





# JAEI

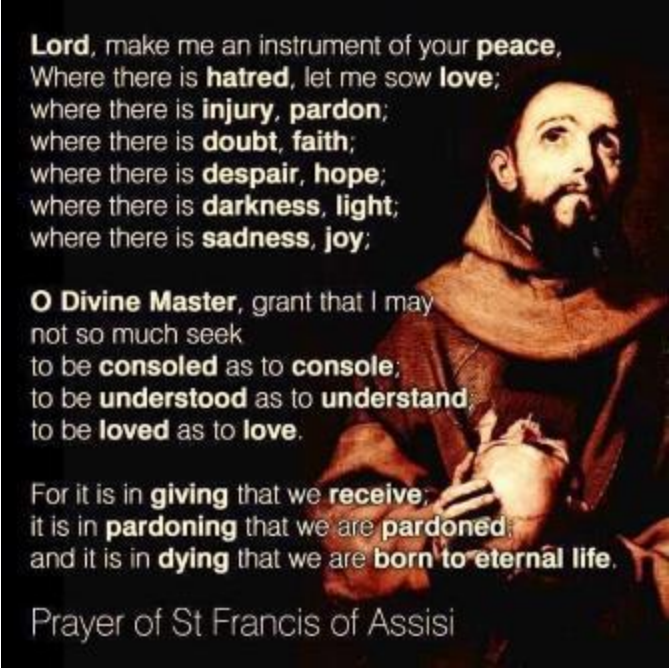
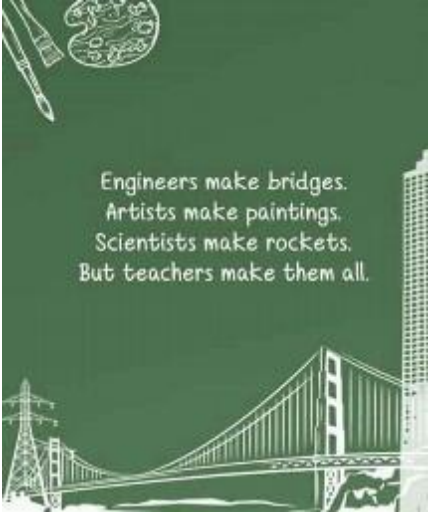
## October 2022 Environmental Prayer Diary


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

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	 <p>Every worm, every insect, every animal is working for the ecological wellbeing of the planet. Only we humans, who claim to be the most intelligent species here, are not doing that.</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Faiths 4 Climate Justice</b></p> <p>SAFCEI is a founding partner of the GreenFaith international network; together, we raise our voices for climate justice.</p> <p>As people of diverse faiths around the globe, we want our moral voices to be heard and the right decisions to be taken on climate justice. Our planet and all living things are sacred, and must be protected in the climate crisis. In 2021 500+ grassroots actions were held across 43 countries. We plan to do this again in 2022.</p>  <p>We will launch <b>Faiths 4 Climate Justice</b> on 2 October and conclude it on the eve of COP27 on 6 November. COP27 is an annual conference bringing together governments and NGOs worldwide under the United Nations banner to negotiate actions on climate change. Companies and banks also attend in their own capacities.</p> <p>This is the perfect opportunity to make our moral voices heard and let the powers that be know they have a moral responsibility to address the climate crisis.</p> <p>Faiths 4 Climate Justice 2022 means more actions, more diverse interfaith voices, and more opportunities for grassroots communities to put pressure on governments, corporations, and big banks worldwide to take climate change seriously. We invite you to join this year's global month of action. <b>Will you join us?</b></p> <p><a href="#">Please sign up here</a></p>

