



JAEI

September 2020 Environmental Prayer Diary

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

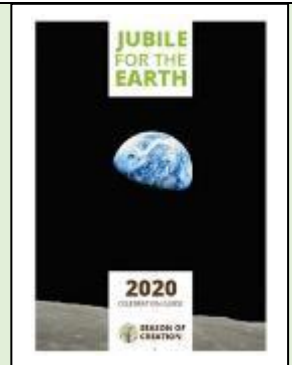


1 September – 4 October - Season of Creation


The season begins September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and runs through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, who is the patron saint of ecology in many traditions. The theme of this year’s celebration is “the web of life”. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are on a pilgrimage to better care of creation. The momentum needs to continue long after the season ends through ongoing prayer, changes in lifestyle, and advocacy.

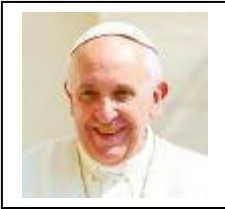

This year, the theme for the season is “*Jubilee for the Earth*”. We need to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. This particular year, the need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. We yearn for the moral imagination that accompanies the Jubilee.


The Season of Creation is facilitated by the World Council of Churches, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, ACT Alliance, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and the Anglican Communion Environmental Network



<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation</p> <p>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1st September was inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical <i>Laudato Si'</i>, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.</p> <p>He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to “reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”</p> <p>There are many ways to respond to Pope Francis’ call to care for the gift of God’s creation - why not take some time out of your day to walk in your garden or take a few moments to thank God for the flowers, trees, birds and everything else that inhabits the natural world</p> <p>Season of Creation 2020 Prayer</p> <p>Creator of Life, At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit. The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the needs of every living thing. And throughout</p>	
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		<p>time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.</p> <p>In your Wisdom, you granted a Sabbath; a blessed time to rest in gratitude for all have given; a time to liberate ourselves from vicious consumption; a time to allow the land and all creatures to rest from the burden of production. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demands for growth, and our never-ending cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. We have not allowed the land to observe her Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to be renewed.</p> <p>During this season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.</p> <p>In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Amen</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Arbor Week</p> <p>In South Africa , Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1983. The event captured the imagination of people who recognised the need for raising awareness of the value of trees in our society. Collective enthusiasm for the importance of this issue, the celebration was extended from Arbor Day to National Arbor Week. From 1 to 7 September every year to encourage community "greening" events to improve the health and beauty of the local environment and propose a green future for South Africa.</p> <p>As sources of building material, food, medicine, and simple scenic beauty, trees play a vital role in the health and well-being of our communities.</p> <p>Every Arbor Week celebration highlights two specific trees; one common and one rare species.</p> <p>The trees for 2020 are:</p> <p>Common: <i>Ekebergia capensis</i> Cape ash, Essenhout Rare: <i>Adansonia digitata</i> Baobab, Kremetart</p> <p>A Prayer for Trees ...</p> <p>Creator God, Out of chaos you brought order. Out of nothingness you brought life. In the middle of all life stands the tree.</p> <p>Trees provide the air that nurtures all your creation. Birds make them their homes. Cats climb them for protection. Trees recycle life that has come before.</p> 

		<p>Bless the trees of this world, loving God. Remind us to serve as their caregivers and protectors. Give them long limbs and long life. The gift of their breath is as special to us as the breath of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>
Thursday	3	<p>Novena to St Francis - For a world under threat</p> <p><i>Reflections asking St Francis of Assisi to pray for us and our world, based on his beautiful Canticle of the Sun.</i></p> <p><i>“We praise you, Lord, for all your creatures, especially for Brother Sun, who is the day through whom you give us light.”</i></p> <p>Creator God, We are nourished by your radiance. Forgive us for the harm we cause your earth, the heat and drought unleashed by climate change. St Francis, you loved our sacred world, you praised God ceaselessly for his dazzling creation. May we learn from your example.</p> <p><i>“We praise you, Lord, for Sister Moon and the Stars, in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.”</i></p> <p>Creator God, your night sky offers rest and stillness, yet we flood our cities with light. Forgive us for our wasteful ways. Brother Francis, you chose poverty not plenty, walking lightly on the earth. May we follow in your path and reduce the trace we leave.</p>
Friday	4	<p>“Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.”</p> <p>Pope Francis, <i>Laudato Si’</i></p> 
Saturday	5	<p>International Vulture Awareness Day</p> <p><i>“Probably there is no other bird whose appearance on the wing and on the ground offers more vivid contrast. Sailing majestically far up in the blue, without perceptible movement of its great pinions, it seems to cleave the air free of all conscious effort, and conveys to the earth dweller far below, the ideal of poetic motion. When seen on mother earth, it is hard to realise that this ungainly, clumsily hopping, and repellent-looking bird is the same that so delighted our senses when on the wing, nor is the picture in any sense restored as, distributed at its</i></p> 

