



JAEI

November 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

Merciful God,
you see that the whole world is shaken
and saddened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this time when all of creation is under
great pain,
we claim your living words and ask for
your mercy towards the whole of humanity.
Keep us under your arms and surround us
in your warmth.
Protect each of us
from the crisis
we are dealing with
every day.
You are our listening God.
You are our providing God.

Merciful God,
at this time it is very difficult for us
to see light in the midst of the pandemic.
All we see is darkness around us.
Our hopes are shaken and scattered with so much misery.

But Oh Lord,
we trust you and we believe in your mighty name.
Help us to see Light in YOU!
Help us to build Hope in YOU!
Help us to make Peace in YOU!
With all our hearts, we ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen!


Nirmala Gurung, Nepal



 World Council
of Churches




#PrayTogether #StaySafeTogether

<p>Monday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow 31 October – 12 November 2021.</p> <p>COP26 Goals</p> <p>1. <i>Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach</i></p> <p>Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century.</p> <p>To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accelerate the phase-out of coal • curtail deforestation • speed up the switch to electric vehicles • encourage investment in renewables. <p>2. <i>Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats</i></p> <p>The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects.</p> <p>At COP26 Delegates need to work together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and restore ecosystems • build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives <p>3. <i>Mobilise finance</i></p> <p>To deliver on the first two goals, developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year by 2020.</p> <p>International financial institutions must play their part and work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero.</p> <p>4. <i>Work together to deliver</i></p> <p>The challenges of the climate crisis will only be achieved by working together.</p> <p>At COP26, Delegates must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finalise the Paris Rulebook (the detailed rules that make the Paris Agreement operational) • accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society. <p>Prayer:</p> <p>Gracious God, Creator of All, we raise our hearts in grateful praise for all the beauty that surrounds us. May we learn to respect all as a sacred gift and do what we can to repair the damage we have caused through our consumerism, greed, and carelessness. Grant us an ecological conversion so that we can leave our next generation with a future full of hope where there is enough for all.</p> <p>We pray that the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow will be a bring positive change for a climate change policy and that all leaders will acknowledge that our present treatment of earth, our home, is abusive.</p>
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		<p>We pray that our leaders will have the courage to take immediate action on the issue of climate change for the sake of all life.</p> <p>We pray in gratitude for the gift of God's creation and ask that we may learn to walk softly on this Earth. We pray that all will have an attitude of wonder and awe as we learn the history of our Universe and see the mystery and beauty of creation.</p> <p>We pray for all those who are victims of climate change and we ask that we who are responsible for this suffering may make choices which are life-giving for all.</p> <p>We pray in gratitude for all those who bring awareness of the suffering planet, acknowledge that all creation is sacred, and work to bring about a change in our attitude towards Earth, our Common Home.</p> <p>We pray that all faith communities will have a prophetic voice, raise the moral issue of climate change, and inspire each of us to reverence and care for all of creation.</p> <p>We pray for all creatures with whom we share the Earth that they will continue to be a presence among us. We pray that we may end our dependence on gas and oil and transition to a green economy.</p> <p>God of All Life, we give thanks for Earth, our Common Home, and ask forgiveness for all the unreasonable demands we have made on it. Our Earth, its many peoples, its oceans, wildlife and ecosystems are struggling to survive. Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life which is not centred on ourselves, but on all you have created. We ask this in Jesus' name.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><i>Pray for the delegates and attendees of COP26</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South African Delegation • Heads of state • Negotiators from each country • Governments' environment ministers • The World Bank and other financiers • COP26 President, Alok Sharma MP <div data-bbox="1246 1115 1461 1305" style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p><i>Pray for decision-making</i></p> <p>Thousands of people will be attending this crucial meeting. Each country will have a set of negotiators who will negotiate on their countries' behalf. Sadly, in the past few years, some negotiators have tried to curtail ambition on climate action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United decision-making and clear communication between country negotiators • Boldness for leaders: that they will be ambitious in making decisions that will secure a safer world for all • Wisdom and guidance for heads of state and government ministers as they bring their nation's priorities to the table; and that the voices of those most affected by climate change will be amplified and brought to their attention

