



# JAEI

## January 2022 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

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Loving Lord,

We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.



We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and for all who are caring for them.

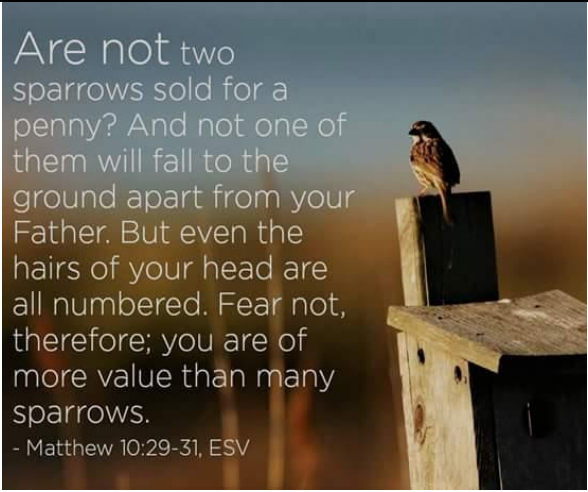
We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of virus.




We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.


As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

Amen

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p>1</p>	
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p>2</p>	<p><b>A prayer for our earth - Pope Francis</b></p> <p>All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”</p> <p><b>Chief Seattle, 1855</b></p> 

<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	 <p>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. - Matthew 10:29-31, ESV</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>The final deal – COP26</b></p> <p>Quick summary of what was agreed in the Glasgow Climate Pact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mitigation (cutting emissions):</b> The agreement instructs countries to come back in 2022 with strengthened emissions reduction commitments. Collectively the commitments of countries put us on track for 2.4C of warming. More ambitious commitments must be made next year.</li> <li>• <b>Finance:</b> The pact requires rich countries to “at least double” funds for adaptation to the climate crisis. But there was no progress in getting developed countries to fulfil their promise to provide \$100bn a year in climate finance overall.</li> <li>• <b>Loss and damage:</b> the issue of compensating the hardest hit for losses and damages caused by the climate crisis has risen up the agenda like never before. Developing countries demanded a new loss and damage financing facility but the pact only provides for a ‘dialogue’ to discuss ‘arrangements’.</li> <li>• <b>Fossil fuels:</b> The call to reduce the burning of coal is significant, even if the language was changed at the last minute from ‘phase out’ to ‘phase down’.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pray</b> that there would be continued action from all parties concerned to abide by and implement the Glasgow Pact.</p> <p>Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful. Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change. In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth. May we follow your lead in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made, and love.</p> <p>We pray for world leaders to find new, just and radical agreements that will protect our fragile world for future generations.</p> <p>Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p><b>Adapted from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland -</b> <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk/409/">http://www.ctbi.org.uk/409/</a></p>

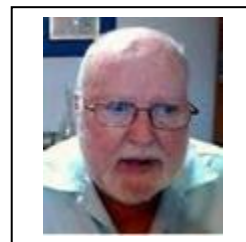
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture</b></p> <p>The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2022 the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022). FAO is the lead agency for celebrating the Year in collaboration with other relevant organisations and bodies of the United Nations system. IYAFA 2022 is an important recognition of the millions of small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers who provide healthy and nutritious food to billions of people and contribute to achieving Zero Hunger.</p>  <p>The objective of celebrating IYAFA 2022 is twofold: the Year aims to focus world attention on the role that small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers play in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and sustainable use of natural resources – thereby increasing global understanding and action to support them.</p>  <p>The celebration is also an opportunity to enhance dialogue between different actors, and not least to strengthen small-scale producers to partner up with one another and make their voices heard so they can influence the decisions and policies that shape their everyday lives – all the way from local community level to international and global fora.</p> <p><b>Prayer:</b></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. 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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord  Amen</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p>“We do need a ‘new economy,’ but one that is founded on thrift and care, on saving and conserving, not on excess and waste. An economy based on waste is inherently and hopelessly violent, and war is its inevitable by-product. We need a peaceable economy.”</p>  <p><b>Wendell Berry</b></p>