	<p><i>feast, it flaps heavily away to some adjacent tree.</i>” – James Stevenson-Hamilton, Wildlife in South Africa, 1947.</p> <p>Often being portrayed as evil and motley, vultures are not what come to mind when we speak of warm and fuzzy. They may not be the most glamorous of birds, but they just perfectly designed to fit a less glamorous yet important role in our natural areas.</p> <p>The first Saturday of September is recognised annually as International Vulture Awareness Day; a day to highlight the plight of these enigmatic birds that perform such an important ecological function and yet face so many threats to their continued existence. South Africa’s vulture populations are declining due to poisoning (accidental and deliberate), habitat loss, diminished food availability, electrocution by powerlines, drowning in small reservoirs and poaching for use in traditional medicine and other cultural practices. Several vulture restaurants operate throughout the country, where carcasses are made available to vultures to supplement their diets, especially when raising chicks, and reduce the risk of poisoning and poaching.</p> <p>All <i>vultures species in South Africa</i> are teetering on the brink of extinction. We <i>must do everything we can</i> to save these unsung heroes. Support organisations that are working towards saving these iconic birds - together we can restore Nature’s Clean-up Crew to their post as integral to our fully-functioning ecosystem and maybe this time, we will look at them in the positive light and with the accolades they deserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prayerfully consider your attitude to these iconic birds</i>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Tírechán Creed</p> <p><i>From The Patrician Texts from the Book of Armagh, 670AD</i></p> <p><i>(Tírechán was a 7th-century Irish bishop from north Connacht, specifically the Killala Bay area, in what is now County Mayo.)</i></p> <p>Our God is the God of all humans, The God of heaven and Earth, The God of the sea and rivers, The God of the sun and moon, The God of all the heavenly bodies, The God of the lofty mountains, The God of the lowly valleys. God is above the heavens; And beneath the heavens.</p> <p>Heaven and Earth and sea, And everything that is in them, Such he has as his abode. God inspires all things, gives life to all things, stands above all things,</p> 

		<p>And stands beneath all things. God enlightens the light of the sun, strengthens the light of the night and the stars, makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the sea, And places the stars in the service of the greater lights.</p>
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Prayer for the week in a time of coronavirus

A Prayer for Healthcare Workers during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19

Loving God,
 we place into your care all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.
 Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body.
 Keep them safe from harm.
 May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing
 to heal and help those affected by the coronavirus.


God of all consolation
 may they know your protection and peace.
 Bless them in these challenging days and bless their families.
 Amen.

