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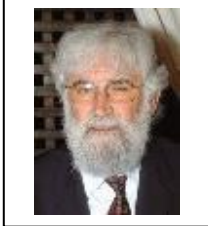
May 2023 Environmental Prayer Diary


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


<p>Monday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1st Week in May – National Bird Week</p> <p>In the first week of May every year is acknowledged as National Bird Week to encourage as many South Africans as possible from all walks of life to flutter with excitement over the feathered inhabitants of the country and to encourage participation in birdwatching as one of the world's fastest growing sports.</p> <p>Children are encouraged to initiate birdwatching and conservation activities, like establishing indigenous plants, putting up bird baths and bird feeders at their schools.</p> <p>This year Birdlife South Africa has highlighted the Cape Parrot (<i>Poicephalus robustus</i>) the bird of the year.</p> <p>This absolutely stunning bird does not occur on the Highveld (<i>if it did it would be horribly lost!</i>) but is endemic to South Africa, inhabiting isolated patches of forest in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo provinces. It is classified as Endangered and is estimated to have a remaining population of fewer than 1800 individuals. so it occurs nowhere else in the world.</p> <p>Several conservation organisations and individuals are working together to protect South Africa's endangered Cape Parrot population. BirdLife South Africa is pleased to partner with BirdLife Species Guardians, the Cape Parrot Working Group and the Wild Bird Trust's Cape Parrot Project to raise awareness about this species through our Bird of the Year 2023 campaign.</p> <p>The work of these Species Guardians includes initiatives, such as population monitoring, habitat restoration, the provision of nest boxes, species rehabilitation, education of the public, and community outreach, among others.</p> <p>Cape Parrots are truly the bright green and gold jewels of the forest, attracting birders from around the world to South Africa, and helping to support ecotourism in rural areas that rely heavily on ecotourism for sustainability. They symbolise hope and resilience, and the species persists despite decades of historical, exploitative logging.</p> <p>A deserving Bird of the Year 2023, indeed.</p> <p><i>Be aware of the birds around you this month.</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Jesus, who raised the dead to life</p> <p>Help us to find ways to renew what we have broken, damaged and destroyed: Where we have taken too much water, polluted the air, poured plastic into the sea, cut down the forests and soured fertile soils.</p> <p>Help all those who work to find solutions to damage and decay; give hope to those who are today working for a greener future.</p> <p>Amen</p>


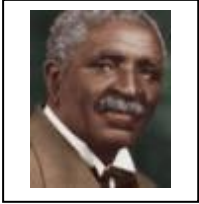



<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>International Leopard Day</p> <p>The celebration of International Leopard Day is an ongoing attempt to increase awareness of the importance of this species, this is a day that celebrates leopards and attempts to increase the global awareness of their status as well as the threats that leopard populations are faced with.</p> <p>In life and certainly in nature, each species on earth has its unique role to play in maintaining an extensive environmental balance.</p> <p>Leopards are solitary and secretive carnivores that are excellent hunters. They occur over large parts of sub-Saharan Africa and most of South Africa, excluding the Greater Karoo basin. They are adapted to many habitats and can be found from arid, desert regions that receive very little rain to humid forests and mountainous regions. As one of the ‘Big 5’, leopards attract many ecotourists to South Africa, who go looking for them in the Kruger National Park or Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.</p> <div data-bbox="991 282 1497 488" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="435 835 684 1059" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Leopards are large predators that play a role in the managing of small predators and prey populations within the ecosystem. These predators are a sign of a healthy, functioning ecosystem because they require large territories and are sensitive to human-induced disturbances, habitat loss and prey reduction.</p> <p>Leopards in South Africa have the conservation status of “vulnerable” and are protected under national legislation throughout most of their range. There are several local organisations such as the Cape Leopard Trust and international ones such as Panthera that have taken up the task of protecting leopard populations within South Africa and raising awareness on conserving these magnificent cats. In South Africa, only people with a destruction permit or a CITES tag issued by the local conservation authority have legal permission to kill leopards.</p> <p>The key threats are all ongoing and include habitat loss and fragmentation, prey depletion, conflict with people (especially farmers), unsustainable trophy hunting, poaching for skins and body parts, and indiscriminate killing. In South Africa the main threat to leopard persistence is the illegal skin trade.</p> <p><i>Pray for all involved in leopard conservation.</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>4</p>	<div data-bbox="794 1653 1129 2038" data-label="Image"> </div>



