



JAEI




March 2022 Environmental Prayer Diary


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


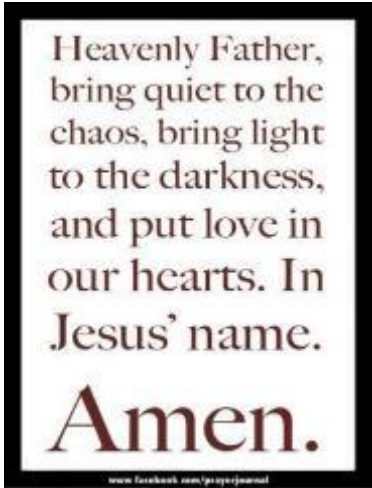
Covid-19 Pandemic Daily noon-time prayer

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

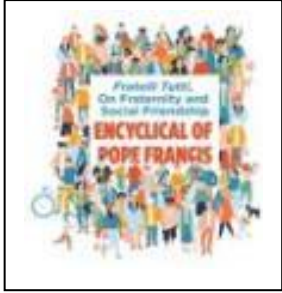



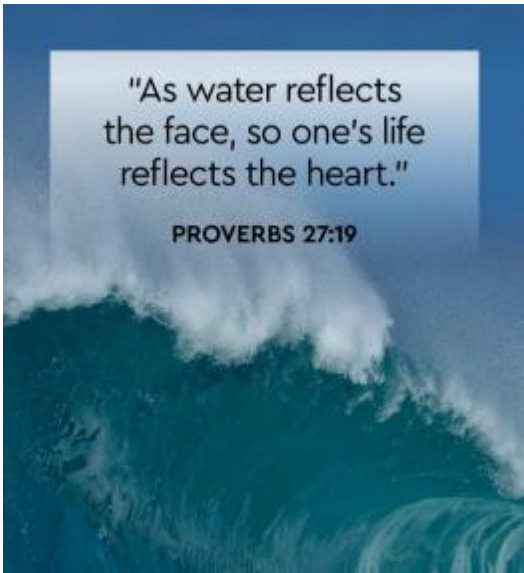
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>1</p>	 <p>The poster features the text: "SHROVE TUESDAY" at the top, followed by a quote: "Shrove" is the past tense of the word "shrive," which means to hear a confession, assign penance, and absolve from sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that we are entering a season of penance. Below this is a crown icon and "FAT TUESDAY" at the bottom, with a sub-note: "A day of feasting before the fasting season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Feast, for tomorrow we fast!"</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Merciful Creator, we <i>are</i> dust. You explode stars and gather their dust to make planets. Your spirit enlivens the dust, and humble creatures such as we come forth to behold your glory. But our sin darkens our vision: your storms stir fear in our hearts, birds of your making lie lifeless on the sands, and the light of your stars grows dim to our eyes. Restore our faith and renew right relationships between all your creatures.</p> <p>Dennis Ormseth http://www.letallcreationpraise.org</p>  <p>The poster has a purple and red background with a white cross. Text includes: "Ash Wednesday", "What is my Carbon Footprint?", and "#FAST4EARTH".</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>World Wildlife Day</p> <p>"Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration" is the theme for this year's World Wildlife Day to raise awareness of the state of endangered and critically endangered wildlife, and to highlight the power of conservation efforts seeking to reverse their fate.</p>  <p>The logo shows a globe with a blue and white color scheme, with the text "WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 3 MARCH".</p> <p>According to figures by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, over 8,400 species of wild fauna and flora are critically endangered, while close to 30,000 more are understood to be endangered or vulnerable. Based on these estimates, it is suggested that over a million species are threatened with extinction.</p> <p>Continued loss of species and degradation of habitats and ecosystems threatens humanity as a whole, as people everywhere rely on wildlife and biodiversity-based resources to meet all their needs, from food, medicines and health to fuel, housing, and clothing.</p> <p>This year, the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is expected to be adopted, drawing attention to the status of some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora and their role in ecosystems will send a powerful message for urgent commitment. The theme will also highlight the impact of conservation efforts and promote best practice examples where species were brought back from the brink, and it will drive discussions towards</p>