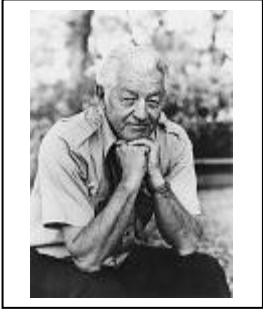
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Monday	7	
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Tuesday	8	<p>“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.”</p> <p>Rachel Carson</p>
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<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Psalm 104</p> <p>¹ Praise the LORD, my soul.</p> <p>LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendour and majesty.</p> <p>² The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent</p> <p>³ and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.</p> <p>He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.</p> <p>⁴ He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.</p> <p>⁵ He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.</p> <p>⁶ You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.</p> <p>⁷ But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;</p> <p>⁸ they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.</p> <p>⁹ You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.</p> <p>¹⁰ He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.</p> <p>¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.</p> <p>¹² The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.</p> <p>¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.</p> <p>¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate - bringing forth food from the earth:</p> <p>¹⁵ wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts.</p> <p>¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.</p> <p>¹⁷ There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the junipers.</p> <p>¹⁸ The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.</p> <p>¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.</p> <p>²⁰ You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl.</p> <p>²¹ The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God.</p> <p>²² The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.</p> <p>²³ Then people go out to their work, to their labour until evening.</p> <p>²⁴ How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.</p> <p>²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number - living things both large and small.</p> <p>²⁶ There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.</p> <p>²⁷ All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.</p> <p>²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.</p> <p>²⁹ When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.</p> <p>³⁰ When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.</p> <p>³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works</p> <p>³² he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.</p> <p>³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.</p> <p>³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.</p> <p>³⁵ But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more.</p> <p>Praise the LORD, my soul. Praise the LORD.</p>
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<p>Thursday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p><i>“We praise you, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air, fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which you cherish all that you have made.”</i></p> <p>Creator God, we have disturbed the natural cycle, upset Earth’s fragile balance. Forgive us for our lack of care. St Francis, joyful steward of creation, you lived in peace with nature and with God. Inspired by your witness, may we defend our common home.</p> <p><i>“We praise you, Lord, for Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure</i></p> <p>Creator God, from your gift of water flows all life, yet we pollute your clear springs. Forgive us, as the earth cries out. St Francis, you drank deeply from Christ’s living water. May we, like you, live simply and prize the good things of the earth.</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>11</p>	

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>“Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed ... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.”</p> <p><i>Wallace Stegner</i></p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation <i>by Pope Francis</i></p> <p>Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!</p> <p>Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!</p> <p>Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father’s love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!</p> <p>Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.</p> <p>God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light,</p>

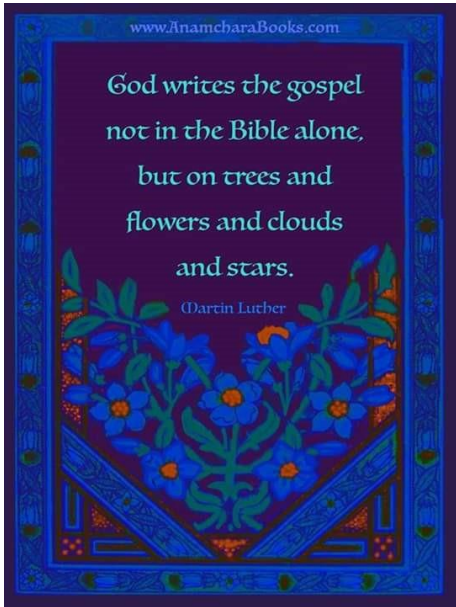
		<p>help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.</p>
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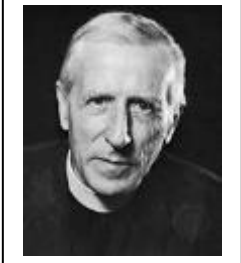
Prayer for the week in a time of coronavirus

For those who are ill


Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.