<p>Friday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Creator God, hear us as we pray, Clouds, oceans, seas, rivers, lakes and waterfalls are your sacred gifts of life and beauty to us, O God; teach us how to use and preserve the waters of our planet.</p> <p><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></p> <p>Rain down your Spirit upon the waters of our earth; and upon those responsible for decisions concerning their purity and availability.</p> <p><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></p> <p>Nourishing God may all the peoples and creatures of this earth have the water they need to live their lives fully.</p> <p>Help us to solve the problems of drought, flooding, sanitation and disease so that all may share in the banquet and none be in want.</p> <p><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></p> <p>Creator God, you are the source of living water. We confess our inadequate ways of dealing with the world's water. Free us from our misuse and waste of this precious gift, and forgive us.</p> <p><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></p> <p>Creator God, your Son Jesus made this planet His home. Enlighten your people to discover creative ways to provide enough clean water for all peoples and all that lives and grows.</p> <p><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></p> <p>God of life-giving waters, God of all those who carry water for miles, God of those whose only supply is contaminated, God of those lacking good sanitation, may water, clean and life-giving, be available to every living creature.</p> <p><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation..</i></p> <p>Compassionate God, forgive your people for their wasting, pollution, commodification and privatization of water. Compassionate God, we pray for perseverance and courage for individuals, communities, agencies and organizations throughout the world working for water justice. May we be generous in supporting them,</p> <p><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></p> <p>Creator God, for thousands of years we, your people, have co-operated with your creative power at work in the waters of our world to bring forth food for the nourishment of all. Help us to continue to respect these generous waters and their natural processes. We join in praise of the Divine Love that holds all in cosmic communion.</p> <p><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></p> <p>Amen</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>“The history of the universe and nature is being told to us by the stars, by the Earth, by the uprising and elevation of the mountains, by the animals, the woods and jungles, and by the rivers.”</p> <p><i>Leonardo Boff</i> <i>Brazilian theologian, philosopher writer, and former Catholic priest</i></p> 

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>God you made our Mother Earth, who cries out with sorrow. May the wonder of your creation be revealed to us: water that gives life, not destruction crops sown, not destroyed pure air to breathe, not polluted.</p> <p>Renew in us a respect for the magic of a tiny seed a flowing waterfall a hovering skylark.</p> <p>Restore us to closeness with you. Call us to change for you and may your spirit cry out within us always.</p> <p>Mary Clark/CAFOD</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>2nd Week in May - International Composting Awareness Week</p> <p>Theme for ICAW 2023: For Healthier Soil, Healthier Food... Compost!</p> <p>Throughout the week of ICAW, everyone – whether communities, schools, businesses or whatever – are encouraged to start composting – from backyard to large scale. The theme was chosen based on a serious world-wide issue that every nation, unfortunately, experiences: hunger.</p>  <p>One of the initiatives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), is Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. The chosen 2023 theme best reflects the goal of focusing on how compost can have a role in helping feed the world, by making our soil healthier which produces healthier food. How does compost help? By recycling organics into compost and using it on our farmlands we create healthy soils that produce healthier food and higher yields. It also reduces the need for fertilizer and pesticides, improves water quality and conserves water, as well as stores carbon in soil - helping to reduce climate change. Compost not only helps the environment but also helps to decrease food shortages experienced around the world.</p> <p><i>So, get involved and start composting today (if you have not already done so)... “For Healthier Soil, Healthier Food... Compost!”</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Open my senses, God, to understand and answer the needs of others. Keep my ears attuned to the laughter of children, my eyes to the needs of the hidden. Let my nose smell the beauty of flowers and transform the earth’s decay to the scent of fecundity. May my touch be gentle in raising up those who live under a heavy burden. May I savour the taste of your abundance and make the earth sustainable for all. Open my senses, God.</p> <p>Sr Bridgetta Rooney</p>