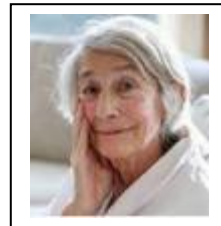
		<p>imagining and implementing new solutions to conserve and sustainably use others.</p> <p>CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero said: "Biodiversity loss is an existential threat to people and planet. The continued loss of wildlife species threatens to undermine entire ecosystems and puts into peril the well-being of all who rely on them. Yet, this is not inevitable: we have the power to change course and restore threatened species and their habitats. With the theme of "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration", we wish to inspire action towards reversing the fate of key species of animals and plants. It is our hope that World Wildlife Day will help chart a path towards a sustainable future, with the goal of living in harmony with nature. Ultimately, we hope to spur on the needed political will to adopt a robust post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and secure our common future."</p> <p>The Day also aims to support all ongoing efforts towards the accomplishment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular Goals 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero hunger) 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), 13 (Climate Action) 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) as biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are a foundation for sustainable development.</p> <p><i>From St Basil the Great</i></p> <p><i>O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, for our brothers and sisters, the inarticulate beasts, to whom Thou gave the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of humanity with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song has become a groan of anguish and a cry of torment. May we realize that they live not for us alone, but for themselves and for Thee, and that they too love the sweetness of life. Amen.</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>World Hearing Day (3 March)</p> <p>2022 theme "To hear for life, listen with care"</p> <p>On World Hearing Day 2022, WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing across the life course. In 2021, WHO launched the <i>World report on hearing</i> that highlighted the increasing number of people living with and at risk of hearing loss. It highlighted noise control as one of the seven key interventions and stressed the importance of mitigating exposure to loud sounds.</p> <p>Anthropogenic noise pollution is affecting a range of animals across multiple habitats. Studies have shown that loud noises cause caterpillars' hearts to beat faster and some birds to have fewer chicks. Animals use sound for a variety of reasons, including to navigate, find food, attract mates, and avoid predators. Noise pollution makes it difficult for them to accomplish these tasks, which affects their ability survive. Animals are altering their natural behaviours or relocating to avoid noisy areas and in so doing, can have a disastrous have flow-on effects for whole ecosystems.</p> 


		<p>Increasing noise is not only affecting animals on land, it is also a growing problem for those that live in the ocean. Ships, oil drills, sonar devices, and seismic tests have made the once tranquil marine environment loud and chaotic. Whales and dolphins are particularly impacted by noise pollution. These marine mammals rely on echolocation to communicate, navigate, feed, and find mates, and excess noise interferes with their ability to effectively echolocate.</p>  <p>As the noise of our crazy culture fades, your mind calms and you experience silence and stillness. What a relief! So what are you waiting for? Go out and spend some time in the quiet – go out into God’s Creation!</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>5</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Spirit of the wilderness, you inspire understanding and restore right relationships between all earth’s creatures. We humans presume to dominate all creation by the very powers you have given us to serve it, and so unleash the power of death in its midst. Help us to trust unflinchingly in your Word Jesus, so that all things might be reconciled in him and all creation might rejoice in your unflinching love.</p> <p>Dennis Ormseth http://www.letallcreationpraise.org</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."</p> <p>The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."</p> <p>"Lord, help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen."</p>




<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Jeremiah 9:7-15 (<i>The Message</i>)</p> <p>⁷⁻⁹ Therefore, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies says:</p> <p>“Watch this! I’ll melt them down and see what they’re made of. What else can I do with a people this wicked? Their tongues are poison arrows! Deadly lies stream from their mouths. Neighbour greets neighbour with a smile, ‘Good morning! How’re things?’ while scheming to do away with him. Do you think I’m going to stand around and do nothing?” GOD’s Decree.</p> <p>“Don’t you think I’ll take serious measures against a people like this?”</p> <p>¹⁰⁻¹¹ “I’m lamenting the loss of the mountain pastures. I’m chanting dirges for the old grazing grounds. They’ve become deserted wastelands too dangerous for travelers. No sounds of sheep bleating or cattle mooing. Birds and wild animals, all gone. Nothing stirring, no sounds of life. I’m going to make Jerusalem a pile of rubble, fit for nothing but stray cats and dogs. I’m going to reduce Judah’s towns to piles of ruins where no one lives!”</p> <p>¹² I asked, “Is there anyone around bright enough to tell us what’s going on here? Anyone who has the inside story from GOD and can let us in on it?”</p> <p>“Why is the country wasted? “Why no travellers in this desert?”</p> <p>¹³⁻¹⁵ GOD’s answer: “Because they abandoned my plain teaching. They wouldn’t listen to anything I said, refused to live the way I told them to. Instead they lived any way they wanted and took up with the Baal gods, who they thought would give them what they wanted—following the example of their parents.”</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>We praise you Our Lord and God, for the variety of your creation and for the sanctity you have bestowed on all life through creation. May we know the sanctity of life and foster the conservation and preservation of the variety of God-given life. May we never – knowingly or otherwise – be responsible for the extinction of a plant or animal. God, may new life fill us all, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, to know your wonder, your love and the abundant life you give. Amen</p> <p>Bishop Geoff Davies <i>Patron of SAFCEI</i></p>