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Monday	14	
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Tuesday	15	<p>“Our duty, as men and women, is to proceed as if limits to our ability did not exist. We are collaborators in creation.”</p> <p><i>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin</i></p>	
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Wednesday	16	<p>Lord of all existence Of land and sea and sky Fish and fowl and butterfly Help us to find each other in the fellowship of created beings And to celebrate our diversity In love and praise of you, Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen</p>
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<p>Thursday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p><i>“We praise you, Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom you light the night. He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.”</i></p> <p>Creator God, your flames blaze yet leave us whole. But our fires destroy at reckless speed; great forests fall beneath our feet. Forgive us for our part in this. St Francis, you loved wild places, the trees and all their birds within. May we protect each blade of grass, be mindful of each breath of air.</p> <p><i>“We praise you, Lord, for Sister Earth, who sustains us with her fruits, coloured flowers, and herbs.”</i></p> <p>Creator God, we grieve for our Amazon sisters and brothers whose lands are wrecked by greed. We take more from the earth than we need. Forgive us. St Francis, joyful steward of creation, from you we learn to live with less, to give and not to take.</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Our Only Home</p> <p><i>Our world is a sacred whole in which we have a sacred mission. —Joanna Macy</i></p> <p><i>We are summoned to become fully human. We must mature into people who are, first and foremost, citizens of Earth and residents of the universe, and our identity and core values must be recast accordingly. —Bill Plotkin</i></p> <p>Joanna Macy, David Korten, and Bill Plotkin all speak of our era today as the time of the <i>Great Turning</i>. Joanna Macy and Molly Young Brown write: “[If] there is to be a liveable world for those who come after us, it will be because we have managed to make the transition from the Industrial Growth Society to a Life-sustaining Society.” In another place, they say this change “is germinating now, that sustainable society on which the future depends. Its seeds are sprouting in countless actions in defence of life, and in fresh perceptions of our mutual belonging in the living body of Earth—bold new perceptions deriving from both science and spirituality.”</p> <p>In his address to the United Nations General Assembly last year, Pope Francis said:</p> <p><i>“[It] must be stated that a true “right of the environment” does exist, for two reasons. First, because we human beings are part of the environment. We live in communion with it, since the environment itself entails ethical limits which human activity must acknowledge and respect. Man, for all his remarkable gifts, which “are signs of a uniqueness which transcends the spheres of physics and biology,” (Laudato Si’, 81) is at the same time a part of these</i></p> 

	<p><i>spheres. He possesses a body shaped by physical, chemical and biological elements, and can only survive and develop if the ecological environment is favourable. Any harm done to the environment, therefore, is harm done to humanity. Second, because every creature, particularly a living creature, has an intrinsic value, in its existence, its life, its beauty and its interdependence with other creatures. We Christians, together with the other monotheistic religions, believe that the universe is the fruit of a loving decision by the Creator, who permits man respectfully to use creation for the good of his fellow men and for the glory of the Creator; he is not authorized to abuse it, much less to destroy it. In all religions, the environment is a fundamental good.”</i></p> <p>I am grateful we have a pope who recognizes the immense responsibility we humans have to care for the earth. Unfortunately, there are still many who deny the clear scientific evidence of our devastating impact. Climate change and its effects—unpredictable, changing patterns of drought, flooding, and powerful storms—are upon us. We have no time to lose. So many people and creatures will suffer and face extinction if we do not quickly change our lifestyle. Let us work together to creatively find solutions, to reduce our carbon footprint, to live more simply and sustainably on this, our only home. Humanity and the earth really will live or die together. The health of the planet and our continued existence depend upon our choices and actions.</p> <p>Gateway to Silence: Praised be You, my Lord, through all your creatures. - Francis of Assisi</p> <p>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations www.cac.org</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>19</p> <p>World Clean-up Day</p> <p>World Clean-up Day falls on 19 September, is a global social action program aimed at combating the global solid waste problem. Coinciding with the global event is Clean-up and Recycle SA Week (an initiative by the local plastics industry, supported and endorsed by the various packaging and retail streams and retailers) takes place from 14 to 20 September.</p> <p>At its core, ocean trash is a people problem – perpetuated by the often unwitting practices that industry and people have adopted over time. It affects human health and safety, endangers marine wildlife and costs states and nations countless millions in wasted resources and lost revenue.</p> <p>About 75% of ocean litter is derived from land-based waste so by doing your bit by cleaning-up and recycling, much of this can be averted.</p> <p>..... So do your bit!</p> 


Sunday	20	<p>You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose, I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.</p> <p>You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.</p> <p>You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.</p> <p>Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only in those who make it easy to do so.</p> <p>Lord, forgive me, renew me, heal me, nurture me, empower me, send me out as an instrument of your peace and justice that I might take seriously the meaning of servant-leadership. Amen.</p> <p>Joe Seramane, <i>Christian Aid Lifelines, South Africa</i> <i>(Taken from Jubilee for the Earth 2020)</i></p>
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Prayer for the week in a time of coronavirus