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>“Wandering in Nature</p>  <p>Psychologist and wilderness guide, Bill Plotkin, believes—and I agree—that to “save our souls” we need to reconnect with nature. To rediscover who we truly are—and who our brothers and sisters are—we must become intimate with our natural surroundings. The wisdom of nature can’t be understood with our thinking mind. We have to experience it with our being and let it speak to us through all our senses.</p> <p>Plotkin’s own mindful walks support his insights:</p> <p>Wandering in nature is perhaps the most essential soulcraft practice for contemporary Westerners who have wandered so far from nature. . . .</p> <p>The Wanderer allows plenty of time to roam in wild nature, and roam alone. Maybe you start out on a trail, but if the landscape allows, it won’t be long before you wander off the beaten track. Because you are stalking a surprise, you attend to the world of hunches and feelings and images as much as you do to the landscape.</p> <p>. . . You will get good at wandering, good at allowing your initial agenda to fall away as you pick up new tracks, scents, and possibilities. You will smile softly to yourself over the months and years of wanderings as you notice how you have changed, how you have slowed down inside.</p> <p>Through your wanderings, you cultivate a sensibility of wonder and surprise, rekindling the innocence that got buried in your adolescent rush to become somebody in particular. Now you seek to become nobody for a while, to disappear into the woods so that the person you really are might find you. [1]</p> <p>And so, I encourage each of you: Go to a place in nature where you can walk freely and alone.</p> <p>If you can, find some place where human impact is minimal. But if you’re not able to travel to wilderness, visit a neighborhood park or tree-lined street where you can walk safely. Tell someone where you will be and how long you expect to be there. Take adequate water and clothing for the conditions. (If you are unable to walk, sit in a place where you can gaze at nature and move within your imagination, your inner vision.)</p> <p>Begin your wandering by finding a threshold (perhaps an arched branch overhead or a narrow passage between rocks). Here offer a voiced prayer of your intention and desire for this time. Step across the threshold quite deliberately and, on this side of your sacred boundary, speak no words, but watch and listen for God’s presence.</p> <p>Let the land, plants, and creatures lead your feet and eyes. Let yourself be drawn, rather than walking with a destination or purpose in mind. If you are called to a particular place or thing, stop and be still, letting yourself be known and know, through silent communion with the Other. Before you leave, offer some gesture or token of gratitude for the gift nature has given you.</p> <p>When it is time to return to the human world, find your threshold again and cross over—and now you have learned to watch for God in all things.</p> <p><i>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations</i> <i>www.cac.org</i></p>
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<p>Thursday</p>	<p>11</p>	 <p>"We often talk of saving the planet, but the truth is that we must do these things to save ourselves." Sir David Attenborough</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>"Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books, for they speak with the voice of God." George Washington Carver</p> 
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>World Migratory Bird Day (1st of 2) 2023 Theme: "Water: Sustaining Bird Life"</p>  <p>This theme will focus on the topic of water and its importance for migratory birds. identify key actions for protecting water resources and aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>Water is fundamental to life on our planet. The vast majority of migratory birds rely on aquatic ecosystems during their life cycles. Inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, marshes, and ponds are all vital for feeding, drinking, or nesting, and also as places to rest and refuel during their long journeys.</p> <p>Unfortunately, aquatic ecosystems are becoming increasingly threatened around the world and so are the migratory birds that depend on them. The increasing human demand for water, as well as pollution and climate change, are having a direct impact on the availability of clean water and the conservation status of many migratory birds.</p> <p>Pray for the safety of our migrating birds.</p>


