



JAEI

March 2021 Environmental Prayer Diary

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


Covid-19 Pandemic Daily noon-time prayer



God bless the world,
Give it wisdom at this time,
Grant us relief and release,
Be with those who are ill,
And bless the carers fighting this pandemic,
For Jesus Christ's sake,
Amen

“Behind the mask”

Behind the mask is a patient in fear, unsure what will happen after being brought here.
Behind the mask is someone special who, was born for this moment to take care of you.
Behind the mask is someone's son or daughter, guiding you through these uncharted waters.
Behind the mask, someone comes to you in prayer, full of mission and faith, guiding your care.
Behind the mask, someone is leading the way, planning and supporting the staff through the day.
Behind the mask someone silently prepares, clean rooms, or meals, even meds for your care.
Behind the mask someone can come where you live, bringing care, meds or equipment, more passion to give.
Behind the mask, there is one ministry for all, no role is too big, no position too small.
Behind the mask, is our promise to you, we answered the call, it's what we were all meant to do.

Donna, Mercy Health manager from Lima, OH

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| Monday | 1 |  |
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| <p>Tuesday</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>“The interplay between farmers and the elements was a poem without words, the echo which would always return to him. The air could hold the "breeze of the rain" or the "wind of warmth" to the discerning nose. The stone carved its memory deep into the hands that chiselled it. Fire was life in the hearth which was the centre of home. Water introduced itself to us from its most natural source in streams and wells.”</p> <p>John O'Donohue <i>Priest, Author & Irish Poet</i></p>  |
| <p>Wednesday</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>World Wildlife Day</p> <p>On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 3 March, the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world’s wild animals and plants. The UNGA resolution also designated the CITES Secretariat as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the UN calendar.</p> <p>CITES is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Widespread information nowadays about the endangered status of many prominent species, such as the tiger and elephants, might make the need for such a convention seem obvious. But at the time when the ideas for CITES were first formed, in the 1960s, international discussion of the regulation of wildlife trade for conservation purposes was something relatively new. With hindsight, the need for CITES is clear. Annually, international wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars and to include hundreds of millions of plant and animal specimens. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber, tourist curios and medicines. Levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade in them, together with other factors, such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and even bringing some species close to extinction. Many wildlife species in trade are not endangered, but the existence of an agreement to ensure the sustainability of the trade is important in order to safeguard these resources for the future.</p> <p><i>Pray for the international community to uphold this agreement and implement it with integrity and wisdom.</i></p>  |

Thursday

4

Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship

A “throwaway” world

18. Some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence. Ultimately, “persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled, ‘not yet useful’ – like the unborn, or ‘no longer needed’ – like the elderly. We have grown indifferent to all kinds of wastefulness, starting with the waste of food, which is deplorable in the extreme”.^[13]



19. A decline in the birth-rate, which leads to the aging of the population, together with the relegation of the elderly to a sad and lonely existence, is a subtle way of stating that it is all about us, that our individual concerns are the only thing that matters. In this way, “what is thrown away are not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves”.^[14] We have seen what happened with the elderly in certain places in our world as a result of the coronavirus. They did not have to die that way. Yet something similar had long been occurring during heat waves and in other situations: older people found themselves cruelly abandoned. We fail to realize that, by isolating the elderly and leaving them in the care of others without the closeness and concern of family members, we disfigure and impoverish the family itself. We also end up depriving young people of a necessary connection to their roots and a wisdom that the young cannot achieve on their own.

20. This way of discarding others can take a variety of forms, such as an obsession with reducing labour costs with no concern for its grave consequences, since the unemployment that it directly generates leads to the expansion of poverty.^[15] In addition, a readiness to discard others finds expression in vicious attitudes that we thought long past, such as racism, which retreats underground only to keep re-emerging. Instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think.

21. Some economic rules have proved effective for growth, but not for integral human development.^[16] Wealth has increased, but together with inequality, with the result that “new forms of poverty are emerging”.^[17] The claim that the modern world has reduced poverty is made by measuring poverty with criteria from the past that do not correspond to present-day realities. In other times, for example, lack of access to electric energy was not considered a sign of poverty, nor was it a source of hardship. Poverty must always be understood and gauged in the context of the actual opportunities available in each concrete historical period.

Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country


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| <p>Friday</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>Pray for clean water for the thirsty.</p> <p>An estimated 844 million people around the world don't have access to clean water. Clean water helps free children from deadly, preventable diseases. It liberates women and children from long hours spent gathering dirty, contaminated water. Clean water restores health and opens the door to education, better livelihoods, a promising future, and the kind of life God intends for His children.</p> <p><i>Loving God, we ask for Your blessings on children, mothers, fathers, and communities who are thirsty. Purify, protect, and multiply their water sources. Strengthen their resolve so they may fully enjoy the benefits of clean water - essentials like education, gardens of fresh produce, and good health.</i></p> <p>"Come, all you who are thirsty. ..." - Isaiah 55:1 (NIV)</p> <p>https://www.worldvision.org/clean-water-news-stories/pray-thirsty-clean-water</p> |
| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>I Believe</p> <p>I believe for every drop of rain that falls A flower grows I believe that somewhere in the darkest night A candle glows I believe for everyone that goes astray Someone will come to show the way I believe I believe I believe above the storm the smallest prayer Will still be heard I believe that someone in the great somewhere Hears every word Every time I hear a new born baby cry Or touch a leaf Or see the sky Then I know why I believe Every time I hear a new-born baby cry Or touch a leaf Or see the sky Then I know why I believe (Why I believe)</p> <p>Writer/s: Dwayne Chin-Quee, Michael Franti, Jacob Hemphill, David Bell Publisher: Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Universal Music Publishing Group, Memory Lane Music Group (Domestic)</p> |

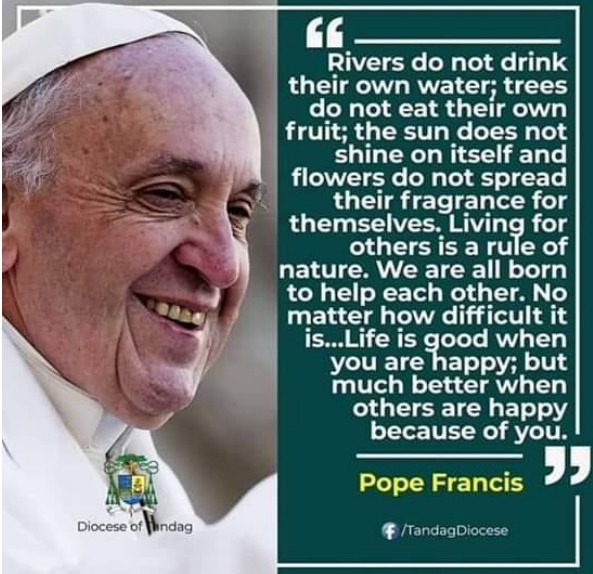


Children watch as World Vision staff manually drill a well in Ethiopia. (©2013 World Vision/photo by Jon Warren)



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| <p>Sunday</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>The Lord's Prayer (<i>Re-read</i>)</p> <p>Our God, father and mother, from, through and to whom all lives flow, Your name is holy for you water every creature with life. May the 'waters rolling in justice' come down among us and dwell as in your presence. Give us water sufficient for our living, and help us to share water and other resources with those who are dying of thirst. Forgive us our insincerity, insensitivity and irresponsibility in saving and preserving water, and for our abuse of creation. And teach us to forgive one another. Lead us not into the temptation of accumulation, greed and power over water, and deliver us from avaricious lifestyles. For your word is like water cleansing us from evil, your reign is righteousness flowing like an ever-flowing stream dismantling the powers and principalities from generation to generation, from history to history, for ever and ever. Amen</p> <p>https://www.oikoumene.org/resources</p> |
| <p>Monday</p> | <p>8</p> | <p>Isaiah 49:8-13 (<i>The Message</i>)</p> <p>⁸⁻¹³ GOD also says: "When the time's ripe, I answer you. When victory's due, I help you. I form you and use you to reconnect the people with me, To put the land in order, to resettle families on the ruined properties. I tell prisoners, 'Come on out. You're free! and those huddled in fear, 'It's all right. It's safe now.' There'll be food stands along all the roads, picnics on all the hills— Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs. I'll make all my mountains into roads, turn them into a superhighway. Look: These coming from far countries, and those, out of the north, These streaming in from the west, and those from all the way down the Nile!"</p> <p>¹³ Heavens, raise the roof! Earth, wake the dead! Mountains, send up cheers! GOD has comforted his people. He has tenderly nursed his beaten-up, beaten-down people.</p> |