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

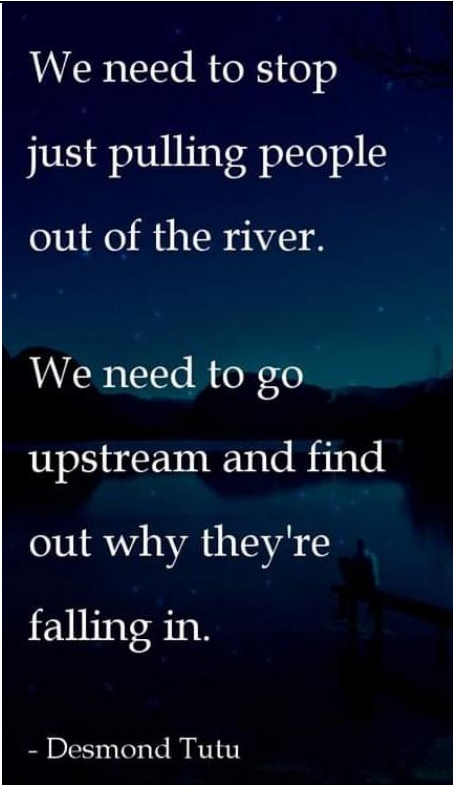
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Monday	21	<p>International Peace Day</p> <p>2020 Theme: Shaping Peace Together</p> <p>Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.</p> <p>This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere.</p> <p>"Peace is not merely the absence of war. Nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies. Nor is it brought about by dictatorship. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called 'an enterprise of justice' (Is. 32:7). Peace results from that harmony built into human society by its divine founder, and actualized by people as they thirst after ever greater justice."</p>	
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	<p>Examination of Conscience</p> <p>Let us reflect in our hearts our role in causing division and brokenness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I recognize the dignity of all people? • Do I allow God to speak to me through the lives of the impoverished and marginalized? • Do I strive to remove barriers between people? • Do I play my part in creating a fair and just global society? • Do I challenge unjust systems and structures? • Do I use the earth’s resources wisely? • Do I allow society to degrade and dehumanize people? • Do I speak out when others are fearful, oppressed or treated unfairly? • Do I work to influence my country’s foreign and domestic policies? • Do I work for peace not only in my community or country, but throughout the world? <p><i>O God, on this day, the International Day of Peace, we remember that war and violence continue to maim, kill and destroy. Hundreds of thousands of human beings look at their sisters and brothers over the barrels of guns, cannons and missiles. Help us to hear your voice that counsels forgiveness, compassion, patience and dialogue. Help us to “thirst after ever greater justice,” so that we might contribute to a peaceful world. Help us to act on behalf of peace, not only today, but all of the days of our life.</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>22</p> <p>World Rhino Day</p> <p>Some good news is that April 2020 saw a marked decrease in rhino poaching countrywide during the COVID-19 lockdown. This could be attributed to the reduction in rhino poaching activities to the disruption of the supply chain resulting from the national travel restrictions and border closing.</p> <p>Poaching incursions in the Kruger National Park all emanated from Mozambique, where there appears to be a general perception amongst the poaching groups that KNP Rangers were all on “lock down” and not at work.</p> <p>A number of arrests have also been made across the country as anti-poaching work is recognised as an essential service and teams are fully operational. Many key rhino areas now employ K9 Units supported by rapid reaction through air support and improved mobility which have increased the effectiveness of rhino protection.</p> <p>However, this is not the time for complacency - there is a fear that this is the calm before the storm and spikes in poaching due to pandemic poverty continues to become more evident in many communities. Rhinos are a particular concern, with their horns fetching high prices on the Asian black market. Anti-poaching teams will need to be active and extremely vigilant going forward. In order to do this, we need to support them as much as we can ... in moral support and lots of prayer. If you are considering a donation – ensure that the organisation is authentic and ethical. .</p> 