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><i>Pray for debt cancellation.</i></p> <p>Debt cancellation is a fundamental act of climate justice. By cancelling poorer countries' debts, it will allow them to spend more money on their health care systems, rebuild from the pandemic, and equip themselves to adapt to the changing climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For breakthrough in debt cancellation and generous decision-making • That individuals and teams who are fighting on behalf of poorer countries will have influence and power in decision-making meetings • For wealthier, influential nations to make decisions that will benefit, not hinder, countries struggling with debt. <p><i>Pray for action to keep global warming at a safer level</i></p> <p>The world is rapidly warming due to increasing carbon emissions from human activities. As global temperatures rise, droughts, floods, fires, and storms are becoming more frequent and more extreme. The rains that millions of people rely on for their farms become less reliable. Climate change affects us all -- but it's hitting people living in poverty globally first and hardest. This is an issue of justice; the poorest 3.5 billion people are responsible for just ten percent of emissions and yet they already face the most devastating impacts of the climate crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For COP26 leaders to be bold, ambitious and confident in making decisions that will get the world on track for the safer level of 1.5 degrees of warming • Protection and resources so communities already struggling because of the impact of climate change can adapt and flourish • For the impact on – and voices of – the world's poorest to be central in all decision-making 
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p><i>Pray for the restoring the damage to creation</i></p> <p>The resources and natural systems that we depend on are starting to collapse. Pandemics, like the COVID-19 crisis, will threaten us more frequently if biodiversity loss is not slowed. It is more urgent than ever to restore the damage that's been done to creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For protection and restoration of eco-systems be included in international commitments and national climate plans • That work will be done with local communities on eco-system protection and restoration projects, so that their voices are heard and they benefit from the restoration of creation • For an increase in awareness of the importance of our earth's resources and positive steps to be taken in preserving these • For global companies and multinationals to be conscious of how to make a positive impact 

		<p>Pray for campaigners around the world who are speaking up for creation.</p> <p>Christians all over the world have been making their voices heard in prayer and advocacy for creation. Some get to do that in places where they have the freedom of expression. For others, opportunities are more restricted because governments are violent and suspicious of churches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the voice of campaigners will be amplified and heard, especially on the issue of climate change • For young people to use their voice to speak up and speak out; and for their influence to make a difference at this crucial time • For freedom for campaigners all over the world as they fight for a better world, and for good relationships with governments that will lead to lasting change 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Pray for the future</p> <p>During the current COVID-19 crisis, many people are beginning to wonder what life might look like afterward. Is this a chance to create a new normal?</p> <p>We have an opportunity at COP26 to address the immediate crisis and look beyond it to transform our society and economy so the whole world – current and future generations – can flourish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For hope and ambition to be at the heart of COP26 rather than worry and uncertainty • For transformation and breakthrough to be achieved at COP26 that will create a positive impact for the future • For world leaders at COP26 to make joint commitments to get us on track for 1.5 <p><i>Acknowledgements to World Evangelical Alliance Sustainability Centre (WEA-SC)</i> https://wea-sc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/COP26-Prayer-points_English.pdf</p> 
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in Armed Conflict and War</p> <p>In 2001 UN General Assembly established the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.</p> <p>Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan stated back in 2014 that <i>"We must use all of the tools at our disposal, from dialogue and mediation to preventive diplomacy, to keep the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources from fuelling and financing armed conflict and destabilising the fragile foundations of</i></p> 

peace." This statement is still relevant today and needs to be kept in mind by the international community.

UNEP has found that over the past 60 years, most internal conflict taking place in various parts of the world can be linked to the exploitation of natural resources. War and conflicts have had an effect not only on the civilian population but has also destroyed the environment; water has been polluted, crops have been torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned and animals have been killed. In the aftermath of these



conflicts, natural resources such as land

require the attention of Governments to restore any environmental damage. Illegal trafficking in minerals, wildlife, timber, charcoal and narcotics is financing illicit activities and supporting armed groups and criminal networks – often providing illicit revenues for insurgents and terrorist groups.

The disposal of weapons is also a critical concern for the environment. The latter is being contaminated by land mines and unexploded devices in many countries. The UN has been especially concerned about the vulnerable situation of women and children, who are the most at risk in this situation.

