the whole world tells the greatness of your name.</p> <p>Reflection</p> <p>How remarkable the creativity of the world about us! Nature never repeats itself, not in the animal or in the plant world; not in the snowflakes or the raindrops; not in its geological structures or in any of its daily displays throughout the observable world. These are all voices of the Earth – spirit voices seeking from us understanding and response</p> <p>Our primary response from the human world is admiration – admiration that is also adoration, since each living being presents to us some unique aspect of the divine mystery whence all things emerge into being. How glorious to us the sunrise and sunset, the clouds drifting across the sky! How divine the song of the wood thrush! As Brian Swimme has expressed it, “The universe shivers with wonder in the depths of the human.”</p> <p>In understanding the vast web of interrelations between all natural phenomena – the flow of energy whereby each reality sustains and is sustained by all other realities in the entire world – we come to true wisdom.</p> <p><i>Thomas Berry, January 1990, in the FOREWORD of To Honour the Earth by Dorothy MacLean</i></p> <p>Taken from http://www.bne.catholic.edu.au</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>SDG Goal #15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss</p> <p>By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</p> <p>Pray that this target may be achieved.</p> <div data-bbox="1263 1549 1539 1801" data-label="Image"> </div>



<p>Friday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>World Oceans Day</p> <p>On World Oceans Day, people around our blue planet celebrate and honour the ocean, which connects us all. A healthy world ocean is critical to our survival.</p> <p>The ocean is important because it:</p> <p>Generates most of the oxygen we breathe Helps feed us Regulates our climate Cleans the water we drink Offers a pharmacopoeia of medicines Provides limitless inspiration!</p> <p>Now each of us can give back by becoming aware about World Oceans Day and protect the ocean for the future. It’s up to each one of us to help ensure that our ocean is healthy for future generations.</p> <p>World Oceans Day allows us to:</p> <p><i>Change perspective</i> – encourage us to think about what the ocean means to us and how crucial it is to conserve it for present and the future generations.</p> <p><i>Learn</i> – discover the wealth of diverse and beautiful ocean creatures and habitats, how our daily actions affect them, and how we are all interconnected.</p> <p><i>Change our ways</i> – we are all linked to, and through, the ocean! By taking care of your backyard and helping in your community, you are acting as a caretaker of our ocean. Making small modifications to your everyday habits will make a difference, and involving your family, friends, and community will benefit our blue planet even more!</p> <p><i>Celebrate</i> – whether you live inland or on the coast, we are all connected to the ocean. Take the time to think about how the ocean affects you, and how you affect the ocean, and then organize or participate in activities that celebrate our ocean.</p> <p>Prayer:</p> <p>O Lord, we pray that we will fully understand that we are all connected with our oceans, and that what we create can have lasting effects on all life. We pray that our actions in its care will be pleasing to you. Amen</p>	 
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Saturday	9	<p>God who created us has granted us the faculty of speech that we might disclose the By nature, men desire the beautiful.</p> <p>St. Basil the Great</p>
Sunday	10	<p>Heavenly Father, through your Eternal Word all of creation came into existence and is held in being by your Holy Spirit. In the lives we lead and the choices we make, help us to be mindful of the impact upon your world and its people, near and far, now and in future generations, so we may be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us, until that time when all things are reconciled to you.</p> <p>We pray for your wisdom, to safeguard the earth, its soil and all that grows in it. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for your understanding, to cleanse the air and all that breathes. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for your knowledge, to find ways to preserve our waters and all that live in them. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for your guidance, to protect all living beings with whom we share our planet. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for your compassion, to reach out to all those affected by extremes of weather, changes in climate, and the degradation of the environment. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer</p> <p>We pray for your insight, to use the resources entrusted to us wisely and well, justly and safely. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for your perseverance, to ensure that all humanity may have adequate food and water, shelter and sanitation, peace and well-being, and so can live in dignity, without fear. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for your courage, to do all that is necessary to restore the beauty of your handiwork wherever we have damaged or harmed it. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer.</p> <p>We pray for your grace, that each of us may be faithful stewards of all you have given us, in the choices we make and how we live our daily lives. Creator and Redeemer, hear our prayer.</p> <p>Gracious God, Creator and Redeemer of all that is, you have made human beings in your image and likeness and by the work of your hands, fashioned the whole universe in beauty and majesty; awaken in us a deeper reverence for all you have created, and renew among us an eagerness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p>++Thabo Makgoba: Archbishop of Cape Town</p>