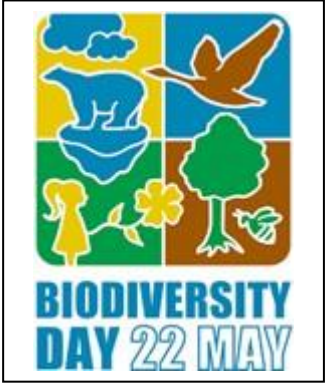
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Mother's Day</p> <p>May the blessing of the Divine Be an especially bright benediction Upon mothers everywhere On your blessed day - On Mother's Day!</p> <p>Author Unknown</p>	
<p>Monday</p>	<p>15</p>		
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>All That's Good, and Great, and True</p> <p>All that's good, and great, and true, All that is and is to be, Be it old or be it new, Comes, O Father, comes from Thee.</p> <p>Mercies dawn with every day, Newer, brighter than before; And the sun's declining ray Layeth others up in store.</p> <p>Not a bird that doth not sing Sweetest praises to Thy name; Not an insect on the wing But Thy wonders doth proclaim.</p> <p>Every blade and every tree All in happy concert ring, And in wondrous harmony Join in praises to their king.</p> <p>Fill us, then, with love divine; Grant that we, though toiling here, May in spirit, being Thine, See and hear Thee everywhere.</p> <p>May we all, with songs of praise, Whilst on earth Thy name adore, Till with angel choirs we raise Songs of praise forevermore.</p> <p>Words: Godfrey Thring 1863.</p>	

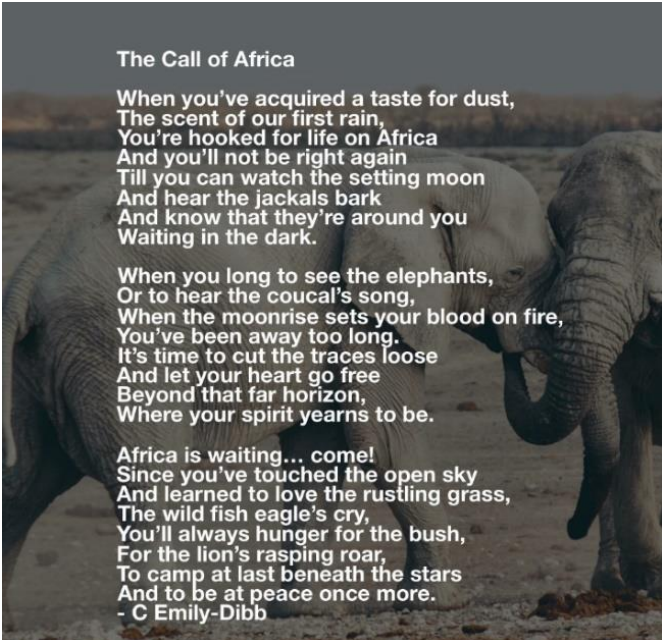
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>“There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story.”</p> <p>Linda K. Hogan <i>A Chickasaw Novelist, Essayist, and Environmentalist</i></p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p>Chapter Two <i>Neighbours without borders</i></p> <p>Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan in answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? The word “neighbour”, in the society of Jesus’ time, usually meant those nearest us. It was felt that help should be given primarily to those of one’s own group and race. For some Jews of that time, Samaritans were looked down upon, considered impure. They were not among those to be helped. Jesus, himself a Jew, completely transforms this approach. He asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbour, but rather that we ourselves become neighbours to all.</p> <p>81. Jesus asks us to be present to those in need of help, regardless of whether or not they belong to our social group. In this case, the Samaritan became a neighbour to the wounded Judean. By approaching and making himself present, he crossed all cultural and historical barriers. Jesus concludes the parable by saying: “Go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37). In other words, he challenges us to put aside all differences and, in the face of suffering, to draw near to others with no questions asked. I should no longer say that I have neighbours to help, but that I must myself be a neighbour to others.</p> <p>82. The parable, though, is troubling, for Jesus says that that the wounded man was a Judean, while the one who stopped and helped him was a Samaritan. This detail is quite significant for our reflection on a love that includes everyone. The Samaritans lived in a region where pagan rites were practised. For the Jews, this made them impure, detestable, dangerous. In fact, one ancient Jewish text referring to nations that were hated, speaks of Samaria as “not even a people” (Sir 50:25); it also refers to “the foolish people that live in Shechem” (50:26).</p> <p>83. This explains why a Samaritan woman, when asked by Jesus for a drink, answered curtly: “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jn 4:9). The most offensive charge that those who sought to discredit Jesus could bring was that he was “possessed” and “a Samaritan” (Jn 8:48). So this encounter of mercy between a Samaritan and a Jew is highly provocative; it leaves no room for ideological manipulation and challenges us to expand our frontiers. It gives a universal dimension to our call to love, one that transcends all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></p>	