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| Tuesday | 9 | <p>“Rivers of living water are to be poured out over the whole world, to ensure that people, like fishes caught in a net, can be restored to wholeness. “</p> <p>Hildegard of Bingen</p> |
| Wednesday | 10 | <p>God of love, you gave us this universe filled with your gifts. Help us to reverence all of your Creation, respecting the rights of all species, and the integrity of the elements, so that all Creation may live with you for all eternity.</p> <p>Amen</p> |
| Thursday | 11 | <p>Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all</p>  <p>Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in. There is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. But due to bad economics or poor infrastructure, every year millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene.</p> <p>Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts some of the world’s poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition.</p> <p>By 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of fresh water.</p> <p>Facts & Figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.6 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water sources since 1990, but 663 million people are still without • At least 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is faecally contaminated • Between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of the global population using an improved drinking water source has increased from 76 per cent to 91 per cent • But water scarcity affects more than 40 per cent of the global population and is projected to rise. Over 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water use exceeds recharge • 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines • More than 80 per cent of wastewater resulting from human activities is discharged into rivers or sea without any pollution removal • Each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrhoeal diseases • Hydropower is the most important and widely-used renewable source of energy and as of 2011, represented 16 per cent of total electricity production worldwide • Approximately 70 per cent of all water abstracted from rivers, lakes and aquifers is used for irrigation • Floods and other water-related disasters account for 70 per cent of all deaths related to natural disasters <p>Goal 6 Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations • By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally • By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity • By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate • By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes • By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies • Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management <p>Efforts to reach this target are woefully behind. Prayerfully consider this topic and how you are able to contribute to the positive outcome of this Goal.</p> |
| <p>Friday</p> | <p>12</p> |  |
| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>Lord of all the earth Your words gave life to the plants in the field and the creatures of land and sea: As we reflect on our need of water for life and health Make us mindful of all living things, And their dependence on the same water Through Jesus Christ our Lord Who lives and reigns with you One God now and forever. Amen</p> |

Sunday

14

International Day of Action for Rivers

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of our rivers, strives to increase public awareness, and encourages the improved stewardship of all rivers around the world. Rivers in virtually every country face an array of threats, and only through our active involvement can we ensure their health in the years ahead.



South Africa's rivers are dying! A quarter of South Africa's major rivers are 'critically endangered'.

Unabated pollution and excessive water extraction is typical of the assaults on major rivers across South Africa, more than half of which are in bad condition.

Rivers feed dams and 29 of 100 major dams have a 'red' health risk from either high nutrient levels or algae-like organisms called blue-greens, some of which produce toxins dangerous to humans.

The water supply is put at risk by taking too much water out of rivers during a drought, aggravating pollution, as there is insufficient rain for the natural dilution to take place.


So many of South African rivers severely affected by pollution. In Gauteng, the Jukskei (sewage, industrial and urban runoff), the Apies, Hennops and Rietspruit are particularly polluted.




What can we do?

If we want to help keep our waters clean, there are many things we can do to help. We can prevent water pollution of nearby rivers and lakes as well as groundwater and drinking water by following some simple guidelines in your everyday life.

- Conserve water by turning off the tap when running water is not necessary. This helps prevent water shortages and reduces the amount of contaminated water that needs treatment.
- Be careful about what you throw down your sink or toilet. Don't throw paints, oils or other forms of litter down the drain. Use environmentally household products, such as washing powder, household cleaning agents and toiletries.
- Take great care not to overuse pesticides and fertilisers. This will prevent runoffs of the material into nearby water sources.
- By having more plants in your garden you are preventing fertiliser, pesticides and contaminated water from running off into nearby water sources.
- Don't throw litter into rivers, lakes or oceans. Help clean up any litter you see on beaches or in rivers and lakes, make sure it is safe to collect the litter and put it in a nearby dustbin.