<p>Monday</p>	<p>11</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>“People protect what they love. “</p> <p>Jacques Yves Cousteau</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>May we be alert to the thirst for power, which destroys... Help us to challenge short-sighted greed. Help us to address unjust structures and practices and change our relationship with Creation to one of care. We have a vision. We have courage. We have the presence of the Risen One whose power to love is greater than all the powers of destruction. May we together bring peace to planet earth, its many creatures and many peoples.</p> <p>Archbishop Winston Halapua Bishop of Polynesia</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Singing birds - Psalm 104: 1, 12, 28, 30:</p> <p><i>¹Praise the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great...</i></p> <p><i>¹²The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches...</i></p> <p><i>²⁸When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things...</i></p> <p><i>³⁰When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.”</i></p> <p>Through the cacophony of everyday sounds – can you hear the birds? Do you notice how joyfully they sing! The same Father that cares for them cares for you. Let the birds lead you to give thanks and praise to God. With the birds and the angels of the heavens you are joining God’s love song – he sings his love over you first!</p> <p><i>Recently have you been appreciating God’s goodness and care? Right now is a good time to smile, sing, and give thanks to God!</i></p> 

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Global Wind Day</p> <p>Global Wind Day is a worldwide event that occurs annually on 15 June. It is a day for discovering wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to change our world.</p> <p>It is also a day for discovery of the work that has already begun by pioneers around the world. In more than 80 countries around the world, wind farms are in operation, generating energy from a clean and renewable source.</p> <p>In South Africa, the renewable power industry is recognised as a major contributor to sustained social, environmental & economic security.</p> <p>Give thanks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the remarkable strides South Africa's renewal power industry has made. • Pray: • For industry sensitivity in the placing and installing wind turbines with regards to the threat to wildlife (especially bird and bat mortalities) • For those in authority to make wise decisions regarding the future of our Country's energy needs. 	 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>SDG Goal #15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.6 billion people depend directly on agriculture, but 52 per cent of the land used for agriculture is moderately or severely affected by soil degradation • As of 2008, land degradation affected 1.5 billion people globally • Arable land loss is estimated at 30 to 35 times the historical rate • Due to drought and desertification each year 12 million hectares are lost (23 hectares per minute), where 20 million tons of grain could have been grown • 74 per cent of the poor are directly affected by land degradation globally <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>	

