



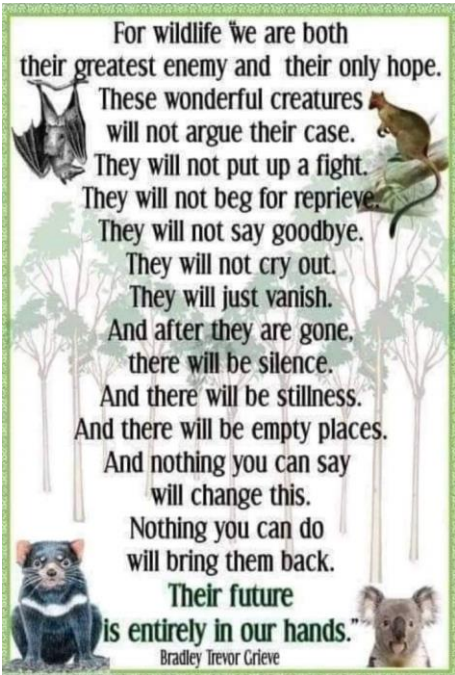
# JAEI

## June 2022 Environmental Prayer Diary

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



<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL, ALL THINGS WISE AND WONDERFUL, THE GOOD LORD MADE THEM ALL!</p> <p>YOU LEFT OUT A VERSE.</p> <p>HOW'S THAT?</p> <p>YOU LEFT OUT A VERSE - WE'LL SING IT FOR YOU. A-ONE, A-TWO, A-ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR-</p> <p>THINGS THAT BLIGHT AND PUTREFY, ALL PARASITES AND LICE - ALL THINGS WEIRD AND HORRIBLE, NOT JUST THE STUFF THAT'S NICE.</p> <p>EVERY MILDEW SPORE THAT BLOSSOMS, FLESH-EATING VIRUS, TOO! MAGGOTS ON THE ROADKILL WERE MADE BY YOU-KNOW-WHO!</p> <p>ALL THINGS GROSS AND POISONOUS, ALL BUZZARDS IN THE SKY, GOD MADE TICKS WITH LYME DISEASE, ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T SAY WHY!</p> <p>IT'LL NEVER MAKE IT INTO THE HYMNAL.</p> <p>MAYBE NOT YOUR HYMNAL.</p>
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<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>Originator of all creation, you made a world full of beauty, an infinite expression of your glory and love for all.</p> <p>Let us not forget the gift we have been given, that we may continue to act as guardians and stewards of all your creation.</p> <p>Fill us with awe and wonder today and each day as we behold your infinite creativity. Give us the courage and strength to view and engage our environment as the sacred space it is and to work to protect it from corruption and exploitation.</p> <p>May we view all you have created with reverence and admiration, that we may be reminded of your constant presence in our midst.</p> <p>As we walk each day, let us remember all those who have come before and walked these same lands.</p> <p>We must not forget that what we have been given is not only for us, but for the generations to come. Let us cultivate a world teeming with life, where a safe enriching environment is abundant enough for all, that God's love and glory may shine through for generations to come.</p> <p>In your name we pray, Amen.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth....This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth”</p> <p><b>Genesis:9 16,17</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	 <p>For wildlife we are both their greatest enemy and their only hope. These wonderful creatures will not argue their case. They will not put up a fight. They will not beg for reprieve. They will not say goodbye. They will not cry out. They will just vanish. And after they are gone, there will be silence. And there will be stillness. And there will be empty places. And nothing you can say will change this. Nothing you can do will bring them back. Their future is entirely in our hands.™</p> <p>Bradley Trevor Grieve</p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p><b>World Environment Day</b></p> <p><b>Theme 2022: <i>Only One Earth</i></b></p> <p>This year's theme focuses on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature, and our possibilities for shifting to a greener lifestyle through both policies and individual choices. "Only One Earth" was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm Conference – and now 50 years later we need to remind ourselves of this fact – yes, we STILL only have one Earth! .... And it is becoming more and more urgent that all humanity puts aside greed and selfishness in order to save what's left of our We allprecious Earth!.</p> <p>The human mind knows no boundaries. But our planet does. We have created so much. But often at the cost of nature. We can no longer continue down a path of irreversible harm to the environment.</p> <p>Let's renew our resolve and our climate. Let's strengthen our commitments and our biodiversity. Let's rethink how we consume, revive what we destroyed and reconnect with what sustains us. Our home.</p> <p><b>#OnlyOneEarth.</b> - We all know what we should be doing .... So let's go out and do it without any more excuses!</p> <p>Science and religion are often thought of as being at odds on many issues. On the question of the environment, however, there's widespread agreement.</p> <p>From Buddhism to Christianity to Hinduism to Islam, various faiths acknowledge the need for environmental stewardship and their holy texts urge adherents to be caretakers of the Earth and its biodiversity</p> <p><i>Baha'i</i>: "Nature is God's Will and is its expression in and through the contingent world." (Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 142)</p> <p><i>Buddhism</i>: "Our ancestors viewed the earth as rich and bountiful, which it is. Many people in the past also saw nature as inexhaustibly sustainable, which we now know is the case only if we care for it." (Dalai Lama, 1990a)</p> <p><i>Christianity</i>: "We must treat nature with the same awe and wonder that we reserve for human beings. And we do not need this insight in order to believe in God or to prove his existence. We need it to breathe; we need it for us simply to be." (Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, 2010)</p> <p><i>Confucianism</i>: "... sustainable harmonious relationship between the human species and nature is not merely an abstract ideal, but a concrete guide for practical living." (International Confucian Ecological Alliance, 2015)</p> <p><i>Hinduism</i>: "There is an inseparable bond between man and nature. For man, there cannot be an existence removed from nature." (Amma, 2011)</p>
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*Islam:* "Devote thyself single-mindedly to the Faith, and thus follow the nature designed by Allah, the nature according to which He has fashioned mankind. There is no altering the creation of Allah." (Qur'an 30:30)