		<p>As an endorser, you will be listed on the network's website and receive a social media shout-out. You will commit to publicizing the global month of action and hosting at least one event and will be invited to special briefings and info sessions online. There is no financial commitment.</p> <p>Faiths 4 Climate Justice 2022 is demanding that governments, corporations, and big banks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put an immediate end to new fossil fuel projects and deforestation</li> <li>• Ensure a rapid transition to 100% renewables and a fair phase-out of fossil fuels</li> <li>• Commit to a just transition for impacted workers and climate-vulnerable communities</li> </ul> <p>We hope you can sign on to help ensure the voices of faiths across the globe are heard.</p> <p>In a spirit of love, justice, and compassion,  <b>SAFCEI team</b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>World Habitat Day</b></p> <p><b>Theme: “Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind”</b></p> <p>World Habitat Day’s theme of (WHD 2022) "Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind" looks at the problem of growing inequality and challenges in cities and human settlements.</p> <p>World Habitat Day 2022 seeks to draw attention to the growing inequalities and vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated by the triple ‘C’ crises — COVID-19, climate and conflict.</p> <p><b>Urgent global priority</b></p> <p>The pandemic and recent conflicts have reversed years of progress made in the fight against <a href="#">poverty</a>, resulting in the emergence of newly poor people - those who would have exited poverty in the absence of the pandemic but remain poor, and those who have fallen into poverty on account of the pandemic. According to the <a href="#">UN-Habitat’s World Cities Report</a>, the number of people affected was between 119 and 124 million in 2020, and between 143 and 163 million in 2021. Tackling urban <a href="#">poverty</a> and <a href="#">inequality</a> have become an urgent global priority.</p> <p><b>Cities and local governments - front-line role</b></p> <p>Cities and local governments play a front-line role in responding to crises and emergencies, as well as in planning for an inclusive, resilient, and green future. To prepare urban areas for future catastrophes, we need to start with cities. Thus, local action and local implementation of the <a href="#">Sustainable Development Goals</a> is more important than ever.</p> <p><b><i>What will your response and action be?</i></b></p>



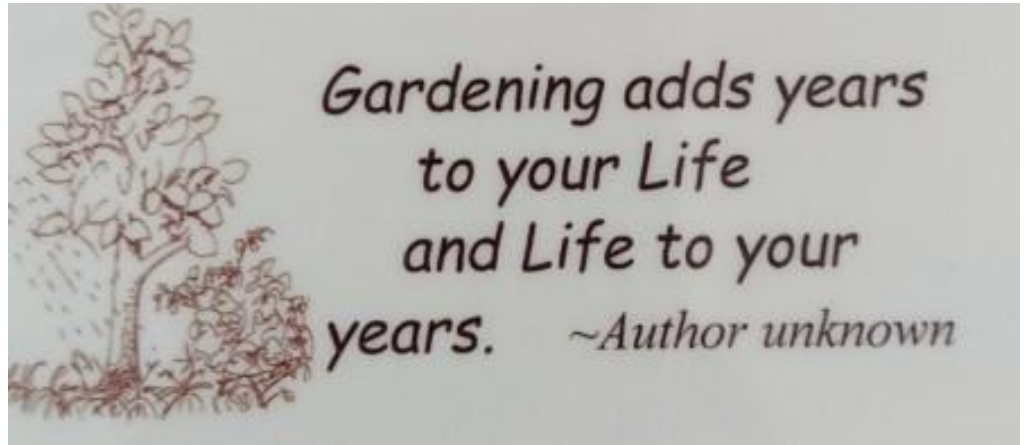
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>World Animal Day (St Francis Day)</b></p>  <p><b>Lord</b>, make me an instrument of your <b>peace</b>,  Where there is <b>hatred</b>, let me sow <b>love</b>;  where there is <b>injury</b>, <b>pardon</b>;  where there is <b>doubt</b>, <b>faith</b>;  where there is <b>despair</b>, <b>hope</b>;  where there is <b>darkness</b>, <b>light</b>;  where there is <b>sadness</b>, <b>joy</b>;</p> <p><b>O Divine Master</b>, grant that I may  not so much seek  to be <b>consoled</b> as to <b>console</b>;  to be <b>understood</b> as to <b>understand</b>;  to be <b>loved</b> as to <b>love</b>.</p> <p>For it is in <b>giving</b> that we <b>receive</b>;  it is in <b>pardoning</b> that we are <b>pardoned</b>;  and it is in <b>dying</b> that we are <b>born to eternal life</b>.</p> <p>Prayer of St Francis of Assisi</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>World Teacher Day</b></p>  <p>Engineers make bridges.  Artists make paintings.  Scientists make rockets.  But teachers make them all.</p> <p>Dear God,  Grant our teachers an abundance of Your wisdom. Prepare their hearts to welcome and love our loved ones, and may we make sure to show them love and respect in return. Give them grace as they help students who aren't thriving, courage to say what needs to be said, tools and knowledge on how and when to speak love, and strength when they feel weak. When they feel unseen, remind them that no moment goes unnoticed. They are shaping the future in one million small - yet incredibly important - ways every day. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gift of learning they share with our children. Bless them, Lord, and may they see even just a glimpse of how their faithfulness will forever impact generations to come.  Amen.</p>