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	 <p>Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character; and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man.</p> <p>Schopenhauer</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>We give thanks today for the many gifts God has given us:  For the beauty of the earth and the abundance of its creatures,  For food to nourish us and water to quench our thirst,  For the seasons that nurture us and the relationships that sustain us.  May we be good stewards of creation using our skills and talents for the benefit of all.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>All Creatures of Our God and King</b>  <i>(Paraphrase of The Canticle of the Sun)</i></p> <p>All creatures of our God and King  Lift up your voice and with us sing  Oh, praise Him, Alleluia  Thou burning sun with golden beam  Thou silver moon with softer gleam  Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him  Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia</p> <p>Thou rushing wind that art so strong  Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along  Oh, praise Him, Alleluia  Thou rising moon in praise rejoice  Ye lights of evening find a voice  Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him  Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia</p> <p>Let all things their creator bless  And worship Him in humbleness  Oh, praise Him Alleluia  Praise, praise the Father praise the Son  And praise the Spirit three in one  Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him  Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia</p> <p>Praise, praise the Father praise the Son  And praise the Spirit three in one  Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him  Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia</p>

Tuesday

11

## Franciscan Ecological Wisdom - Cultivation Not Domination



St. Bonaventure (1221–1274) taught that “Christ, as a human being, shares with all creatures; indeed he possesses being with rocks, lives among the plants, senses with animals, and understands with angels.” In saying this, Bonaventure wanted to give theological weight to the deep experience of St. Francis of Assisi (1181–1226), who as far as we know, was the first recorded Christian to call animals and elements and even the forces of nature by familial names: “Sister Mother Earth,” “Brother Wind,” “Sister Water,” and “Brother Fire.”

We cannot jump over this world, or its woundedness, and still try to love God. We must love God *through, in, with,* and even *because of* this world. This is the message Christianity was supposed to initiate, proclaim, and encourage, and what Jesus modelled. We were made to love and trust this world, “to cultivate it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15), but for some sad reason we preferred to emphasize the statement earlier in Genesis, which seems to say that we should “dominate” the earth (1:28).


Although God “empties himself” into creation (Philippians 2:7), we humans have spent most of history creating systems to control and subdue that creation for our own purposes and profit, reversing the divine pattern. As Paul Swanson, co-host of my podcast *Another Name for Every Thing*, puts it, “The [Franciscan mystics] are known for their celebrated connection to being a part of nature and this world as a mirror to which we pass over to God. There’s such a naturalness to this perspective, yet the bulk of Christianity has seemed to pay no mind to this at all with the theology of domination over the planet.”

Franciscan sister and scientist Ilia Delio writes that Francis modelled a way of relating to creation with inherent dignity and equality rather than domination:

[Francis] did not consider himself at the top of a hierarchy of being nor did he declare himself superior to the non-human creation. Rather, Francis saw himself as part of creation. His spirituality overturned the spirituality of hierarchical ascent and replaced it with a spirituality of descending solidarity between humanity and all of creation. . . . He found God in all creatures and identified with them as brother and sister . . . “because he knew they shared with him the same beginning.” By surrendering himself and daring everything for love’s sake, the earth became his home and all creatures his brothers and sisters. That led him to love and respect the world around him and made him truly a man of peace.

Only prayer, the Spirit of God breathing in us, dwelling in our hearts and joining us to Christ, can lead us, like Francis, to the contemplative vision of God’s goodness in every creature and in every living thing. . . . The God within us is the God who permeates every aspect of our world—the One who is the source and goal of creation.

***From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations***  
[www.cac.org](http://www.cac.org)

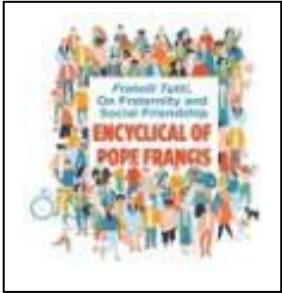
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>Creator God, we pray for you to raise up a generation of leaders with the courage to take responsibility for our changing climate, and the part we have played in it.</p> <p>Creator God, we intercede for our politicians and leaders – cause them to act in the best interests of all nations today, and all peoples’ in the future, in order to avoid catastrophic changes.</p> <p>Creator God, we ask for a generation of leaders who will be willing to act justly so that those who have contributed so little to the problems we are facing, and have fewer resources with which to face it, are not left to shoulder our burden.</p> <p>Creator God, we ask for you to fill the hearts of all who lead rich nations – give them your mercy and compassion on poor countries already suffering the effects of a changing climate.</p> <p>Just as they have been moved to cancel debt in the past, encourage them also to release funds so that poor communities can adapt to the effects of climate change, and develop cleanly.</p> <p>Creator God, in your mercy, lead our leaders to truth and transformation.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Psalm 100</b></p> <p><b>A Psalm. For giving grateful praise.</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his<sup>[a]</sup>; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.</p>