*Jainism:* "Do not injure, abuse, oppress, enslave, insult, torment, torture, or kill any creature or living being." (Mahavira)

*Judaism:* "And God said: 'Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed—to you it shall be for food.'" (Gen 1:29)

*Shintoism:* "I will give over to my child the rice-ears of the sacred garden, of which I partake in the Plain of High Heaven." (Nihongi II.23)

*Sikhism:* "You, yourself created the Universe, and You are pleased... You, Yourself the bumblebee, flower, fruit and the tree." (Guru Granth Sahib, Maru Sohele)


*Taoism:* "This original nature is the eternal law. To know the nature's law is to be enlightened. He who is ignorant of the nature's law shall act recklessly, and thus will invite misfortune. To know the constant law of nature is to be generous. Being generous, one is impartial. Being impartial, one is the sovereign. Sovereign is the nature itself." (Lao-Tzu, Tao Te Ching, Chapter 16)



Taken from [UNEP](#)


### ***A Prayer for Our Earth***

All powerful God,  
you are present in the 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 your 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.

***A Prayer for Our Earth*** was published in Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. It is for all who believe in God who is the all-powerful Creator.

<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	 <p>"We are dependent on the natural world for every breath of air we take and every mouthful of food we eat. But it's even more than that we are also dependent on it for our sanity and sense of proportion" Sir David Attenborough</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p>Creator God, all your works are wonderful. The earth and the oceans are yours. You made them with your hands and filled them with life both big and small. The oceans tell of your glory, and we are amazed by the beauty you have placed in them.</p> <p>Almighty and Righteous, you asked us to look after the oceans, yet instead of encouraging them to teem with life as you intended, we have filled them with our waste. Forgive us for our carelessness and ignorance. We are sorry for ppolluting your creation.</p> <p>Healer and Redeemer God, you send your son Jesus Christ to reconcile the whole world to yourself. We pray that your kingdom of healing will come today to your oceans. May your Holy Spirit help us to live lives that honour you and emulate your care for the oceans. May your Holy Spirit act through our politicians so they can work to prevent plastic entering and harming the oceans. May your Holy Spirit work in your Church to equip us to be your hands and feet in facing this problem.</p> <p>Comforter God, we ask you to help our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering because of the problem of plastic pollution: subsistence fishermen who pull up their nets full of rubbish, those who suffer health problems due to contaminated seafood, and those whose places of work and leisure are marred by washed up plastic. We place this problem in your hands and ask for your help. May your oceans reflect your glory once again.</p> <p>In the name of Jesus Amen</p>