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Read Matthew 25:31-46</b></p> <p><i>“In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me.”</i></p> <p>Jesus, our Universal King, does not cling to his kingly status. No; he is hidden in the faces of those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers or lacking clothes.</p> <p>We are called to pay homage to our Lord Jesus by loving the poorest of our sisters and brothers. We are called to adorn the hungry with food, to make migrants and refugees feel at home, and to clothe the shivering person on our doorstep.</p> <p>Let us ask Christ, the King of Justice, to bless and move our hearts to action.</p> <p>“Blessed are the open hands that embrace the poor and help them: they are hands that bring hope.</p> <p>“Blessed are the hands that reach beyond every barrier of culture, religion and nationality, and pour the balm of consolation over the wounds of humanity.</p> <p>“Blessed are the open hands that ask nothing in exchange, with no ‘ifs’ or ‘buts’ or ‘maybes’: they are hands that call down God’s blessing upon their sisters and brothers.”</p> <p><b><i>This reflection and prayer were written by Rachel McCarthy, who works in CAFOD’s Theology Programme.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p>By the word of our Lord the heavens were made  By the spirit of our Lord was life begun  By the wisdom of our Lord his laws were laid  By the love of our Lord was born his Son  By the grace of our Lord mankind was saved  By the power of our Lord the victory was won.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>World Migratory Bird Day (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2)</b></p> <p>The second World Migratory Bird Day of the year is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> October. This biannual celebration is an annual global campaign dedicated to raising awareness of migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.</p> <p><i>Let me seek, then, the gift of silence, and poverty, and solitude, where everything I touch is turned into prayer: where the sky is my prayer, the birds are my prayer, the wind in the trees is my prayer, for God is in all.</i></p> <p><b>Thomas Merton,</b>  <i>“Thoughts in Solitude</i></p> <p><b><i>Pray for God’s protection on our migratory birds as they journey to their summer destinations.</i></b></p> <p>Even the stork in the sky  Knows her seasons;  And the turtledove and the swift and the thrush  Observe the time of their migration;  But My people do not know  The ordinance of the LORD. - <i>Jeremiah 8:7</i></p> 

Sunday

9

### National Garden Day




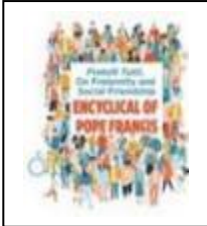
Garden Day is a chance for people across the country to down tools and celebrate their gardens. Everyone can take part, regardless of the size of their gardens – rolling lawns, potted windowsills, urban rooftops and patio planters – all are welcome.



#### **A Thanksgiving for Gardens**

God of grace, in the story of creation,  
you made the earth a garden  
and entrusted it to us to till and to keep,  
a place of peace and beauty  
where we could walk with you.  
In the story of redemption,  
the one who died for us was buried in a garden,  
and there you raised him up  
to greet us with new hope and risen life.  
In the story of the Church,  
you tend us as a garden,  
a place of careful pruning and abundant harvest,  
where we can work with you.  
Meet us, we pray,  
in all the gardens where we go  
for nourishment, refreshment and prayer,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.