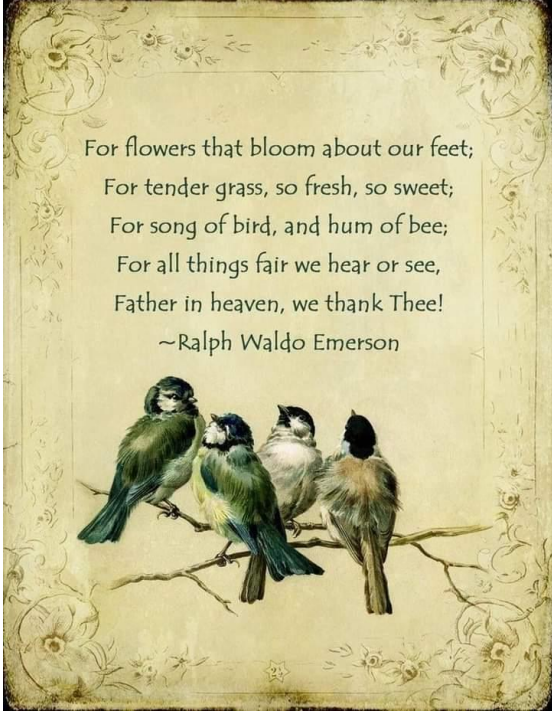
The results of environmental destruction have a negative impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as well as the prospects of post-war recovery. Protecting the environment from the impacts of bombings, landmines and toxic pollution is essential in order to avoid adding another reason for civilian population to migrate.


In September of 2016, an important development for the protection of the environment took place in international criminal law - the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court published a policy paper which signals which environmental crimes need be regarded as priority areas for the court and those to be considered as grave crimes.



Prayer

Lord God,
Remember Christ, your Son, who is peace itself,
and who has washed away our hatred with his blood.
Because you love all men and women,
look with mercy on all who are engaged in battle.
Banish the violence and evil within all combatants
so that one day, we may all deserve to be
called your sons and your daughters.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Author Unknown

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>God of life, Help us to see that your gifts are meant to be shared by all, not just exploited by a few. Lead us to take action to make a change not just for ourselves, but for all creation. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>8</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Jeremiah 18:1-11 At the Potter's House</p> <p>18 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message.” ³So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.</p> <p>⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me. ⁶He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. ⁷If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. ⁹And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, ¹⁰and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.</p> <p>¹¹“Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’”</p>