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>World Oceans Day</b></p> <p>The 2022 theme for the United Nations World Ocean Day is <b>Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean.</b></p> <p>Our ocean needs protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our ocean covers 70% of the planet and supports life as we know it</li> <li>• Every second breath we take comes from the ocean</li> <li>• Our ocean feeds billions of people</li> <li>• Our ocean hosts 80% of the world's biodiversity.</li> </ul>  <p>However, our oceans are in crisis. They are being threatened by pollution such as <a href="#">abandoned fishing nets</a>, <a href="#">overfishing</a>, <a href="#">bycatch</a>, and <a href="#">the effects of climate change</a>.</p> <p>We know the problems. We know the solutions – today is the day to take action and raise awareness – for yourself and everyone else..</p> <p>We need to conserve our wonderful marine resources for future generations. Get involved - from raising awareness to taking action or simply enjoying <a href="#">sustainable seafood</a>, there's plenty you can do to take part this World Oceans Day. Together, we're on a mission to end overfishing - a major global goal enshrined within the <a href="#">UN sustainable development goals</a>.</p> <p><b><i>Celebrate World Oceans Day – 10 Things You Can Do!</i></b></p> <p><b>Mind your carbon footprint and reduce energy consumption</b></p> <p>Reduce the effects of climate change on the ocean by leaving the car at home when you can and being conscious of your energy use at home and work.</p> <p><b>Make safe, sustainable seafood choices</b></p> <p>Global fish populations are rapidly being depleted due to demand, loss of habitat, and unsustainable fishing practices. When shopping or dining out, help reduce the demand for overexploited species by <a href="#">choosing seafood that is both healthy and sustainable</a>. Or just choose not to eat seafood.</p>  <p><b>Use fewer plastic products</b></p> <p>Plastics that end up as ocean debris contribute to habitat destruction and entangle and kill tens of thousands of marine animals each year. To limit your impact, carry a reusable water bottle, store food in non-disposable containers, bring your own cloth tote or other reusable bag when shopping, and recycle whenever possible. Avoid single use plastic like straws, bags and bottled water.</p> <p><b>Don't purchase items that exploit marine life</b></p>
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<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	 <p><b>OCEAN LEADERS</b></p> <p>“Young people can do incredible things if they get the relevant information to take action.”</p> <p><b>FORBI PERISE EYONG NYOSAI</b> GREENING FORWARD &amp; GRADES OF GREEN</p>

Friday

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## Meditation

### Prayer for Healing, Prayer for the Ocean

Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Imagine yourself walking along a beach. It's a perfect day. Breathe in peace and love. Let go of any pain or fear. Move forward in your bare feet. You can feel every step. The sea-sand is cool beneath your feet. Sometimes your tender skin bakes in the sun-warmed sand. But there's the cooling lapping water to dip your feet in after you've walked and walked.

You feel happy and free because you know that all things are possible. There's time to stop and look at the shells, stones and bits of seaweed now - whatever catches your attention. There are notes written in the sand from those that have come before you. They say things like Hope, Peace, and Love. Little reminders of all that is good.

After a while, you sit down to rest and watch the waves as they break and make their way to shore, the breeze catches the waves causing a gentle spray. The sun is warm and comforting. You feel as though you could sit there for days. You look up and watch a seagull gliding across the waves, letting the wind carry it over and up, around and down. Tears sting your eyes and love fills your heart. The seagull is so free and glorious in its flight.



Your eyes take in the brilliance, the glitter, the glorious colours – the blues, greens and white. How long will you watch the waves? You never tire of that. And the sounds are mesmerizing - the surf, the sea birds, the breeze and your own breath, in and out. The air is crisp and sharp – fresh and salty. The vast sea is full of life and death all at the same time. Beauty and fierceness. It's a mirror of our souls. We are so small and yet so vast.