<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Meditation on Creation</b></p> <p><b>Preparation and Focus</b></p> <p><b>Position:</b> Find a comfortable position/place for this meditation.</p> <p><b>Breath:</b> Take three deep breaths, filling your lungs thoroughly, holding your breath momentarily and exhaling through your mouth.</p> <p><b>Heart:</b> Quiet your inner self – embracing the gift of life with breath and heartbeat.</p> <p><b>First reflection:</b></p> <p><b>Reflect on</b> creation about you: The air, water, land under your feet (or under the cement or floor under your feet), sun, water of life in you, in plants, animals, climate, humans, organisms all about.</p> <p><b>Being consciously aware of</b> your unity with this place of creation, open yourself to experience this place as a relative or friend. St. Francis of Assisi felt so connected to creation that he called different elements brothers or sisters.</p> <p><b>Second reflection:</b></p> <p><b>Let yourself reflect</b> on the amazing balance of earth’s components and how this balance impacts your thriving and energy. <b>Use these words</b> of St. Hildegard of Bingen about the union of human beings with all of Creation to deepen your connection: <i>“Human beings are the thinking heart, called to be Co-creators with God in shaping the world.”</i></p> <p><b>Express</b> your gratitude for such wonders of creation’s rhythm of interconnection.</p> <p><b>Third reflection:</b></p> <p>Having come in touch with the beauty of creation and your part in it, <b>reflect on</b> the interconnection of life being broken through pollutants of all kinds emitted into the atmosphere. How do you feel that this most beautiful place, Earth, is threatened by destruction and dying?</p> <p><b>Ponder</b> the call to be good stewards and not dominators and oppressors of this web of life for now and future generations.</p> <p><b>Resolutions:</b></p> <p>Come in touch with the passion/energy you feel to protect this most beautiful place, Earth, in what way(s) might you be a good steward to help sustain the gift exchange of Earth’s life?</p> <p><b>Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods</b>  <a href="https://spsmw.org">https://spsmw.org</a></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p>We pray for our churches around the world,  That as communities of faith we may be active participants in work for climate justice.</p> <p>We pray for those in positions of leadership,  that they may use their voices to speak out on behalf of those most vulnerable to climate change and the whole of God’s creation.</p>





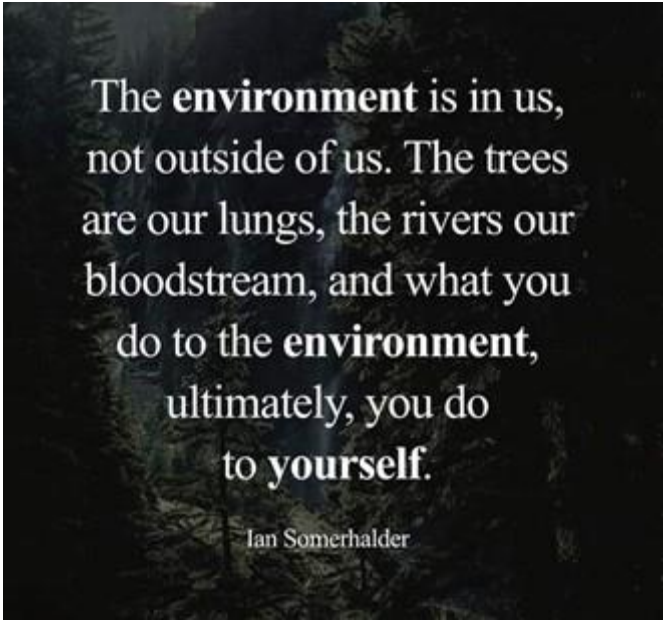


<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>17</p>	<p><b>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</b></p> <p><b><i>An Absence of Human Dignity on The Borders</i></b></p> <p>41. I realize that some people are hesitant and fearful with regard to migrants. I consider this part of our natural instinct of self-defence. Yet it is also true that an individual and a people are only fruitful and productive if they are able to develop a creative openness to others. I ask everyone to move beyond those primal reactions because “there is a problem when doubts and fears condition our way of thinking and acting to the point of making us intolerant, closed and perhaps even – without realizing it – racist. In this way, fear deprives us of the desire and the ability to encounter the other”.<sup>[45]</sup></p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p>18</p>	<p><b>Read Matthew 13: 1-23</b></p> <p><b>“He who has no root in him, he does not last.”</b></p> <p>This gospel allegory of the seed sown on parched earth, or amongst choking thorns, must ring a grim bell for those whose livelihoods are at risk during the pandemic. One could think especially of poor farmers in countries worst hit by climate change, now enduring a double crisis.</p> <p>How do you believe in the good news, when things are so dark? Yet poor farmers were exactly the kind of people to whom Jesus’s parables were addressed. He was close to their suffering.</p> <p>With his parables (Greek root para-bola: thrown alongside) Jesus throws himself alongside us and guides our heavy feet.</p> <p>It may be tempting for us to view our lives as unfruitful soil, especially at a time where we could be stranded without work or occupation. Many challenges lie ahead.</p> <p>But let us remember the Sabbath, a word that means to ‘cease’. We were given the seventh day as a memorial of when God ceases work and rests after the work of Creation. In the Old Testament, every seventh year is to be kept as a Sabbath. The land lies fallow, and the balance of the earth is restored, while any fruits that grow are left for the poor to gather.</p> <p>While we may be worried about the future, let us also try to see what good things could bear fruit in the fallow stretches of our lives.</p> <p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>Jesus, you invite us to have eyes to see and ears to hear your truth. Help us to resist the thorns that grow up and choke the word of the Kingdom. Amen.</p> <p><b><i>This reflection and prayer were written by Francis Stewart of CAFOD Theology Team.</i></b></p> <p><a href="https://cafod.org.uk">https://cafod.org.uk</a></p>