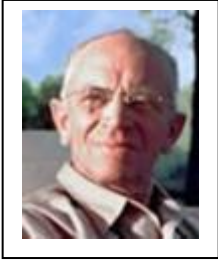


<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>World Science Day for Peace and Development</p> <p>Celebrated annually, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.</p> <p>There is considerable room for improvement in the way the world harnesses science and technology to resolve global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 response will demand better use of science and technology and requires a far more collaborative relationship between scientists and policymakers. The fruits of scientific research, including vaccines, must be shared universally and equitably.</p>  <p>United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) has developed a policy brief with recommendations to address the pandemic recovery and scientific contributions towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recommendations include a call for strengthened use of science in policy, building public trust in science, ensuring “open science,” universal access to solutions, and for faster action in response to scientific findings.</p> <p>According to the brief, scientific assessments on COVID-19 are similar around the world but the time and manner of response vary considerably across countries. There is a need to reassess the functioning of science-policy interface systems, where they exist; and to build them up where they are weak or non-existent, in order to preserve public trust in science and government.</p> <p>Public trust in science is essential for science-based policies to succeed. Where public trust is high, clear and direct, and where misinformation is effectively countered - communications from scientists are likely to be most effective. In the case of COVID-19, people need to trust the scientific guidance if they are to alter their behaviour and lower the rates of transmission.</p> <p>Much of the needed actions will need to come from countries themselves, but international cooperation, supported by the UN system, can facilitate progress in all these areas.</p> <p>Prayer:</p> <p>Lord, we pray for the world of technology and scientific research. You, Lord, have endowed human beings with the ability to search out your laws and have given them the freedom to apply their knowledge as they choose. We ask your blessing on all engaged in scientific research and technology and on those who provide the resources for such work; that choice may be made of projects which both enhance human life and have regard to the safety and well-being of the natural order. May we thus be true stewards of your bounty, to our own inner satisfaction and your greater glory. Amen.</p> <p>David Welbourn</p>
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<p>Thursday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Remembrance Day</p> <p>Poppy Prayers</p> <p>Poppies are an important symbol of peace and remembrance, reflecting the poppies that grew in the midst of destroyed fields following WWI – life growing from destruction. However, remembrance goes further than WWI – so many lives have been lost to wars and uprisings. So as wreathes of poppies are laid at memorials, and poppies are worn for Remembrance Day, our thoughts and prayers are for all who have died in conflict.</p> <p>So, for these prayers, find a poppy – whether a physical paper one, a real poppy flower, or a picture of a poppy, and use this as a visual prompt to focus upon each of the following prayers:</p> <p><i>Red Petals</i> – those who have sacrificed so much in times of conflict. Thank God for the sacrifice of many people who have gone before us. Pray for those who continue to serve and make great sacrifices today.</p> <p><i>Black Centre</i> – to change and soften the hearts of leaders. Pray for leaders around the world whose actions have led to conflict, destruction, violence and death. Pray that God will change their hearts, bring them to know him, and lead them towards a path of peace.</p> <p><i>Green Leaves</i> – hope and new life after conflict. Pray for those who are working for peace and helping countries to recover from the impact of war.</p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>12</p>	


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<p>Saturday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>The Cosmic Christ</p> <p>Amazing is the Christ who died To void all sin and curse, Just as amazing is his life That fills the universe.</p> <p>The risen Christ is more than one Who waits on some far shore; In, with and under ev'ry thing Christ is the living core.</p> <p>The hidden Christ sustains for us The blueprint of the skies, The wisdom in each fragile form, The soul that lights the eyes.</p> <p>The cosmic Christ moves deep below To heal the wounds within, When all creation groans in pain Because of human sin.</p> <p>The cosmos hails the Christ, the One Who reconciles all things, 'Til all creation rises new With healing in her wings.</p> <p>As Christ unites the universe, Restores this Earth once more, A cosmic song reverberates, A rich symphonic score.</p> <p><i>Words: © Norman Habel 2004</i> <i>Melody: Amazing Grace</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Hawaiian Prayer</p> <p>Let us give thanks for the world around us. Thanks for all the creatures, stones and plants Let us learn their lessons and seek their truths, So that their path might be ours, And we might live in harmony, a better life.</p> <p>May the Earth continue to live, May the heavens above continue to live, May the rains continue to dampen the land, May the wet forests continue to grow, Then the flowers shall bloom And we people shall live again.</p>



<p>Monday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>“Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”</p> <p>Aldo Leopold <i>Author, Philosopher, Scientist, Ecologist, Forester, Conservationist and Environmentalist</i></p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>A Buddhist Prayer</p> <p><i>New Mexico IPL uses this as a commitment at each of their Earth Sabbath monthly gatherings</i></p> <p>I vow to myself and to each of you: To commit myself daily to the healing of our world and the welfare of all beings. To live on Earth more lightly and less violently in the food, products, and energy I consume. To draw strength and guidance from the living Earth, the ancestors, the future generations, and my brothers and sisters of all species. To support others in our work for the world and to ask for help when I need it. To pursue a daily practice that clarifies my mind, strengthens my heart, and supports me in observing these vows.</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>“Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women’s empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.”</p> <p>Ban Ki-moon</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>18</p>		

<p>Friday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>World Children’s Day (20 November)</p> <p>World Children's Day offers each of us an inspirational entry-point to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that will build a better world for children.</p> <p>The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in a child rights crisis. The costs of the pandemic for children are immediate and, if unaddressed, may last a lifetime.</p> <p><i>“We do not inherit the earth from our20 November – ancestors; we borrow it from our children”</i> - The children of planet Earth are saying that they’ve been forced to become the adults because the adults of planet Earth are acting like spoiled children. The children are more grown up than the adults because the adults turned into the needy, selfish children. Those wise and beautiful and defiant children are telling us adults to...grow up.</p> <p>It’s time for generations to come together to reimagine the type of world we want to create. On 20 November, kids will reimagine a better world. What will you do?</p> 
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>20</p>	 <p>NATURE CANNOT BE</p> <p>RESTOCKED</p> <p><small>NOT 4 SALE</small></p>