<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>National Marine Week</b></p> <p>Who says you can't love the beach and live in Johannesburg? For those who are landlocked it can be challenging to support clean ocean initiatives when the only view you have of the surf is on holiday. Short of collecting beach rubbish while you're holidaying, there is not much that you can do .... or is there?</p> <p>The word "ocean" represents the entire marine environment, from the coast to far offshore, including and beyond our ocean borders or EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone). It is a mysterious place, unexplored and full of wonder. There are many discoveries waiting to be made – benefits and influences, scientific discoveries and innovations. These mysteries need to be deciphered and uncovered, in order to show ordinary citizens how oceans play a role in their daily lives. The ocean produces more than half of the world's oxygen and absorbs 50 times more carbon dioxide than our atmosphere. Oceans regulate Climate and weather patterns.</p> <p>The oceans have the potential of being a major driver towards the betterment of South Africans. It is a vast natural resource and as a developing country we need to utilise these resources sustainably to ensure it builds a better South Africa. The use of the oceans for economic development needs to happen in a balanced and environmentally sustainable way</p> <p>Everyone has an obligation to do everything in their power to adopt a lifestyle that will protect the ocean such as avoiding ocean-harming products like cosmetics that contain shark squalene, jewelry made of coral or sea turtle shell, souvenir shells of conchs, nautilus and other animals, and of course avoid single-use plastics like straws and water bottles that can end up in our oceans. Much of the waste that we produce eventually ends up in the oceans. Usage and wrong disposal of plastic is a major cause of marine pollution. Choose sustainable seafood that is healthy for you and the oceans from well-managed, wild fisheries.</p> <p>Destruction of the oceans and climate change go hand in hand, so reducing your carbon footprint mitigates both.</p> <p>During this <b>National Marine Week</b>, (and every day) become aware of the incredible role oceans play in our daily lives every single day!</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>"Weedbuster" Week</b></p> <p>National "<i>Weedbuster Week</i>" aims to raise awareness about invasive alien plants (IAPs), their impact on South Africa's highly biodiverse ecosystems as well as the country's precious water resources.</p> <p>An invasive alien plant is a plant that is not indigenous to South Africa or the ecosystem in which it is found growing within the country. When an invasive alien plant species takes hold within the ecosystem and starts to spread, they can displace indigenous plant species through competition, as well as bringing about changes in ecosystem structure and function.</p>



		<p>Of particular concern at present is the Pompom weed which is rapidly becoming the most serious threat to the conservation of grasslands in South Africa. You can report sightings of these plants to the <i>Early Detection and Rapid Response team</i> (EDRR) (<a href="mailto:alienplants@sanbi.org.za">alienplants@sanbi.org.za</a>) giving the exact locality (supply any landmarks or GPS information if possible).</p>  <p>It is clear that this “all-out-war” needs to be fought on many fronts and one of those fronts is our back gardens, pavements and open areas in our communities .... and it is really up to us as individuals, to all get involved.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check your gardens and surrounds for alien invader plants and take the appropriate action to remove it.</li> <li>• For identification purposes, visit <a href="http://www.invasives.org">www.invasives.org</a></li> <li>• Be a “WEED-BUSTER” that takes no prisoners!</li> </ul> <p>Download the <a href="#">Facts about Invasive Alien Plants</a> from the Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p><b>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</b></p> <p><b>Chapter Two</b> <b>Abandoned on the wayside</b></p> <p>63. Jesus tells the story of a man assaulted by thieves and lying injured on the wayside. Several persons passed him by, but failed to stop. These were people holding important social positions, yet lacking in real concern for the common good. They would not waste a couple of minutes caring for the injured man, or even in calling for help. Only one person stopped, approached the man and cared for him personally, even spending his own money to provide for his needs. He also gave him something that in our frenetic world we cling to tightly: he gave him his time. Certainly, he had his own plans for that day, his own needs, commitments and desires. Yet he was able to put all that aside when confronted with someone in need. Without even knowing the injured man, he saw him as deserving of his time and attention.</p> <p>64. Which of these persons do you identify with? This question, blunt as it is, is direct and incisive. Which of these characters do you resemble? We need to acknowledge that we are constantly tempted to ignore others, especially the weak. Let us admit that, for all the progress we have made, we are still “illiterate” when it comes to accompanying, caring for and supporting the most frail and vulnerable members of our developed societies. We have become accustomed to looking the other way, passing by, ignoring situations until they affect us directly.</p> <p><b>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</b></p> 