<p>Friday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Endangered Species Day</p> <p><i>Have we forgotten</i> that wilderness is not a place but a season and that we are in its final hour? - Ian McCallum, Wilderness</p> <p>On this day, the world observes Endangered Species Day. In South Africa, considering our rich natural heritage, this day should serve as a celebration, but the future of many of our most iconic creatures are hanging in the balance and time is running out to save them.</p> <p>Thousands of species of all kinds – from mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, and plants - are in dire straits.</p> <p>Thousands of species of all kinds – from mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, invertebrates and plants - are in dire straights.</p> <p>The IUCN Red List has, for the past 50 years, assessed 91 523 species, and aimed to assess 160 000 by 2020. Those that have been accessed are then divided into categories depending on their conservation status. These categories, as outlined by the IUCN have become the global standard for classifying species according to their vulnerability on earth.</p> <p>In terms of South African legislation, in 2007 the Lists of Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Protected Species (more commonly known as the TOPS List or the Threatened or Protected Species List) was promulgated. The IUCN classification of critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable is reflected in this list.</p> <p>The IUCN defines an 'endangered species' is one where the best available evidence indicates that the species is considered at very high risk of extinction in the wild, based on assessments which account for population size, geographic range and quantitative analysis showing a high probability of extinction in the wild.</p> <p>Of the many threatened species in South Africa, not all enjoy public compassion and aid as much as the Big 5.</p> <p>Frogs and toads, for example, are some of the most commonly found creatures on the IUCN Red List of critically endangered species. Six species, found only in South Africa, including the Table Mountain Ghost Frog, Rough Moss Frog, Northern Moss Frog, Rose's Mountain Toadlet, Cape Flats Frog and Amathole Toad are currently on critically endangered', with their numbers decreasing annually. Many of our reptiles are also facing extinction.</p> <p>Vultures and South Africa's scavenging raptors are also on a continual downward spiral, with most of our vulture species as well as the Tawny Eagle and Bateleur, two obligate scavengers, being listed as endangered or critically endangered, Birdlife SA's Red Data Book shows.</p> <p>South Africa's seabirds fare even worse, deteriorating at a faster rate than any other comparable groups of birds. In South Africa, 45 seabird species are now on the regional red list.,</p>
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		<p>While there are many small victories in the conservation stories, it is concerning is that most of the species listed as 'Critically Endangered' and 'Endangered' are still decreasing in numbers, which means they could soon be downgraded on the Red List to being 'Extinct in the Wild'.</p> <p>Some steps we can take in our personal capacity would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about the natural environment and endangered species • Make your home wildlife friendly • Plant an indigenous garden • Recycle and only buy from sustainable sources • Slow down when driving - especially rural areas to avoid frogs, toads and other critters. • Never purchase goods made from endangered species. • Protect Wildlife Habitats • Donate to ethical conservation causes if you can.
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>World Bee Day</p> <p>When we think of bees, our mind immediately homes in on the little buzzy critter collecting nectar and pollen from the flowers in our gardens. Perhaps you may also give a thought to those little buzzy critters pollinating the fruit orchards so that you can pick up a punnet of your favourite juicy fruit the next time you go to the supermarket.</p>  <p>The little honeybee certainly reminds us that we depend on them, and World Bee Day draws the attention of the world's public and political decision makers to the importance of protecting bees.</p> <p>Interestingly, South Africa has been recognised globally as a bee diversity hotspot, with close to 1 000 bee species, many of which are endemic to the Fynbos and Succulent Karoo biomes. While most of these bees don't provide commercial honey, they are nonetheless crucially important to our biodiversity and eco-systems.</p> <p>The vast majority of our bees (and bees worldwide) are actually Solitary bees. These bees do not live in hives or large colonies, they do not serve a queen and they are very unlikely to be aggressive or sting. Solitary bees are extremely important and efficient pollinators in our agricultural, natural and urban landscapes.</p> <p>The female bees build small nests in burrows or cavities and inhabit them alone. The nests are separated into several chambers, which are each filled with nectar and pollen collected from the surrounding vegetation. The female lays one egg in each chamber and then seals off the nest. When the eggs hatch, the larvae will feed on the nectar and pollen in their chambers. They remain there until they reach adulthood, and it is time to leave the nest for mating.</p> <div data-bbox="448 1783 1485 2056" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Leafcutter bee</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Carpenter bee</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Membrane/ Plasterer bee</i></p> </div> </div>