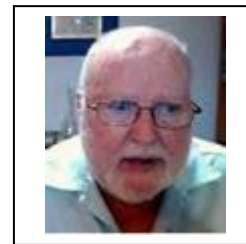
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>World Fisheries Day</p> <p>A recent United Nations study reported that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and global warming.</p>  <p>The World Fisheries Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the life it sustains, both in and out of water. Water forms a continuum, whether contained in rivers, lakes, or ocean.</p> <p>Fish forms an important part of the diets of people around the world, particularly those that live near rivers, coasts and other water bodies. Many traditional societies and communities are centred around the occupation of fishing, and because of this, these settlements, whether small villages or mega cities, are situated in close to water bodies. Besides the importance of water for survival and as a means of transportation, it is also an important source of fish and aquatic protein. But this proximity has also led to severe ocean and coastal pollution from run-off from domestic and industrial activities carried out nearby as well as a depletion of fish stocks in the immediate vicinity, requiring fishermen to fish farther and farther away from their traditional grounds.</p> <p>Overfishing and mechanisation has been a major contributor to this crisis - fish stocks are being depleted by 'factory' vessels, bottom trawling, and other unsustainable fishing methods.</p> <p>Unless we address these issues collectively, the crisis will deepen. The World Fisheries Day helps to highlight these problems and moves towards finding solutions to the increasingly inter-connected problems we are facing, and in the longer term, to sustainable means of maintaining fish stocks.</p> <p>Prayer:</p> <p>O God, Father and Lord of the universe, We praise and bless you for having created man and woman, calling them to collaborate in the work of Creation through their labour. Today, World Fisheries Day, we humbly ask you to bless and protect all those involved in the production, processing, distribution and trade of fish, which contributes to food security, economic growth and poverty reduction. As your children, with all confidence we ask you to stop the physical and verbal abuse and the indiscriminate exploitation of fishermen, which includes countless cases of forced labour, human trafficking and disappearances at sea. Free us from these evils that pollute the beauty of life, sea and work, your precious gifts which must be watched over with great care.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>“We’re running the most dangerous experiment in history right now, which is to see how much carbon dioxide the atmosphere can handle before there is an environmental catastrophe.”</p> <p>Elon Musk</p>

Tuesday

23

Ecology Wisdom - Our Common Planetary Home

In his Laudato Si', Pope Francis impels us to act in response to "the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor." I must admit that I am often discouraged by the minimal efforts most Christians are willing to make to care for the earth, even at this critical juncture. The pandemic has shown our willingness to make sacrifices - at least to some degree - to protect our fellow humans, but we have not shown that same willingness to make even small changes to protect or heal the earth. I hope that will change!



Father Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam, a theologian who has studied and written extensively about Laudato Si', urges us to heed the warnings of both science and our conscience:

Today, our common planetary home is falling into ruin. We are on the brink of an unprecedented global challenge regarding the sustainability of our common home, which places a question mark on the very future of human civilization.