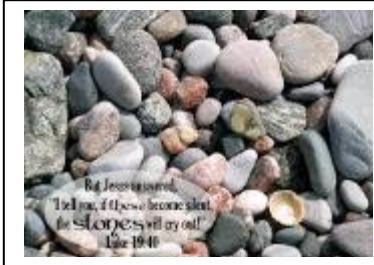
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>International Day for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction</b></p> <p>The International Day for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction was declared by United Nations General Assembly to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made toward preventing and reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, economies and basic infrastructure in line with the <a href="#">Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</a>, adopted in March 2015.</p>  <p>There are two types of disaster: <b>natural and man-made</b>. Natural Disasters are caused by natural factors such as earthquake, flood, cyclone etc. Man-made disasters are caused by human activities such as conflict, fire accidents, industrial accidents etc.</p> <p>Disasters hit hardest at the local level with the potential to cause loss of life and great social and economic upheaval. Sudden onset disasters displace millions of people every year. Disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change, have a negative impact on investment in sustainable development and the desired outcomes.</p> <p>Sadly, South Africa is no stranger to disasters – both natural and human induced. The devastating Kwa-Zulu Natal floods earlier this year, wildfires in the Western Cape and continuing drought in many parts of the country bare testimony to this. South Africa does have a National Disaster Management Programme. However, how prepared are we in our own communities and in our Parishes to initiate immediate response to disasters in our neighbourhoods? Perhaps this should be part of our annual planning.</p> <p><b>Practical examples of disaster relief could be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response team on high alert</li> <li>• Setting up temporary shelters that provide a safe place to sleep, food, and emotional support from trained personnel.</li> <li>• Delivering meals and water.</li> <li>• Distributing emergency supplies and necessities, such as toiletries for hygiene and tarps, shovels, trash bags for clean-up efforts.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Consider your own and your community’s preparedness for natural disasters.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p>“We need end-to-end and people-centred systems which will stop the spiral of disaster destruction and contribute to a more sustainable, more resilient and more equitable future.”</p>  <p><b><i>Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR</i></b></p>







<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p>This beautiful world can be cruel destroying life and livelihood in an instant, Challenging our faith in a God who cares. This beautiful world is yours, Lord Created in love, gifted by grace. Help us understand it; care for it; protect it And when disaster strikes Be there if not in person, then in prayer.</p> <p>God of wholeness, God of Grace, To you we bring our thanks and praise. To a world that searches - you are a lamp that shines, To a world that is hungry - you are food that sustains, To a world that suffers - you are hope of release, To a world that's broken - you are one who restores, To a world full of hate - you are love that forgives, To a world that denies - you are truth that endures. To you we bring our thanks and praise, God of wholeness, God of Grace</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>World Food Day</b></p> <p><b>2022 Theme: “Leave NO ONE behind“</b></p> <p>2022 finds us with an ongoing pandemic, conflict, a climate that won't stop warming, rising prices and international tensions. This is affecting global food security.</p> <p>We need to build a sustainable world where everyone, everywhere has regular access to enough nutritious food and no one should be left behind.</p> <p>Globally, progress has been made towards building a better world but too many people have been left behind. Millions of people around the world cannot afford a healthy diet, putting them at high risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. But ending hunger isn't only about supply. Enough food is produced today to feed everyone on the planet - the problem is access and availability of nutritious food, which is increasingly impeded by multiple challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, climate change, inequality, rising prices and international tensions. People around the world are suffering the domino effects of challenges that know no borders.</p> <p>Whilst South Africa is food secure at national level, the country is still food insecure at household level as not all households have access to adequate food. Food inadequacy and hunger are still a challenge. Poverty-stricken households lack money to buy food and are unable to produce their own food. These households are constrained by the inability to secure employment or to generate income. Poor households are also typically characterised by few income-earners and many dependents, and are particularly vulnerable to economic shocks.</p> <p>Households with no children or fewer children were more likely to have adequate access to food than those with many children. According to a recent</p> 