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>World Desertification Day</p> <p><i>In 1994 the United Nations established World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17 which is the anniversary of the signing of the Convention to Combat Desertification in 1994.</i></p> <p>Desertification is the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. It is caused primarily by human activities and climatic variations. Desertification does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts. It occurs because dryland ecosystems, which cover over one third of the worlds land area, are extremely vulnerable to overexploitation and inappropriate land use. Poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing and bad irrigation practices can all undermine the productivity of the land.</p> <p>Over 250 million people are directly affected by desertification, and about one billion people in over one hundred countries are at risk. These people include many of the world's poorest, most marginalized and politically weak citizens.</p> <p>This year the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought examine the important link between land degradation and migration. Among others, environmental degradation, food insecurity and poverty are causes of migration and development challenges.</p> <p>In just 15 years, the number of international migrants worldwide has risen from 173 million in 2000 to 258 million in 2017.</p> <p>This year's celebration looks at specific ways local communities can build resilience against current multi-fold development challenges through sustainable land management practices. This day should remind everyone of land's important role in producing food and generating local employment, as well as its ability to add to the sustainability, stability and security of desertification-affected places.</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>Lord God, we pray that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move in the hearts of men and women and among those who govern the nations that the barriers of fear, suspicion and hatred which separate us may crumble, and the body of humankind may be healed of its divisions and be united in addressing the serious problems of resource depletion, overpopulation and climate change all of which problems lead to the desertification of our land and ultimately food insecurity. Lead us to truth and action.</p>	 
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<p>Sunday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>Moral crisis - and opportunity</p> <p>The moral crisis of climate change is an opportunity to find purpose and joy, and to respond to our creator’s charge. Reducing the causes of climate change is essential to the life of faith. It is a way to love our neighbour and to steward the gift of creation....</p>  <p>However we choose to respond, a response is necessary. People of faith have a unique call to address the causes of climate change. As we stand together in our support for the survivors of extreme weather, let us act together in ways that will safeguard our shared gift of creation - and the lives of those who will inherit it from us.”</p> <p>Rt Rev Justin Welby <i>Archbishop of Canterbury and spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion</i></p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Reflection:</p> <p>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</p> <p>“41. In tropical and subtropical seas, we find coral reefs comparable to the great forests on dry land, for they shelter approximately a million species, including fish, crabs, molluscs, sponges and algae. Many of the world’s coral reefs are already barren or in a state of constant decline. “Who turned the wonderworld of the seas into underwater cemeteries bereft of colour and life?” This phenomenon is due largely to pollution which reaches the sea as the result of deforestation, agricultural monocultures, industrial waste and destructive fishing methods, especially those using cyanide and dynamite. It is aggravated by the rise in temperature of the oceans. All of this helps us to see that every intervention in nature can have consequences which are not immediately evident, and that certain ways of exploiting resources prove costly in terms of degradation which ultimately reaches the ocean bed itself.”</p> <p>Prayerfully reflect on this</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>19</p>	 <p>Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ~ The Book of Common Prayer</p> 

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Creator of the universe, we pray in gratitude and praise. You were there at the beginning of all things, shaping our world, and preparing it for us. You have provided the mountains and the trees, the waters and the earth. Help us to be caretakers of your gifts, protecting the land from abuse, and ready to share with all in need. Show us how to use our science and technology in creative ways. Deepen our awareness of our connectedness with all your creation, so that future generations will also enjoy every blessing</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Lament for Drought, Deforestation, Flood <i>Deforestation is brought about by humans, and drought and flood have been seen as “natural” disasters. But climate change is accelerated by deforestation, and drought and flood are expected to become more frequent and more severe in many parts of the world as a result.</i></p> <p>Drought turns farmland to dustbowl, drains rivers, lays bare the soil. Gardens wither, livestock die, people lose heart, communities crumble. <i>How long, O Lord, how long? Refresh the parched and thirsty earth. Revive our flagging spirits. When will you give us the water of life?</i></p> <p>Deforestation shreds the landscape, leaches soil, poisons rivers. Smoke hangs in the air, rainfall patterns change, birds and animals lose their habitat, cultures and people die. <i>How long, O Lord, how long? Rebuke the greed for land. Regenerate the stricken forests. When will the trees clap their hands at your salvation?</i></p> <p>Floods wash away soil, flatten crops, ruin homes. Drinking water fails, disease spreads, fear clings, livelihoods lie buried in mud, animals and people drown. <i>How long, O Lord, how long? Restore the soaked and tattered land. Relieve the suffering people. Are you not our strong rock and refuge?</i></p> <p>The Anglican Church of Australia</p>



Friday

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The Glory of Creation

The glory of creation, throughout the universe,
So wonderful in essence, delightfully diverse.
Antarctica to Asia; the jungles of Brazil,
Established by the Father, with loving care and skill.

From mountain tops to valleys; in forests and in parks,
We watch the playful squirrels; we hear the joyful larks.
Wild orchids so unusual; bright parakeets so loud,
Rare butterflies so fragile; the tiger standing proud.

Deep mysteries, of oceans and
unknown outer space,
Migration paths of swallows, the
eagle's nesting place.
The more we gain in knowledge, the
less we understand
This world so rich and complex,
created by God's hand.