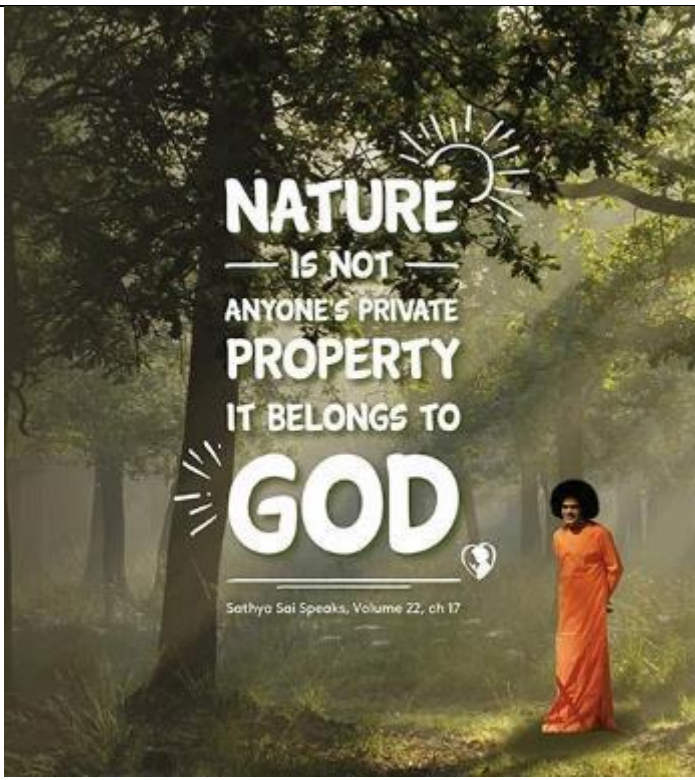


In the second chapter of the Gospel of John, there is a verse that the disciples attribute to Jesus as he drives out money lenders and sellers of sheep and cattle from the temple of Jerusalem: "Zeal for your house will consume me" [John 2:17]. Prior to that verse Jesus tells those who are despoiling the holy place: "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" [John 2:16].

Today, we could, and probably we should, understand this house as our common planetary home. It is this common home which is being despoiled and desecrated today. Significantly, our common home is also God's own house, permeated by the Spirit of God from the dawn of creation, where the Son of God pitched his tent in the supreme event of the incarnation. It is in this common home that God co-dwells with humanity and of which we have been entrusted with stewardship, as we read in the book of Genesis [2:15]. The contemporary ecological crisis, in fact, lays bare precisely our incapacity to perceive the physical world as impregnated with divine presence. We have swapped the lofty vision of the physical world as God's own abode, sanctified by the incarnation of the Son of God, with the one-dimensional mechanistic outlook of modernity. Accordingly, the physical world gets reduced to a mere storehouse of resources for human consumption, just real estate for market speculation. . . . Through pollution of the planet's land, air, and waters, we have degraded our common home that is also God's own home. We have turned this sacred abode into a marketplace.

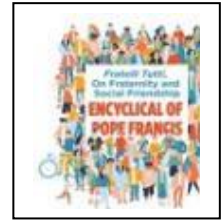
In a situation of planetary emergency like the collapse of our planetary abode, we need to be aflame once again with the zeal for our common home.