<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>“The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world are not reserved for scientists but are available to anyone who will place himself under the influence of earth, sea and sky and their amazing life.”</p> <p><i>Rachel Carson</i></p>	
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>		
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p>Father of creation, we thank you for all that you have made;  For the joy and glimpses of you we find in nature’s beauty,  For the variety of all you have provided through its resources.  Help us to tread lightly and use wisely,  Valuing the needs of others, and of creation, above our own desires.  Challenge us where we need to change our lifestyles,  Convict us when we need to speak out on behalf of a voiceless people, or world  And soften us where we have stood in judgement of others.  Father in your mercy, change us and use us  For the restoration of your world, and the protection of all your children.  Amen.</p>	
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p>“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world”</p> <p><i>John Muir</i></p>	

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer of Thanksgiving for Creation</b></p> <p>Lord you give life to life!  From Day One,  your Spirit brooding over the deep, your wind rushing, your breath filling.  As creatures of the earth, we inhale your grace, rejoicing in life abundant. We use our breath, our being to raise this hymn of praise:  Hallelujah to the sun's hot passion embracing the ground's great shoulders!  Hallelujahs for the growth from seed to plant greening the earth; its fruit - beauty and food!  Hallelujahs for generations of life tumbling one after another, life creeping, swimming, flying, running, below, above, upon, within.  All the world sings, calls, signals, speaks praise to God whose glory grows in all that breathes!  Fill us, enliven us to be ambassadors of life divine, breathing out your song in harmony, singing to our Creator, whose Holy Spirit is unending, ageless, eternal and ever new.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p>I arise today  Through the strength of heaven;  Light of the sun,  Splendour of fire,  Speed of lightning,  Swiftness of wind,  Depth of sea,  Stability of the earth,  Firmness of the rock.  I arise today.</p> <p><b><i>The Lorica</i></b></p>

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p>Lord, stop us in our tracks. Stop and take time to appreciate this gift of life and marvel at your creation. Stop and contemplate the damage we do. Stop and return to the Earth the clean water and air we have spoilt, the habitats we have taken from your creatures for our own comfort and profit. Help us restore the Earth for the good of all, the glory of its rebirth reflecting the resurrection of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Restore us O Lord and bring us nearer to you. Amen</p> <p><b>Sekeeta Crowley</b>  <a href="https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/">https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/</a></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p>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.”</p> <p><b>Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam</b></p> 
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>God our Creator and Provider, we thank you for providing for our needs. We think of people around the world at a time when the climate is changing and making it more difficult for people to get enough food. Please be with those people who suffer from the impacts of climate change. Bless the people who are working to help provide food for their communities and also help us know what to do in our own lives. Be with us all as we live in the world you created.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer of Confession</b></p> <p>Forgive us, God, that we have taken your creation for granted. You have given us the run of the land, the pick of the crop and we have squandered these resources; distributed these unfairly, vandalized their beauty, violated their purity.</p> <p>Forgive us, God, that we have taken your kingdom for granted. You have given us the seeds of faith, the fruits of the spirit, and we have misused these resources; displayed them rarely, bestowed them grudgingly, ignored them blithely.</p> <p>Thank you, God, that you are stronger than our destructiveness and greater than our meanness, that you give us a fresh start, a second chance.</p> <p>Overwhelm us with the power of your resurrected love.</p> <p>Compel us with the challenge you issue for change. Lead us in the conquest of our own limits and restrictions.</p> <p>Drive us towards a new life of peace, justice and integrity</p> <p>Amen</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	