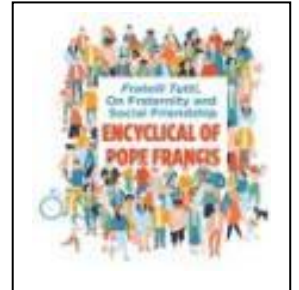
#### **Prayer:**



God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the ocean depths, we celebrate the wondrous design of the seas that surround us. Help us to discern how we have polluted our oceans and to empathise with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to sense your presence in the tides and currents of the surging seas. Teach us to care for the oceans and all our waterways. In the name of the Jesus Christ, our Lord, the creative force that designs and governs all creation. Amen


Forgive us, Lord, for all that we have done to harm the Oceans. There is light in us and we send it out on this night to the ocean, the earth, and all the creatures that inhabit this planet. May this great force that is within us be strong enough to heal us. ***We are all one: the earth, the ocean, everything – everyone***

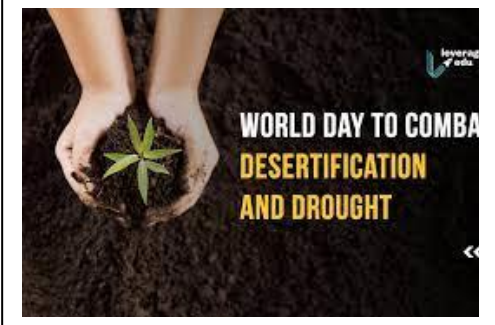


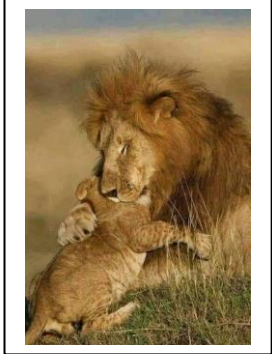
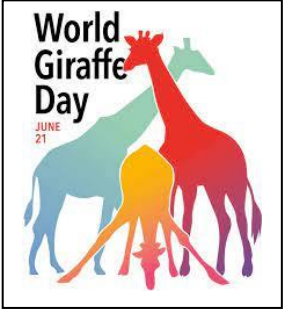
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p>11</p>	<p><b>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</b></p> <p><b>HOPE</b></p> <p>54. Despite these dark clouds, which may not be ignored, I would like in the following pages to take up and discuss many new paths of hope. For God continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family. The recent pandemic enabled us to recognize and appreciate once more all those around us who, in the midst of fear, responded by putting their lives on the line. We began to realize that our lives are interwoven with and sustained by ordinary people valiantly shaping the decisive events of our shared history: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caretakers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests and religious... They understood that no one is saved alone.[51]</p> <p>55. I invite everyone to renewed hope, for hope “speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfilment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile”.[52] Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope.</p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>God, our Creator, whose glory fills all things, help us to discern your presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the soil, in the fields, and on the land. Help us to empathize with your creatures who are suffering and to serve you as agents for healing the land. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and restores all things in creation. Amen.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>May the warming sun, along with mankind you have made, preserve the beauty of our reefs. God, help us to make good choices and guide us not to pollute our oceans but to care for them. Give us hope that we can make our oceans healthier, without plastic or pollution, for generations to come</p>



<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>No one owns the water. No one owns the land. No one owns the oceans. No one owns the sand.</b></p> <p>These are given by our Mother.</p> <p><b>The Planet provides for free.</b></p> <p>Only by the hands of the greedy, does the Earth require a fee.</p> <p><small>Poet Christopher</small></p> 
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Global Wind Day</b></p> <p>Discover the power of wind energy</p> <p>This annual worldwide event is a day for discovering wind energy, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems, decarbonise our economies and boost jobs and growth.</p> <p>For thousands of years people have used windmills and the energy derived from wind to pump water and to grind corn. After a breakthrough by scientists, wind can now also be used to generate electricity. Wind energy, like solar energy, is a free renewable energy source and will never run out.</p> <p>The amount of energy that can be extracted from the wind depends on its speed. The higher the wind speed, the more energy can be harnessed to generate electricity on a large scale. However, this requires large tracts of land to install enough wind turbines or generators, which are also noisy.</p> <p>Wind as an energy source is only practical in areas that have strong and steady winds. South Africa has fair wind potential, especially along the coastal areas of Western and Eastern Cape.</p> <p>National Development Plan: Vision 2030 - By 2030, South Africa's transition to an environmentally sustainable, climate-change resilient, low-carbon economy and just society will be well under way:</p> <p><b>Give thanks:</b></p> <p>For the remarkable strides South Africa's renewal power industry has made.</p> <p><b>Pray:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For industry sensitivity in the placing and installing wind turbines with regards to the threat to wildlife (especially bird and bat mortalities)</li> <li>• For those in authority to make wise decisions regarding the future of our Country's energy needs</li> </ul> 