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p><i>The Illusion of Communication</i></p> <p>Shameless aggression</p> <p>44. Even as individuals maintain their comfortable consumerist isolation, they can choose a form of constant and febrile bonding that encourages remarkable hostility, insults, abuse, defamation and verbal violence destructive of others, and this with a lack of restraint that could not exist in physical contact without tearing us all apart. Social aggression has found unparalleled room for expansion through computers and mobile devices.</p> <p>45. This has now given free rein to ideologies. Things that until a few years ago could not be said by anyone without risking the loss of universal respect can now be said with impunity, and in the crudest of terms, even by some political figures. Nor should we forget that “there are huge economic interests operating in the digital world, capable of exercising forms of control as subtle as they are invasive, creating mechanisms for the manipulation of consciences and of the democratic process. The way many platforms work often ends up favouring encounter between persons who think alike, shielding them from debate. These closed circuits facilitate the spread of fake news and false information, fomenting prejudice and hate”.[47]</p> <p>46. We should also recognize that destructive forms of fanaticism are at times found among religious believers, including Christians; they too “can be caught up in networks of verbal violence through the internet and the various forums of digital communication. Even in Catholic media, limits can be overstepped, defamation and slander can become commonplace, and all ethical standards and respect for the good name of others can be abandoned”.[48] How can this contribute to the fraternity that our common Father asks of us?</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>“Outdoors we are confronted everywhere with wonders; we see that the miraculous is not extraordinary, but the common mode of existence. It is our daily bread.”</p> <p><i>Wendell Berry</i></p>	

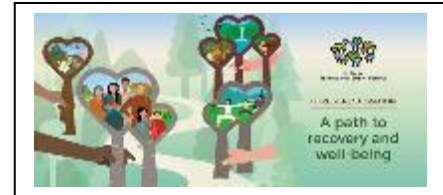
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>12</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>O Spirit that moves freely to all corners of creation, all things come to be through the power of your love. You provide all creatures their kin, their habitat, and their dignity. Energize us anew. Give birth in us to new life in the name of Jesus, God's child and all creatures co-creature.</p> <p>Dennis Ormseth http://www.letallcreationpraise.org</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>"There are things you can't reach. But you can reach out to them, and all day long. The wind, the bird flying away. The idea of god. And it can keep you busy as anything else, and happier. I look; morning to night I am never done with looking. Looking I mean not just standing around but standing around As though with your arms open."</p> <p>Mary Oliver</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Verse: Isaiah 40:22</p> <p>'God sits above the circle of the earth.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How wonderful it is to know that God sits enthroned over the world. - The Lord is not rushing around dealing with emergencies. - He sits, in control of all things, and over all things. - Don't be blown around by bad news, HE is still in control. <p>Prayer: Lord, how awesome it is to know that You rule and reign over all things. There is nothing that is overwhelming You, and there is nothing that You didn't see coming. You know, You care, and You love me. Amen.</p> <p>Pastor Andrew Roebert <i>Alive to God</i></p>