		<p>report by Oxfam, child hunger was still a challenge in South Africa. More than half a million households with children aged five years or younger experienced hunger on a daily basis. More than half of households with young children that experienced hunger are in urban areas.</p> <p>A sustainable world is one where everyone counts - we must <b>ALL</b> be the change. As communities and individuals we need to decide how we respond to this crisis.</p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider your response to this problem.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</b></p> <p><b>2022 Theme: “Dignity for all in practice : the commitments we make together for social justice, peace and the planet”</b></p> <p>The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty presents an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty, a chance for them to make their concerns heard, and a moment to recognise that poor people are the first ones to fight against poverty.</p> <p>Participation of the poor themselves has been at the centre of the Day’s celebration since its very beginning.</p> <p>Approximately 8% of the global population lives in extreme poverty, commonly defined as surviving on only \$1.90 (R28) day, or less. There’s no “magic bullet” solution to poverty, but understanding its causes is a good first step.</p> <p><b>Inequality and Marginalisation</b> - systemic barriers leaving groups of people without a voice or representation within their communities. Gender inequality, marginalisation based on race or tribal affiliations are all economic and social inequalities where people have little to no access to the resources needed to live a full, productive life. For a population to escape poverty, all groups must be involved in the decision-making process - especially when it comes to having a say in the things that determine their place in society.</p> <p><b>Conflict</b> - Conflict is one of the most common forms of risk driving poverty. Violence has huge impacts on communities that are already struggling.</p> <p><b>Hunger, Malnutrition and Stunting</b> - Poverty causes hunger but hunger also causes poverty. Lack of nutrition is known to be a cause of stunted growth in children – both in body and brain function. Research has shown that adults who were stunted as children earn, on average, 22% less than those who weren’t stunted.</p> <p><b>Lack of education</b> - Not every person without an education is living in extreme poverty, but most of the extremely poor don’t have an education. There are many barriers to education including a lack of money for uniforms and books and a bias against girls’ education. Poverty threatens education, but education can also help end poverty.</p> <p><b>Poor healthcare systems — especially for mothers and children</b> - Extreme poverty and poor health often go hand in hand. Where health systems are</p>





		<p>weak, easily preventable and treatable illnesses like diarrhoea, and respiratory infections can be fatal - especially for young children.</p> <p><b>Little or no access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene</b> – Globally more than 2 billion people don't have access to clean water. In rural areas people (mainly women and girls) walk long distances daily to fetch water. Contaminated water can also lead to a host of waterborne diseases, ranging from the chronic to the life-threatening.</p> <p><b>Climate Change</b> - Climate change creates hunger, whether through too little water (drought) or too much (flooding), and its effects contribute to the cycle of poverty in several other ways including disproportionately affecting women, creating refugees, and even influencing conflict.</p> <p><b>Lack of employment opportunities</b> - Without a job or a livelihood, people will face poverty.</p> <p><b>Prayerfully consider your response to this problem.</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>Almighty God</b></p> <p>The rising Sun that fills the sky  The starry host that lights the night  Reflecting Your glory  The mountain heights, forever stand  The rain that falls to soak the land  Respond to Your glory</p> <p>Almighty God, in every way  You are above and beyond understanding  If we did not praise, the rocks would cry out  Glorious God, high above understanding</p> <p>The vast expanse of earth and sea  Held by You in harmony  Speaks of Your glory  All You've made, since time began  Life itself; Your perfect plan  And it's all for Your glory</p> <p>Almighty God, in every way  You are above and beyond understanding  If we did not praise, the rocks would cry out  Glorious God, high above understanding</p> <p>Creation joins as one to sing  "Glorious God"  So far above all earthly things  Almighty God, in every way  You are above and beyond understanding  If we did not praise, the rocks would cry out  Glorious God, high above understanding</p> <p><b>Tim Hughes</b></p> 