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| <p>Monday</p> | <p>15</p> <p>National Water Week (15-21 March) & World Day for Water – 22 March</p> <p>World Water Day 2021 theme: “Valuing Water”</p> <p><i>Water</i> is that colourless and odourless substance found all over Earth. <i>Water</i> is made up of billions of molecules. <i>Water</i> on our planet flows as liquid in rivers, streams, and oceans; is solid as ice at the North and South Poles; and is gas (vapor) in the atmosphere. <i>Water</i> is also underground and inside plants and animals. and water is LIFE! Every living creature needs water survive ...</p>  <p>But too often we take water for granted. As a result, we waste it, pollute it, or ignore its destructive power. The opposite of taking water for granted is to value it, in all its dimensions.</p> <p>Valuing water is a cornerstone for better water management, preventing conflicts over water allocation and facilitating more sustainable service delivery by ecosystems and infrastructures. Valuing water means identifying and taking into account the multiple and diverse values of water to different groups in all decisions affecting water, not overlooking e.g. the social and ecological values of water or the economic value to vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The subject of valuing water is highly controversial; thus its discussion must account for people’s cultural traditions and world perception as well as economic considerations of full-cost recovery.</p> <p>The most important role of water valuation is in demand management and better allocation among its various uses. Improved water resource management requires decisions based on economic efficiency, social equity, and ecological sustainability. Ultimately the value of water does not depend solely on its quantity but on at least four other factors – quality, location, reliability of access, and time of availability.</p> <p>Because of water’s unique characteristics and socio-cultural importance, attempts to monetarily value water services is both difficult and, according to some, altogether inappropriate. Nevertheless, economic valuation – the process of attaching a monetary metric to water services – is an increasingly important tool for policy-makers and planners faced with difficult decisions regarding the allocation and development of freshwater resources. Understanding the value of water is essential if this ever scarcer resource is to be more effectively and efficiently utilized to meet societal needs.</p> <p>In previous decades in South Africa, there was a lot of investment in engineered water infrastructure. However, water issues can no longer be solved by building more dams or canals. We need to rehabilitate and maintain the natural areas which are the sources of water for our cities and farms, and we need to rethink how we use water.</p> <p>Vast numbers of critical wetlands, rivers and aquifers – nature’s water storage and filtering powerhouses – have been drained, dammed and polluted thus diminishing the function of these natural systems to provide us with clean water.</p> <p>We urgently need to act on the fact that half of our country’s river flow is provided by a tiny 10% of land area. Yet, most of this land is not protected. These strategic water source areas – the mountain catchments that yield our major rivers – are also critical for food production and the sustenance of many people downstream.</p> <p><i>What will your action be?</i></p> |
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| <p>Tuesday</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>Clouds, oceans, seas, rivers, lakes and waterfalls are your sacred gifts of life and beauty to us, O God; teach us how to use and preserve the waters of our planet.</p> <p>Creator God, hear us we pray, Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</p> <p>Rain down your Spirit upon the waters of our earth; and upon those responsible for decisions concerning their purity and availability.</p> <p>Creator God, hear us we pray, Give us your love for the whole of creation.</p> <p>Nourishing God, may all the peoples and creatures of this earth have the water they need to live their lives fully. Help us to solve the problems of drought, flooding, sanitation and disease so that all may share in the banquet and none be in want.</p> <p>Creator God, hear us we pray, Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</p> <p>Creator God, you are the source of living water. We confess our inadequate ways of dealing with the world's water. Free us from our misuse and waste of this precious gift, and forgive us.</p> <p>Creator God, hear us we pray, Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</p> <p>Creator God, your Son Jesus made this planet His home. Enlighten your people to discover creative ways to provide enough clean water for all peoples and all that lives and grows.</p> <p>Creator God, hear us we pray, Give us your love for the whole of creation.</p> <p>www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime</p> |
| <p>Wednesday</p> | <p>17</p> |  |

Thursday

18

Global Recycling Day

Every year, the Earth yields billions of tons of natural resources and at some point, in the not too distant future, it will run out.

That's why we must think again about what we throw away – seeing not waste, but opportunity.

The last decade has been the hottest on record, and we are now facing a climate emergency of unparalleled proportions. If we don't make significant and rapid changes, we will see continued rising global temperatures, the melting of icecaps, continents on fire and rapid deforestation.