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Youth Day</b></p> <p>This year National Youth Day and Youth Month will be celebrated under the theme: “<b>Growing youth employment for an inclusive and transformed society.</b>”</p> <p><b>UNICEF South Africa U-Report</b> poll during November 2021 highlighted the specific impact of climate and environment related events on children and young people but also hope for change through local youth initiatives, green economy jobs and climate action following COP 26. Some 80 per cent of young people say they have been directly affected by a climate or environment related event in South Africa, according to a UNICEF South Africa.</p>  <p>Of those impacted, 20 per cent said their home was damaged, 16 per cent stated that their education was disrupted and 14 per cent had limited access to safe water.</p> <p>Children and young people are clearly already feeling the brunt of the climate crisis and environmental degradation – air pollution, drought, flooding, and water pollution the main reasons given for the impact.</p> <p>There is optimism that the green economy could provide future employment - agriculture, tourism and renewable energy were the three areas identified by the youth as being of most interest to young people.</p> <p>To strive towards a healthier environment and future for every child, UNICEF South Africa is calling for three actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include children and young people in all climate-related decisions, according to the '<a href="#">SA Youth Climate Action Plan</a>' developed by young people across the country, convened by the Youth Programmes at the South African Institute of International Affairs (Youth@SAIIA).</li> <li>• Increase investment in climate adaptation and resilience in key services for children, including water, sanitation and hygiene systems, health and education.</li> <li>• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a just and equitable transition towards an environmentally sustainable and inclusive economy.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Care of Creation – Youth Manual</a> is a great start to raising environmental awareness in the Youth of the Diocese</p>
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<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>World Desertification Day</b></p> <p>2022 Theme - <b>“Food. Feed. Fibre. - Healthy Land = Healthy People”</b></p> <p>The theme of this international day acts as a reminder to each one of us that over-consumption can lead to desertification and encourages us to help protect the planet. It is only through cooperation and strong community efforts that this goal will be achieved.</p>  <p>Desertification is the process where what was once healthy land is now degraded. It can happen by drought, deforestation or over-farming. Desertification is also happening due to climate change.</p> <p>Desertification happens when nutrients in the soil become so few that the soil itself is no longer fertile, becoming arid. Natural deserts, contrarily, are born through organic processes which take a long time. It's good to know the difference.</p> <p>Overconsumption is when the use of resources (in this case, the soil,) has outpaced the sustainable capacity of the ecosystem. Continued overconsumption leads to environmental degradation, and ultimately loss of resources .... <b>and</b> the capacity to produce enough food to feed a growing world population.</p> <p>It all boils down to living sustainably! We need to continue to live in ways that doesn't harm the environment, or at the very least, cause the lowest possible impact on it. Living sustainably means that we do everything in our power to manage our needs in a way that will allow future generations to do the same.</p> <p><i>Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of a new creation, Founded on the covenant of your love.</i></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>Psalm 107</b></p> <p>He turned rivers into a desert,  flowing springs into thirsty ground,  <sup>34</sup> and fruitful land into a salt waste,  because of the wickedness of those who lived there.  <sup>35</sup> He turned the desert into pools of water  and the parched ground into flowing springs;  <sup>36</sup> there he brought the hungry to live,  and they founded a city where they could settle.  <sup>37</sup> They sowed fields and planted vineyards  that yielded a fruitful harvest;  <sup>38</sup> he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased,  and he did not let their herds diminish.</p>