But crisis looms upon us; the planet's
under threat,
The global climate's changing, the
balance is upset.
The melting of the ice caps; diversity declines,
Extinction of key species; we're overwhelmed with signs.

So Father please forgive us for spoiling Planet Earth,
Give us a chance to change it; to instigate new birth,
Let's care for your creation, in details and in whole
Protect, preserve and cherish; may this be our new goal.

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*(This hymn can be sung to Jerusalem the Golden / Ewing or to other 7.6.7.6 D hymns
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<http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/hymn1.htm>

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>23</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth. All your creation is very good. When we consider the awesomeness of your creation, we realise the great responsibility we have in caring for it. Your world contains an abundance of riches over which you have given us dominion. We do not always take seriously how our thoughtlessness and laziness impact upon creation. As we reflect on the ways in which we have wasted, misused or taken for granted what you have so generously provided, we ask for your forgiveness and pray that you will show us how to be better stewards. O Lord, Our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Amen</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Burroughs</i></p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>"Human progress is not just the accumulation of wealth and the thoughtless consumption of the earth's resources." <i>Patriarch Bartholomew, The Orthodox Church</i></p>

Mystics and Non-Dual Thinkers

“There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.” -Thomas Merton

The inner life of quiet, solitude, and contemplation is the only way to find your ground and purpose now. Read this passage by Thomas Merton, from his book *New Seeds of Contemplation*, slowly, imaginatively. Picture the scenes he describes using all your senses. Recall times when you have witnessed God at play, moments when you have joined in the “general dance.” Make space in your day or in the coming week to intentionally forget your small self and participate in the universal joy of simply being alive.



“What is serious to men is often very trivial in the sight of God. What in God might appear to us as “play” is perhaps what he Himself takes most seriously. At any rate, the Lord plays and diverts Himself in the garden of His creation, and if we could let go of our own obsession with what we think is the meaning of it all, we might be able to hear His call and follow Him in His mysterious, cosmic dance. We do not have to go very far to catch echoes of that game, and of that dancing. When we are alone on a starlit night; when by chance we see the migrating birds in autumn descending on a grove of junipers to rest and eat; when we see children in a moment when they are really children; when we know love in our own hearts; or when, like the Japanese poet Bashō we hear an old frog land in a quiet pond with a solitary splash—at such times the awakening, the turning inside out of all values, the “newness,” the emptiness and the purity of vision that make themselves evident, provide a glimpse of the cosmic dance.”

For the world and time are the dance of the Lord in emptiness. The silence of the spheres is the music of a wedding feast. The more we persist in misunderstanding the phenomena of life, the more we analyze them out into strange finalities and complex purposes of our own, the more we involve ourselves in sadness, absurdity and despair. But it does not matter much, because no despair of ours can alter the reality of things; or stain the joy of the cosmic dance which is always there. Indeed, we are in the midst of it, and it is in the midst of us, for it beats in our very blood, whether we want it to or not.

Yet the fact remains that we are invited to forget ourselves on purpose, cast our awful solemnity to the winds and join in the general dance.

Gateway to Silence:


“We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent and the divine is shining through it all the time.” —Thomas Merton

Richard Rohr

*Centre for Action and Contemplation
(cac.org)*

Tuesday

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Wednesday	27	<p>How clearly the sky reveals God’s glory! How plainly it shows what he has done! Each day announces it to the following day; each night repeats it to the next. No speech or words are used, no sound is heard; Yet their message goes out to all the world and is heard to the ends of the earth.</p> <p>Psalm 19:1-4 (GNB)</p>
Thursday	28	<p>“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”</p> <p><i>(Romans 1: 19-20)</i></p>
Friday	29	<p>Creator God, To realize our aspirations of protecting our Common Home, we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature” (from Earth Charter). All praise to you God for your goodness to us. Give us hearts of flesh to rejoice in your gifts, to beg pardon when we err, and to live justly. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus, who lives and breathes among us.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
Saturday	30	 <p>Sometimes you just need a break. In a beautiful place. Alone. To figure everything out.</p> <p>©MINDSETOF GREATNESS</p>

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