This directly affects humanity with increased poverty, immigration from displaced communities, job losses, waste mountains and natural habitats

disappearing. We have the power to make lasting changes to combat this, and with recycling being recognized in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda, we are already seeing many individuals, governments and organisations taking direct action to support the global green agenda.

Recycling is a key part of the circular economy, helping to protect our natural resources. Each year the 'Seventh Resource' (recyclables) saves over 700 million tonnes in CO₂ emissions and this is projected to increase to 1 billion tons by 2030. There is no doubt recycling is on the front line in the war to save the future of our planet and humanity.

[The African Reclaimers Organisation](#) - the informal recyclers who work in streets and landfills - are doing an incredible service to us all. The Reclaimers are responsible for collecting over 90% of all materials that are recycled in South Africa.

[African Reclaimers Organisation](#) was formed by Luyanda Hlatshwayo after reclaimers demanded to be included in the waste management system.

Everyone can assist the Reclaimers by chatting to these people and asking them what items they collect. Separate these items (make sure the items are clean as the Reclaimers earn far more for this) and leave these bags to be collected by them.

For more information, contact Luyanda - luyandahlathwayo@gmail.com – or leave a message for him on their [FaceBook page](https://www.facebook.com/africanreclaimers/) - <https://www.facebook.com/africanreclaimers/>



Friday

19

The God Particle

Rick Hocker, a friend and author of the delightful allegory Four in the Garden, recently shared this reflection with me. I hope it will give you a taste of the “unknowing” experience I am trying to describe.



And even for those who seek, God often seems to be elusive. Why? Perhaps it is because God is closer than we can objectively or outwardly see.

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16). This same God who dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16) chooses to dwell inside creation.

Let’s consider a drop of water as a metaphor for God’s indwelling presence. Waterdrops in the atmosphere are created when water vapor condenses on tiny particles of dust. At the centre of every waterdrop is a particle. Similarly, every soul is wrapped around a particle of God, but this particle, although small, is boundless since the infinite God isn’t confined. God is found at your innermost centre . . . and beyond.



It’s not just that God dwells inside you, but God is at the centre of your spiritual makeup, an integral and enduring part of who you are. God is not added to you, but you are added to God. God is the foundation onto which your soul is built. Everyone you meet is also a God-particle wrapped in a soul.




Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582) describes the soul as a castle with a series of mansions through which we journey. She wrote that God’s mansion “is the centre of the soul itself.” If we were to plunge into our innermost centre, we would find God. The practice of contemplation or “centring” ourselves is, in essence, reconnecting with God as our centre.



So how do we encounter God when God is found at our centre? First, we must believe that our connection to God already exists. Our belief in connection creates connection from our side (we can never *not* be connected to God). Second, we quiet our minds and peer inward with our heart’s eyes, placing our consciousness at our innermost centre as best we can. This inward gazing is like diving into a well, but the well is full of debris. When we encounter debris, we lay hold of it, bring it to the surface, and deal with it courageously. Otherwise, it will block our way. We find God by peeling away ourselves. God is hidden treasure (Matthew 13:44) buried in the centre of our souls, and we can find God when we tear away the onion-skin layers of self.

If we persevere in clearing this well of its clutter, we’ll discover that the water of this inner well - the water in which we’re swimming - is God. We’ll find ourselves floating in God, encompassed by love. In a wonderful reversal, soul is now wrapped in God, and God moves to the outside as described in John 7:37: From our “innermost being will flow rivers of living water,” which is God’s self spilling out into our life and into the lives of those we touch.