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>Father's Day</b></p> <p>God, our Father          Bless these men,          that they may find strength as fathers.          Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.          Grant that we, their sons and daughters,          may honour them always          with a spirit of profound respect.</p> <p><i>Author Unknown</i></p> 
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p>“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”</p> <p><i>Saint Basil of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)</i></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>World Giraffe Day</b></p> <p><b>Even though conservation efforts benefit some giraffe, others are in serious trouble...</b></p> <p><i>“Whilst giraffe are commonly seen on safari, in the media, and in zoos, people – including conservationists – are unaware that these majestic animals are undergoing a silent extinction. While giraffe populations in southern Africa are doing just fine, the world’s tallest animal is under severe pressure in some of its core ranges across East, Central and West Africa. It may come as a shock that three of the currently recognised nine subspecies are now considered ‘Critically Endangered’ or ‘Endangered’, but we have been sounding the alarm for a few years now.” – says Dr Julian Fennessy, co-chair of the IUCN SSC GOSG, and Director of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF).</i></p> <p>Human population growth poses the largest threat to giraffe in Africa today. Habitat loss and changes through expanding agriculture and mining, illegal hunting, increasing human-wildlife conflict, and civil unrest are all factors that are pushing giraffe towards extinction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Give grateful thanks</b> that the South African giraffe population is stable and pray that it remains so.</li> <li>• <b>Pray</b> for the plight of giraffe in the rest of Africa, and for the scientists who are working so hard to protect them.</li> <li>• <b>Pray</b> that local communities would respect and conserve these amazing gentle giants</li> </ul> 

Wednesday

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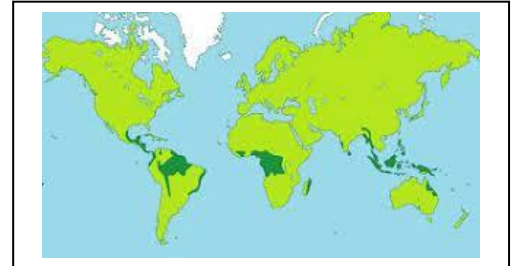
## World Rainforest Day

Celebrating our rainforests on World Rainforest Day

World Rainforest Day is a collaborative effort to raise awareness and encourage action to protect the world's rainforests as well as an opportunity to celebrate this precious natural resource and take action to preserve it.



Rainforests are mainly located between the latitudes of 23.5°N (the Tropic of Cancer) and 23.5°S (the Tropic of Capricorn)—the tropics.



Rainforests are vital for the survival of life on Earth. Not only do they provide us with the freshwater we drink, but they absorb carbon dioxide, stabilize climate patterns, and provide a home to half the world's plant and animal species. Over a quarter of the medicines we use today have their origins in the rainforests — and that's after only about 1% of rainforest plants have been examined for their medicinal properties!

And yet, over the last 40 years, deforestation has stripped an area equivalent to the size of Europe, or 1 billion hectares, from tropical rainforests.

Can we afford not to care? .....



### Prayer for the Protection of Forests



“Then shall all the trees of the forest shout for joy at the presence of the Eternal, for God is coming, for God is coming to rule the earth; God will rule the world justly, and its peoples in faithfulness.” (Psalm 96: 12-13)




Our Creator, may we so live our lives that the forests shout for joy! May we grow in wonder at their beauty; grow in appreciation at the diverse life they sustain; and most of all, grow in our commitment to be good guardians of Your earth, as we have been instructed from the beginning. Help us to “raise our voice like a shofar,” (Isaiah 58:1) to speak for the trees and for the web of life they stand at the centre of. And help us specially to protect Your Edenic rainforests from deforestation that degrades and destroys them. Bless us as we strive for justice for all those whose lives are woven into their fabric, especially our indigenous sisters and brothers whose own voices have been so long ignored. This and every day, may we be blessed to become supporters of your Tree of Life.

*(Translation from the Jewish Publication Society.)*

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>When the Earth is Bright with Dew</b></p> <p>When the earth is bright with dew, Thank the Lord for mercies new. Bless Him for the sun that's ris'n, For the flush of early dawn, Thank Him that the night is past; Praise Him all the beauteous morn.</p> <p>When the sun is risen high, Bathing golden all the sky; Bless the Lord the morn is o'er, Safe its hours have gone so soon; Nature now is wide awake; Praise Him for the glorious noon.</p> <p>When the stars peep out at last, Thank the Lord the day is past. Bless Him for its varied scenes, For its many blessings bright; Thank Him that we're nearer Heav'n, Praise Him, bless Him all the night.</p> <p><b>Carol M. Bruening</b> <b>Late 19th Century</b></p> 
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>Psalm 145</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p>“We cannot predict the behaviour of the whole, complex, connected system. We cannot know what will go wrong or right. However we can be absolutely certain that by reducing or destroying biodiversity, our world will be less able to adapt.”</p> <p><b>Bill Nye,</b> <i>Undeniable: Evolution and the Science of Creation</i></p> 