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	 <p>"Out here, everything is the next best educational toy. A stick, a rock, a snail, the rain falling into cupped hands, a bowl full of ripe red berries, a handful of grass, the clouds in the sky, an ant carrying a woodlouse, a spider catching a bee. The list is abundant and the opportunities endless."</p> <p>Samantha Vickery www.loveparenting.org</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p>Today we remember all those whose lives are already affected by climate change, especially the poorest and most vulnerable throughout the world. We pray that God be with them and fill them with the gift of hope and strength to fight for a better world</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p>"We cannot jump over this world, or its woundedness, and still try to love God. We must love God <i>through, in, with,</i> and even <i>because of this world</i>"</p> <p><b>Richard Rohr</b></p> 
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>UN Climate Change Conference (COP27)</b> 06-18 November 2022 - Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt</p> <p>The annual UN Climate Change Conference will be held in Egypt in November amidst unmet climate commitments, lingering disruptions due to COVID-19, finance uncertainties and energy and food challenges created by the war in Ukraine. The purpose of the Conference is to advance the global climate talks, mobilise action, and provide a significant opportunity to consider the impacts of climate change as well as global innovation and solutions.</p>  <p>A real concern is that the Russia-Ukraine conflict is directly contributing to the exacerbation of the food price crisis, bringing to the fore the need for food supply chains resilience. The soaring food prices combined with the impacts of climate induced droughts will create an even grimmer outlook for food security in coming years. In addition to the food crisis, the scramble by many countries to find alternative sources to energy they used to get from Russia appears to be a setback for the climate agenda as new investments are being made in fossil fuels and new supply routes being created, making the current situation extremely difficult.</p> <p>The reality of climate change is evident, particularly for rural communities who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. Urban centres see very little direct consequence on their daily lives other than the rising food costs and the inevitable loadshedding. Water comes from a tap but for rural communities</p>

		<p>across the continent who must get all their resources from mother nature, the reality of climate change is stark and real. Streams and rivers which used to be their lifeline are drying up and are no longer sustainable which has a direct bearing on lower agricultural productivity</p> <p>Everyone needs to care about climate change as it is impacting Africa's economy as well as the development trajectory, and its adverse impacts are costing lives. The recent flooding in South Africa and its impact on people's lives and the economy is good example.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there seems to be few expectations for COP27, but clear decisions on implementation of climate action will constitute success at COP27. It is hoped that this Conference will assess progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support and the social and economic consequences of measures taken to address loss and damage. It is also hoped that it will assess the world's collective progress towards fulfilling the Paris Agreement and tangible, implementable outcomes made.</p> <p><b><i>Cover every aspect of this Conference in prayer!</i></b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p>Who on earth can adequately sing your praises?          What can my eye see with which I can liken you?          What music is there with which to compare you?          You are above me, below me, within me and without.          All exist in you, all are from you,          you give us everything you withhold nothing.          Who on earth can sing your praises?          Lord God, we exalt you.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	