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>The Butterfly Song (If I Were a Butterfly)</p> <p>If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me wings. And if I were a robin in a tree, I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing. And if I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail, and I'd giggle with glee, But I'd just thank you, Father, for making me Me!</p> <p><i>'Cause you gave me a heart, And you gave me a smile You gave me Jesus, And you made me your child. And I just thank you, Father, for making me Me!</i></p> <p>If I were an elephant, I'd thank you, Lord, by raising my trunk. And if I were a kangaroo, I'd just hop right up to you. And if I were an octopus, I'd thank you, Lord, for my good looks. But I'd thank you, Father, for making me Me!</p> <p><i>'Cause you gave me a heart, And you gave me a smile You gave me Jesus, And you made me your child. And I just thank you, Father, for making me Me!</i></p> <p>Psalty & Ernie Rettino</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Heritage Day is far more than just a public holiday. It's a day where all South Africans can celebrate their unique cultures as well as their underlying unity. As diverse as our cultures and backgrounds may be, Heritage Day is all about bringing the entire nation together.</p> <p>Heritage Day is also about celebrating South Africa's natural heritage which is made up of World Heritage Sites as well as its spectacular mountains, wildlife including the 'Big Five', plants, birds and all the natural wonders of our country.</p> <p>As we to learn about own heritage of language and culture, we can move into the future by understanding and respecting the natural beauty of this great land.</p>



<p>Friday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p><i>“We praise you, Lord, for those who pardon for love of you, who bear sickness and trial.”</i></p> <p>Creator God, open our hearts to the sufferings of the landless poor who endure violence and threat. Forgive us for the sin of indifference. St Francis, you were jailed and beaten, brother to the outcast. May your compassion be our guide.</p> <p><i>“Blessed are those who endure in peace, by you Most High, they will be crowned.”</i></p> <p>Creator God, we give you thanks for those who work for peace and dignity for all your children. Brother Francis, you came to heal, not harm the world. You showed us how to live as one.</p> <p><i>“Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, all praise is yours, all glory, honour and blessings. To you alone, Most High, do they belong.”</i></p> <p>Creator God we praise your world and look with awe on all that is. May we commit to heal the earth and share your gifts in faith and trust. Brother Francis, in purity of heart you gazed upon the world with love. We ask you joyfully to intercede for us, As guardians of our common home.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>26</p>	 <p>We need to stop just pulling people out of the river.</p> <p>We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in.</p> <p>- Desmond Tutu</p>

Sunday

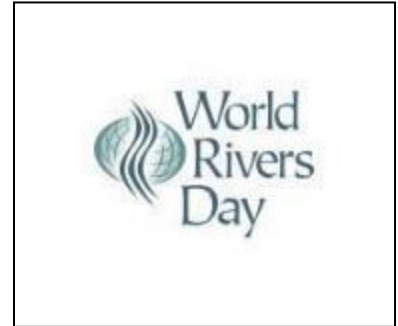
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World Rivers Day

“Rivers are the arteries of our planet; they are lifelines in the truest sense.”

~ Mark Angelo

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world.



Sadly, rivers, just like the oceans and beaches, are heavily polluted. We live in a society where throwing things “away” is the norm. Interestingly enough, few of us know where “away” is. If it is organic, hopefully it will biodegrade. If what you have thrown away isn’t biodegradable, it sits in landfill for however long it takes to break into smaller and smaller pieces but it doesn’t go away. Or, it escapes landfill and ends up in the environment, be it a river, the ocean, your favourite park, game reserve or your backyard.

Perhaps you might think that you are not connected to the ocean if you live inland, but you are. You are connected to the ocean through your rubbish. What you do on land, no matter where you are, affects the ocean.



Rivers are the lifeblood of our planet.
Keep them clean

Prayer

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rivers, the streams and waterways of Earth. Help us empathise with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the vibrant world of the rivers. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and restores all things in creation. Amen.


Prayer for the week in a time of coronavirus

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

www.cafod.org.uk

<p>Monday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>A little girl walked to and from school daily.</p> <p>Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school.</p> <p>As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she feared the electrical storm might harm her child.</p> <p>Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile.</p> <p>Another and another flash of lighting followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.</p> <p>When the mother's car drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called to her, 'What are you doing?'</p> <p>The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."</p> <p><i>Author Unknown</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."</p> <p>Mahatma Gandhi</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>30</p>	 <p>AN ANCIENT CELTIC PRAYER FOR PEACE AND SLEEP</p> <p>May the peace of the tallest mountain and the peace of the smallest stone be your peace. May the stillness of the stars watch over you. May the ever-lasting music of the wave lull you to rest.</p> <p>AN ANCIENT CELTIC PRAYER FOR PEACE AND SLEEP</p>