<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Joy and Hope</p> <p>St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio (1217–1274) took Francis and St Clare’s practical lifestyle to the level of theology, philosophy, and worldview. Unlike many theologians of his time, Bonaventure paid little attention to fire and brimstone, sin, merit, justification, or atonement. His vision is positive, mystic, cosmic, intimately relational, and largely concerned with cleaning the lens of our perception and our intention so we can see and enjoy fully!</p>  <p>He starts very simply: “Unless we are able to view things in terms of how they originate, how they are to return to their end, and how God shines forth in them, we will not be able to understand.” For Bonaventure, the perfection of God and God’s creation is a full circle, and to be perfect the circle must and will complete itself. He knows that Alpha and Omega are finally the same, and the lynchpin holding it all in unity is the “Christ Mystery,” or the essential unity of matter and spirit, humanity and divinity. The Christ Mystery is thus the template for all creation, and even more precisely the crucified Christ, who reveals <i>the necessary cycle of loss and renewal</i> that keeps all things moving toward ever further life. Now we know that the death and birth of every star and every atom is this same pattern of loss and renewal, yet this pattern is invariably hidden or denied, and therefore must be revealed by God—which is “the cross.”</p> <p>Bonaventure’s theology is never about trying to placate a distant or angry God, earn forgiveness, or find some abstract theory of justification. He sees humanity as already being included in—and delighting in—an all-pervasive plan. As Paul’s school says, “Before the world was made, God chose us, chose us in Christ” (Ephesians 1:4). The problem is solved from the beginning. Rather than seeing history as a “fall from grace,” Bonaventure reveals a slow but real emergence and evolution into ever-greater consciousness of Love. He was the Teilhard de Chardin (1881–1955) of the 13th century.</p> <p>One reason Bonaventure was so hopeful and positive is that he was profoundly Trinitarian. He saw love always and forever flowing between Father, Son, and Spirit and on to us. Bonaventure’s strong foundation in the Trinity gave him a nondual mind to deal with the ineffable mystery of God and creation. A dualistic mind closes down at any notion of Trinity or infinite love, because it cannot process it.</p> <p>For Bonaventure, God, is not an offended monarch on a throne throwing down thunderbolts, but a “fountain fullness” that flows, overflows, and fills all things in one positive direction. Reality is thus in process and participatory; it is love itself, and not a mere Platonic world, an abstract idea, or a static impersonal principle. God as Trinitarian Flow is the blueprint and pattern for all relationships and thus all of creation, which we now know from contemporary science is exactly the case.</p> <p><i>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations</i> www.cac.org</p>
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<p>Thursday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>“When you look at it as evolution, it's time, nothing stays the same. You should learn how to plant something. That is the first connection. You should treat all things as spirit, realize that we are one family. It's never something like the end. It's like life, there is no end to life”</p> <p>Floyd Red Crow <i>Chief Ten Bears - Dances with Wolves</i></p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>18</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Meatout Day (20 March)</p> <p>Efforts to curb greenhouse-gas emissions and the impacts of global warming will fall significantly short without drastic changes in global land use, agriculture and human diets, leading researchers have warned.</p>  <p>The special report on climate change and land by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes plant-based diets as a major opportunity for mitigating and adapting to climate change - and includes a policy recommendation to reduce meat consumption. The recommendation is that it would indeed be beneficial, for both climate and human health, if people in many rich countries consumed less meat. The report states with high confidence that balanced diets featuring plant-based and sustainably produced animal-sourced food present major opportunities for adaptation and mitigation while generating significant co-benefits in terms of human health.</p> <p>Researchers have also underlined the relevance to tropical rainforests, with concerns mounting about accelerating rates of deforestation for beef production. The Amazon rainforest is a huge carbon sink that acts to cool global temperature, but rates of deforestation are rising, in part because of the policies and actions of the government of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.</p> <p><i>Plan some meat-free meals for this coming week</i></p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Holy Wellspring, you are the Source and the Sea of a flood of fresh life-giving water. Like the wanderers in the wilderness with Moses, we too waste ourselves faithlessly and thirstily in the desert we make of this earth. We yearn to be restored to your presence. Refresh us in the river of your mercy.</p> <p>Dennis Ormseth http://www.letallcreationpraise.org</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>International Day of Forests and Trees The theme for 2022 is “Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption”</p> <p>Forests provide health benefits for everyone, such as fresh air, nutritious foods, clean water, and space for recreation. In developed countries, up to 25 percent of all medicinal drugs are plant-based; in developing countries, the contribution is as high as 80 percent.</p> <p>The world is losing 10 million hectares of forest – about the size of Iceland – each year, and land degradation affects almost 2 billion hectares, an area larger than South America. Forest loss and degradation emit large quantities of climate-warming gases, and at least 8 percent of forest plants and 5 percent of forest animals are at extremely high risk of extinction. The restoration and sustainable management of forests, on the other hand, will address the climate-change and biodiversity crises simultaneously while producing goods and services needed for sustainable development.</p> <p>Sustainable consumption and production refers to the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.</p> <p>Globally, forests provide more than 86 million green jobs and support the livelihoods of many more people. Wood from well-managed forests supports diverse industries, from paper to the construction of tall buildings. Investment in forest restoration will help economies recover from the pandemic by creating even more employment.</p> <p>Prayer: We remember the first garden, where God planted a forest of trees. We remember with awe and wonder the gift of this planet blessed with trees. We remember the gardens and the forests of our childhood, the places where we played in the past when we felt close to Earth, to trees and to our kin born of Earth.</p> <p>We are sorry. We have ignored the distant sounds in the forest, the sound of chainsaws clearing for greed and gain, the sound of those old forest giants falling forever, the sound of rare species breathing their last. We are sorry. We are sorry</p>



Tuesday

22

World Water Day & 14-20 March National Water Week

Theme for 2022 – “Groundwater, Making the invisible, visible”

Groundwater is a vital resource that provides almost half of all drinking water worldwide, about 40% of water for irrigated agriculture and about 1/3 of water required for industry. It sustains ecosystems, maintains the baseflow of rivers and prevents land subsidence and seawater intrusion.