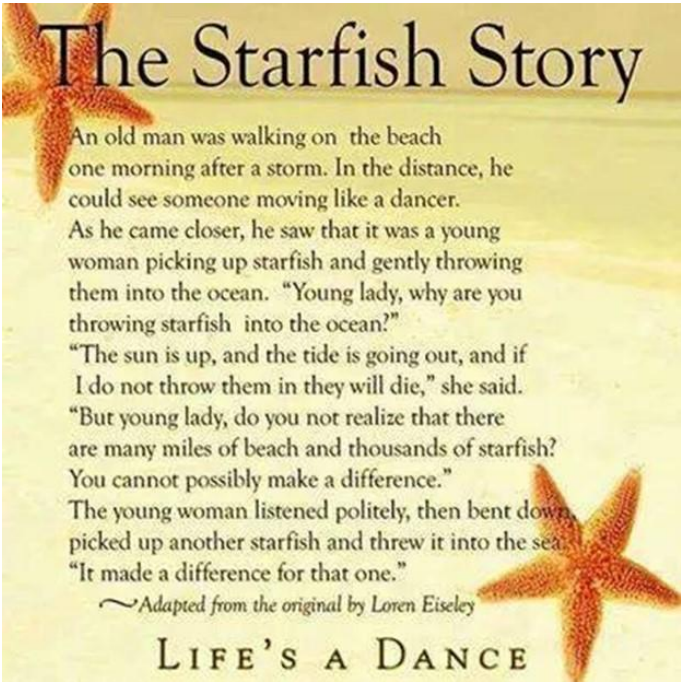
From Richard Rohr's daily meditations

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<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>24</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>“Climate change is a human crisis which threatens to overwhelm the humanitarian system and turn back the clock on development. It is also a gross injustice - poor people in developing countries bear over 90% of the burden - through death, disease, destitution and financial loss - yet they are least responsible for creating the problem. Despite this, funding from rich countries to help the poor and vulnerable adapt to climate change is not even 1 percent of what is needed.”</p> <p>Barbara Stocking, chief executive of Oxfam UK</p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Buy Nothing Day (27 November)</p> <p>For those of us living in cities and towns, popping into the shops on the way home has become an unconscious reflex. This day challenges us to be aware of our buying habits and to consciously work against them.</p>  <p><i>Buy Nothing Day</i> is an opportunity to make a commitment to consuming less, recycling more and challenging corporations to clean up and be fair, especially regarding transport, packaging and fair working conditions. While modern consumerism offers great choice, it comes at a great the cost to the environment and developing countries. It therefore challenges us to avoid participating in the economy – this includes consumables such as mobile phones, fuel and electricity usage –spent for at least one day of the year.</p> <p>So, this year, instead of joining the throngs for the Black Friday Sales, see how long you can extend this period and use and re-use as much as you can before going for your next shop. You will save far more than you would have spent at the sales!</p>

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p><i>An Absence of Human Dignity On The Borders</i></p> <p>37. Certain populist political regimes, as well as certain liberal economic approaches, maintain that an influx of migrants is to be prevented at all costs. Arguments are also made for the propriety of limiting aid to poor countries, so that they can hit rock bottom and find themselves forced to take austerity measures. One fails to realize that behind such statements, abstract and hard to support, great numbers of lives are at stake. Many migrants have fled from war, persecution and natural catastrophes. Others, rightly, “are seeking opportunities for themselves and their families. They dream of a better future and they want to create the conditions for achieving it”.[36]</p> <p>38. Sadly, some “are attracted by Western culture, sometimes with unrealistic expectations that expose them to grave disappointments. Unscrupulous traffickers, frequently linked to drug cartels or arms cartels, exploit the weakness of migrants, who too often experience violence, trafficking, psychological and physical abuse and untold sufferings on their journey”.[37] Those who emigrate “experience separation from their place of origin, and often a cultural and religious uprooting as well. Fragmentation is also felt by the communities they leave behind, which lose their most vigorous and enterprising elements, and by families, especially when one or both of the parents migrates, leaving the children in the country of origin”.[38] For this reason, “there is also a need to reaffirm the right not to emigrate, that is, to remain in one’s homeland”.[39]</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>First Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Advent draws us towards the true meaning of Christmas and away from consumerism.</p> <p>During Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. In an era where Christmas is marked by unsustainable levels of spending, Advent draws us away from the lure of consumerism.</p> <p>This year, many of us reconsidered our relationship with consumerism and its impacts on the Earth. Whether it was due to changing economic circumstances or habits, such as working from home, we have been prompted to reconsider our spending and the impacts of consumerism on the Earth.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has also taught us that nature needs a Sabbath. Public health research showed us the links between destroying natural habitat and the increased contact between animals and humans which proliferates the spread of zoonotic viruses. It also showed us the links between air pollution and Covid-19 case numbers.</p> <p>Advent orients us to resist the temptations of disposable consumerism by orienting us back towards Christ, our Saviour and risen King, and the firstborn of creation, in whom and for whom all things are made (Colossians 1:18).</p> <p><i>Monica Tang</i></p>



<p>Monday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>We Hold the Earth</p> <p>We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.</p> <p>We hold all species that suffer.</p> <p>We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.</p> <p>We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.</p> <p>We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community.</p> <p>We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say, we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children.</p> <p>May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>30</p>	 <p>The Starfish Story</p> <p>An old man was walking on the beach one morning after a storm. In the distance, he could see someone moving like a dancer. As he came closer, he saw that it was a young woman picking up starfish and gently throwing them into the ocean. "Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"</p> <p>"The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die," she said.</p> <p>"But young lady, do you not realize that there are many miles of beach and thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a difference."</p> <p>The young woman listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea.</p> <p>"It made a difference for that one."</p> <p><i>~Adapted from the original by Loren Eiseley</i></p> <p>LIFE'S A DANCE</p>

Quote of the Week: "God is in control, but He doesn't expect you to lean on a shovel and pray for a hole."



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