<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>Joel 2:18-27</b></p> <p><b>The LORD's Answer</b></p> <p><sup>18</sup> Then the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> The LORD replied to them: "I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.</p> <p><sup>20</sup> "I will drive the northern horde far from you, pushing it into a parched and barren land; its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea. And its stench will go up; its smell will rise." Surely he has done great things!</p> <p><sup>21</sup> Do not be afraid, land of Judah; be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things!</p> <p><sup>22</sup> Do not be afraid, you wild animals, for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.</p> <p><sup>23</sup> Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.</p> <p><sup>24</sup> The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.</p> <p><sup>25</sup> "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm<sup>[b]</sup>— my great army that I sent among you.</p> <p><sup>26</sup> You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.</p> <p><sup>27</sup> Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.</p>
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<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>Patron Saint of Ecology</b></p>  <p>One of the things Francis of Assisi is best known for is his love of nature. Pope John Paul II named him the Patron Saint of Ecology in 1979. Pope Francis entitled his encyclical about caring for our common home <i>Laudato Si</i> meaning “praise be to you,” a phrase which Francis used repeatedly in his Canticle of the Creatures.</p> <p>St. Bonaventure (1221–1274), an early Franciscan mystic, taught that, “As a human being, Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone he shares existence; with plants he shares life; with animals he shares sensation; and with the angels he shares intelligence.” In saying this, Bonaventure was trying to give theological weight to the deep experience Francis, 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, much as indigenous people have done for centuries: “Sister, Mother Earth,” “Brother Wind,” “Sister Water,” and “Brother Fire.”</p> <p>Francis was fully at home in this created world. He saw all things in the visible world as endless dynamic and operative symbols of the Real, a theater and training ground for a heaven that is already available to us in small doses in this life. <i>What you choose now, you shall have later</i> seems to be the realization of the saints. Not an idyllic hope for a later heaven but a living experience right now.</p> <p>We cannot jump over this world, or its woundedness, and still try to love God. We must love God <i>through, in, with,</i> and even <i>because of</i> 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 that comes in the previous chapter, which seems to say that we should “dominate” the earth (Genesis 1:28). I wonder if this is not another shape of our original sin. God “empties” Godself into creation, and then we humans spend most of history creating systems to control and subdue that creation for our own purposes and profit, reversing the divine pattern.</p> <p>In the spirit of St. Francis, read aloud this prayer of repentance, intention, and longing by one of his contemporary followers, Mirabai Starr:</p> <p><i>Dear God,  You created the world to serve our needs and to lead us to you.  Through our own unconsciousness we have lost the beautiful relationship we once had with the rest of creation.  Help us to see that by restoring our relationship with you we will also renew our connection with all your creation.  Give us the grace to see all animals as gifts from you and to treat them with respect, for they are your creation.  We pray for all animals who are suffering as a result of our neglect.  May the order you originally established be once again restored to the whole world.  Amen.</i></p> <p><b>From Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations</b>  <a href="http://www.cac.org">www.cac.org</a></p>
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<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p>Creator God,          In your hand are the depths of the earth.          The mountain peaks belong to you, The sea is your creation,          The dry land is your handiwork,          The fruit of the land is your design,          The taste of the produce is your gift,          And we are your people,          a flock under your care.          We give you our thanks and praise, O God.          Amen.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>“Progress is measured by the speed at which we destroy the conditions that sustain life.”</p> <p><b><i>George Monbiot</i></b></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p>Almighty and Ever living God, you bring forth and sustain every living thing; help us grow in compassion and care for the multitude of your creatures, that we may see them not as objects for our use, but as brothers and sisters that sing your never-ending praise. Through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and guide, who with you and the Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.</p> <p><b><i>Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis</i></b></p>





<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>World Cities Day</b></p> <p><b>2022 theme: “Act Local to Go Global”</b></p> <p>World Cities Day aims to raise international awareness of urbanization trends, challenges and visions for sustainable urban development, promote international cooperation and contribute to global efforts to build equitable, prosperous, sustainable inclusive cities that provide their communities with better living environments and quality of life.</p> <p>Local action is critical to achieve the <a href="#">sustainable development goals</a> by 2030. <a href="#">UN-Habitat</a> has been at the forefront of SDG localization since the very endorsement of the 2030 Agenda. Since then, UN-Habitat has been working to advance SDG localisation by providing technical expertise to partners across the globe, by leading the development of cutting-edge research, by capacitating local and regional governments on SDG localization, and by strengthening the voice of local governments and local actors within the main international and UN-led fora on SDGs.</p> <p>Acting locally can be a start to addressing the challenges of a city. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community garden</b></li> <p>Concrete buildings standing at every corner of the street with no green spaces in societies, the world has lost its soul. Building community parks in every society helps bring in soul to the environment and works as an interactive space for people in the community to come together and spend time together.</p> <li>• <b>Green your building</b></li> <p>The concrete structures often look unattractive to the eyes and do nothing for the environment as well. Adding in green will attract wildlife and help the environment by emitting oxygen back in the air. Adding vegetation on rooftops and balconies will help in greening the city. adding in the plant even provides psychological benefits to the people</p> <li>• <b>Reduce, reuse and recycle</b></li> <p>Recycling waste products and using them helps keep the city green and the environment eco-friendly by reusing the old products again in a creative way. Reducing the use of energy sources that releases harmful gases and pollutes the environment</p> </ul> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider what actions you can take in this endeavour.</i></b></p>
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