From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations
www.cac.org

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| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>World Meatout Day</p> <p>Whether we like it or not, Climate Change is here and it is here to stay! Just how much the climate will in fact change largely depends on Planet Earth’s population in mitigating its effects. Planet Earths’ population? ... well, that includes YOU!</p> <p>The global livestock industry produces a lot of greenhouse gas and as the scale and impacts of climate change become increasingly alarming, meat is a popular target for action. While the jury is still out on the extent to which meat production is having a negative effect – the fact is that a huge population of cows produces a huge amount of methane gas (simple maths!)! ... and methane is undeniably worse than carbon dioxide when it comes to affecting the climate ... there is just not as much methane in the atmosphere, otherwise we would already be in a far more serious predicament!</p> <p>Giving up meat won’t save the climate (or the planet), but we know that “<i>every bit helps</i>” and by at least cutting down on meat consumption we can certainly do our little bit towards the mitigation of Climate Change and eat well while doing so! Our pockets will also thank us as meat is not cheap, so veges are a good alternative!</p> <p>World Meatout Day highlights the impact that the livestock industry has on the planet.</p> <p><i>Make a pledge to join “Meatless Monday” – or at least have a totally vegetarian meal once a week</i></p> |  |
| <p>Sunday</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>International Day of Forests and Trees</p> <p>The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. The theme for each International Day of Forests is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The theme for 2021 is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being"</p> <p>Where trees breathe New life is born Where each branch reaches out to me I know myself held in the arms of purest generosity Where the leaves fall I am blessed with a giving back that nourishes the roots of my soul For the trees reflect who and how I can be Standing tall, true, honest and undeniably me Unafraid to love, to give, to share and to bend So I bless the forests As I learn from them</p> <p><i>Clare Dubois</i></p> |  |

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| <p>Monday</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>“We take for granted the slow miracle whereby water in the irrigation of a vineyard becomes wine. It is only when Christ turns water into wine, in a quick motion, as it were, that we stand amazed.”</p> <p>Saint Augustine of Hippo</p> |  |
| <p>Tuesday</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>World Meteorological Day</p> <p>2021 Theme: “The Ocean, Our Climate and Weather” in conjunction with the launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development</p> <p>World Meteorological Day takes place every year on 23 March, commemorating the date in 1950 when the Convention establishing the World Meteorological Organisation came into force. It showcases the essential contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to the safety and wellbeing of society and is celebrated with activities around the world. The themes chosen for World Meteorological Day reflect topical weather, climate or water-related issues.</p> |  |
| <p>Wednesday</p> | <p>24</p> |  | |
| <p>Thursday</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>Dearest God, You have given us the life-sustaining gift of water and placed upon us the responsibility for protecting it. Lord, awaken the conscience of our lawmakers so that they fulfil their duty of care for the blessed waters of our land. Strengthen them to withstand the temptations and pressures of those who seek to dissuade them from pursuing the public good. Empower them to understand what science teaches about the threats facing the waters of life and to act accordingly. In all these things, make the priority for us all the preservation of clean water, for the sake of life. Amen</p> <p>Rev. Fletcher Harper, <i>GreenFaith</i></p> | |

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| <p>Friday</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”</p> <p><i>Mother Teresa</i></p> |
| <p>Saturday</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>Earth Hour</p> <p>Saturday, 27 March – 20:30-21:30</p> <p>Millions of people around the world join together in turning off their lights for an hour to show their steadfast commitment to protecting nature. Together around the world we speak up for wildlife and forests, rivers and oceans ... for our environment – our lifeline. We need to continue to rally around crucial actions needed to curb climate change and protect all life as we know it.</p> <p>Join with the millions of people who have committed to celebrate Earth Hour 2021.</p> <p>Go dark for more than just the climate...</p>  |
| <p>Sunday</p> | <p>28</p> |  |
| <p>Monday</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>Holy Week</p> <p>God of love, My prayer is simple: Your son, Jesus, suffered and died for me. I know only that I cannot have real strength unless I rely on you. I cannot feel protected from my many weaknesses until I turn to you for forgiveness and your unalterable love. Help me to share this strength, protection and love with others.</p> |

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| <p>Tuesday</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>Holy Week</p> <p>God of such unwavering love, how do I "celebrate" the passion and death of Jesus? I often want to look the other way and not watch, not stay with Jesus in his suffering. Give me the strength to see his love with honesty and compassion and to feel deeply your own forgiveness and mercy for me. Help me to understand how to "celebrate" this week. I want be able to bring my weaknesses and imperfections with me as I journey with Jesus this week, so aware of his love.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday</p> | <p>31</p> | <p>Holy Week</p> <p>My Saviour, do you invite me to share in the glory of the resurrection? Please stay with me as I struggle to see how accepting the crosses of my life will free me from the power of the one who wants only to destroy my love and trust in you. Help me to be humble and accepting like your son, Jesus. I want to turn to you with the same trust he had in your love. Save me, Lord. Only you can save me.</p> |