Groundwater is an important part of climate change adaptation process and is often a solution for people without access to safe water. Despite these impressive facts and figures, invisible groundwater is out of sight and out of mind for most people. Human activities (including population- and economic growth) and climate variability are rapidly increasing the pressure on groundwater resources: serious depletion and pollution problems are reported for many parts of the world. A World Water Day on groundwater would put a spotlight on this invisible resource, enhance knowledge exchange and collaboration and thereby increase the awareness of the importance of taking care of our groundwater.

Groundwater is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. It is stored in and moves slowly through geologic formations of soil, sand and rocks called aquifers. Groundwater is naturally recharged by rain, or other forms of precipitation, and is the source of water for aquifers, springs, boreholes and wells.

Groundwater is, however, a natural resource whose availability and distribution is highly influenced by climate variability and change.

In South Africa, groundwater plays a key strategic role in supporting economic development and sustaining water security in several rural and urban settlements that are either entirely or partially dependent on groundwater supply.


To meet the needs of current and future communities, it is important to understand the impact of climate change on groundwater resources, identify potential ‘at risk’ areas, determine the resultant implications for these vulnerable areas and develop a practical set of guiding mitigation and adaptation strategies.

However, groundwater depletion has huge negative impacts on the environment, and ultimately ourselves. This depletion is primarily caused by sustained groundwater pumping causing the lowering of the water table, increased costs as the water must be pumped farther to reach the surface, using more energy, reduced surface water supplies, land subsidence and water quality concerns.

Boreholes help people to go off-grid or supplement municipal supply thereby lightening the load of strained municipal systems, but groundwater sources are not infinite. Users of borehole water also need to be mindful of water usage as such use depletes the groundwater availability. It also needs to be born in mind that whilst the borehole and its infrastructure is the property of the owner, the water remains the property of the state.


*God of rain and river, of stream and storm,
of sea and silent pools, of waterfall and waterhole,
of wells and waves, of aquifer and aqueducts,
Hear us as we pray for water fresh and pure for all.
And guide us to use your water wisely and well,
ensuring that all your creation can share in your bounty.*


Ruth Williams

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>World Meteorological Day Theme 2022: Early Warning and Early Action. <i>Hydrometeorological and Climate Information for Disaster Risk Reduction.</i></p> <p>With today’s technology, it’s hard to imagine a time when we didn’t know what the weather was going to be like. Instead of having a five-day forecast right on your weather app, you had to read wind patterns for weeks if you wanted to know whether you needed a rain jacket or a light sweater. That’s why, on March 23, we celebrate the international World Meteorological Organisation that collects data from all over the world to help us better understand the weather and its impact on our lives.</p> <p>One of the most visible consequences of a Climate Change is an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events and almost 80% of natural disasters worldwide are weather related. South Africa is no stranger to the devastating impacts of weather-related hazards such as floods, wildfires, storms and droughts. These events have wreaked havoc on infrastructure and communities, causing devastating economic and social losses.</p> <p>Early warning system is an adaptive measure for climate change, using integrated communication systems to help communities prepare for hazardous climate-related events. A successful EWS saves lives and jobs, land and infrastructures and supports long-term sustainability. Timely and accurate forecasts and warnings of natural hazards coupled with adequate local preparedness planning are fundamental requirements for disaster reduction.</p> 
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Read John 9: 1-41 ‘Go and wash in the pool of Siloam’</p> <p>The man in the story had been blind since birth. With Jesus’ help, washing in the waters of the pool of Siloam restored his sight.</p> <p>With God’s help, simple actions can have extraordinary results.</p> <p>American anthropologist Margaret Mead famously said: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”</p> <p>What simple action can I do today that might change the world for at least one person?</p> <p>At times, however, even simple actions become difficult.</p> <p>Because of poverty and injustice, conflict or the changing climate, mothers in many countries struggle to do what should be simple, like providing clean water for their children.</p> <p>Loving God, you are always with me and your care surrounds me like a mother’s love. May I take courage and hope from knowing that I am so valued. Bless the loving actions of every mother who struggles to provide clean water for her children. Amen.</p> <p>www.cafod.org</p>