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>A Prayer of St Aidan</b></p> <p>Leave me alone with God as much as may be.  As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,  Make me an island, set apart,  alone with you, God, holy to you.  Then with the turning of the tide  prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond,  the world that rushes in on me till the waters come again and fold me back to you.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>Swirling God, who at the dawn of creation swept over the face of the waters, hover over our oceans and all waterways with your blessed presence.  May each droplet of mist and sea be clean and fresh for all life who come in contact with these holy streams.  Bless each cell and molecule of life below the surface of the waters who trust in you and us to create a prosperous world.  Continually nudge us to nurture creation, joining together with humans all over this planet to covenant with one another and celebrate the gifts of water, air, fire, and land that you have given us.  Amen.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>Merton's Love of Nature</b></p> <p><i>Part of Thomas Merton's legacy, which I believe has been underappreciated, is his great love of nature. In the hills of Kentucky, he found his connection to God strengthened by every leaf, every tree, every sunrise. I felt it as well in my time at his hermitage. Theologian and GreenFaith fellow Sister Kathleen Deignan writes of Merton's relationship to the natural world, which inevitably led to his activism on the earth's behalf:</i></p> <p>Curiously, what remains hidden or obscure in [Merton's] very public discourse on matters of the sacred is the significance that the natural world played as the ecstatic ground of his own experience of God. But a close reading of his voluminous writings reveals his intimate rapport with and progressive espousal of creation as the body of divinity—at once veiling and unveiling the God he so longed to behold and be held by.</p> 



		<p>[Merton] chose to live alone in the forest as refuge for his own existential pain, but also to make reparation for the violation of earth and earth peoples. Here he became a poet, a protester, a prophet . . .</p> <p><i>Deignan's selections from Merton's journals demonstrate how his love for nature (he even calls the forest his "bride") leads him to grieve and denounce nature's abuse:</i></p> <p>I love the woods, particularly around the hermitage. Know every tree, every animal, every bird.</p> <p>When I am most sickened by the things that are done by the country that surrounds this place I will take out the [Hebrew biblical] prophets and sing them in loud Latin across the hills and send their fiery words sailing south over the mountains to the place where they split atoms for the bombs in Tennessee.</p> <p>There is also the non-ecology, the destructive unbalance of nature, poisoned and unsettled by bombs, by fallout, by exploitation: the land ruined, the waters contaminated, the soil charged with chemicals, ravaged with machinery, the houses of farmers falling apart because everybody goes to the city and stays there . . .</p> <p>It is necessary for me to live here alone without a woman, for the silence of the forest is my bride and the sweet dark warmth of the whole world is my love, and out of the heart of that dark warmth comes the secret that is heard only in silence, but it is the root of all the secrets that are whispered by all the lovers in their beds all over the world. I have an obligation to preserve the stillness, the silence, the poverty, the virginal point of pure nothingness which is at the center of all other loves. I cultivate this plant silently in the middle of the night and water it with psalms and prophecies in silence. It becomes the most beautiful of all the trees in the garden, at once the primordial paradise tree, the <i>axis mundi</i>, the cosmic axle, and the Cross.</p> <p><i>Richard again: It is passages such as these which let you know why I, like so many tens of thousands, consider Merton a primary teacher of the spiritual life. In our time, maybe the primary teacher. He puts it all together (and with such good words, too).</i></p> <p><b>From Richard Rohr's daily meditations</b>  <a href="http://www.cac.org">www.cac.org</a></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	 <p>An Old Celtic Blessing:      May the blessing of light be on      you—      light without and light within.      May the blessed sunlight shine      on you      and warm your heart      till it glows like a great peat fire      irisharoundtheworld.com/ Celtic-symbols</p>