<p>Friday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Lord, you often spoke of your 'hour,' the hour of a new consciousness, the season of a new way of being human, a decisive moment in history – Wake us up in this 'hour' of our days; remind us that our future is connected to the earth and all its abundant life.</p> <p>May we act selflessly in this hour with a new sensitivity to life in all its variety, And not just for today, but for 'tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.'</p> <p>For our children, and our children's children. For the earth, for our home's sake. Amen</p> <p>Rev Bob Comin</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Earth Hour</p> <p><i>The next decade (and beyond) is at stake</i></p> <p>2022 presents an incredible once-in-a-decade opportunity to push world leaders into action.</p> <p>Just a few weeks after Earth Hour, representatives from all over the globe will be attending the 15th meeting of the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China.</p> <p>The state of nature and biodiversity will be the focus for this conference, and global plans will be made for the next 10 years - decisions that will affect not only the next decade, but our future and well-being for many years to come. With enough public pressure, this could be <i>the</i> conference where we secure an ambitious global commitment - similar to the Paris Agreement, but for nature - to reverse the loss of nature and biodiversity by 2030.</p> <p>And why 2030? Nature is not only our biggest provider - it's also one of our strongest allies against the climate crisis. Unless world leaders urgently step up their efforts to protect nature, global temperatures could rise above the 1.5 degree Celsius limit set by the Paris agreement as early as 2030, a decade earlier than previously expected. Any further increase in temperatures could mean irreversible damage to our planet.</p> <p>By taking part in Earth Hour, you can help shape our future, building the momentum needed to influence the direction of this crucial United Nations Biodiversity Conference in April.</p> <p>Take part in Earth Hour tonight from 20:30-21:30</p>



<p>Sunday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Healing God, you look on all your creatures with truth and compassion. In our blindness we humans cannot see the beauty of your creation, and we fail to comprehend the wisdom of its wondrous complexity. Where you open ways to new life, we are set to see only black holes of death. Heal our eyes and let us behold your glory in all that is.</p> <p>Dennis Ormseth http://www.letallcreationpraise.org</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>“We need to move: from a spirituality of alienation from the natural world to a spirituality of intimacy with the natural world from a spirituality of the divine as revealed in words to a spirituality of the divine as revealed in the visible world about us.”</p> <p>Thomas Berry</p> 
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Prayer of Intercession for Creation</p> <p>Shining, light-bringing sun, you tell us about God. Let us conserve your energy carefully, limiting ourselves where we are rich that we may not all choke and burn and die.</p> <p>Glowing, birth-announcing moon, you tell us about God. Let us honour your wisdom reverently, respecting the ebb and flow of the tides, and the rhythms of the seasons.</p> <p>Surging, hearth-warming fire, you tell us about God. Let us direct your power creatively, putting people before profit and preserving livelihoods and land.</p> <p>Rippling, thirst-quenching water, you tell us about God. Let us use your refreshment sparingly, protecting its sources and restoring purity to rivers and lakes.</p> <p>Blossoming, breath-bearing tree, you tell us about God. Let us love your beauty joyously, sustaining its fruitfulness and greening the air.</p> <p>Toiling, load-lifting tool, you tell us about God. Let us use your capacity responsibly, tilling and building peaceably, gently tending soil and city alike.</p> <p>Life-giving, nurturing earth, you tell us about God. Let us share your bounty equitably, cherishing your diversity of species and eco-systems and stewarding your precious gifts of land and sea.</p>

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Can you count the stars of evening</p> <p>Can you count the stars that brightly Twinkle in the midnight sky? Can you count the clouds, so lightly O'er the meadows floating by? God, the Lord, doth mark their number With His eyes that never slumber; He hath made every one, He hath made them every one.</p> <p>Can you count the wings now flashing In the sunshine's golden light? Can you count the fishes splashing In the cooling waters bright? God, the Lord, a name hath given, To all creatures under heaven; He hath named them every one, He hath named them every one.</p> <p>Do you know how many children Rise each morning blithe and gay? Can you count their jolly voices, Singing sweetly day by day? God hears all the happy voices, In their merry songs rejoices; And He loves them, every one, And He loves them, every one.</p> <p><i>Lyrics by Johann Hey, trans. Elmer L. Jorgenson</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>31</p>	 <p>We live on a blue planet that circles around a ball of fire</p> <p>next to a moon that moves the sea, and you don't believe in miracles?</p>