		<p>The most pressing threats to our bee’s survival are threats to the environment, including climate change, disease, habitat destruction and invasive plants that have placed the global bee species under threat, making them especially vulnerable to extinction. pesticides and pathogens spread by commercially managed bees.</p> <p>There is, however, a lot we as individuals can do to help our bee populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant indigeious bee supporting plants – here a good indigenous nursery can advise you • Never use pesticides!” • Build a “Beastie Box” in your garden for the solitary bees and a host of other critters which will boost the biodiversity in your garden. <p><i>Prayerfully decide on how you will protect our precious bees.</i></p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvellous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p><i>Amen.</i></p>	
<p>Monday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>International Biodiversity Day</p> <p>This International Day for Biodiversity is a good time to look back on the Goals and Targets adopted in a landmark UN Biodiversity Agreement by the Conference of the Parties (COP15) that was held in Montreal, Canada in December 2022.</p> <p>It was recognised that Biodiversity is interconnected, intertwined, and indivisible with human life on Earth. Our societies and our economies depend on healthy and functioning ecosystems. There is no sustainable development without biodiversity. There can be no stable climate without biodiversity.</p> <p>The UN Biodiversity Agreement adopt Four Goals, 23 Targets to b reached by 2030, which includes the conservation and management of 30% areas - terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine - by 2030; to stop the extinction of known species, and by 2050 reduce tenfold the extinction risk and rate of all species (including unknown) Reduce risk from pesticides by at least 50% by 2030.</p> <p>Read the full document.</p> <p>The Agreement adopts some radical strategies – perhaps some unrealistic – but if successful, will change global conservation for the better.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully decide on your actions to combat biodiversity loss.</i></p>	

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Father of all, Creator and ruler of the universe, You entrusted your world to us as a gift. Help us to care for it and all people, that we may live in right relationship - with You, with ourselves, with one another, and with creation.</p> <p>Christ our Lord, both divine and human, You lived among us and died for our sins. Help us to imitate your love for the human family by recognizing that we are all connected - to our brothers and sisters around the world, to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation, and to future generations.</p> <p>Holy Spirit, giver of wisdom and love, You breathe life in us and guide us. Help us to live according to your vision, stirring to action the hearts of all— individuals and families, communities of faith, and civil and political leaders.</p> <p>Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care for our common home.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p><i>U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Africa Day</p>  <p>The Call of Africa</p> <p>When you've acquired a taste for dust, The scent of our first rain, You're hooked for life on Africa And you'll not be right again Till you can watch the setting moon And hear the jackals bark And know that they're around you Waiting in the dark.</p> <p>When you long to see the elephants, Or to hear the coucal's song, When the moonrise sets your blood on fire, You've been away too long. It's time to cut the traces loose And let your heart go free Beyond that far horizon, Where your spirit yearns to be.</p> <p>Africa is waiting... come! Since you've touched the open sky And learned to love the rustling grass, The wild fish eagle's cry, You'll always hunger for the bush, For the lion's rasping roar, To camp at last beneath the stars And to be at peace once more. - C Emily-Dibb</p>

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Wilderness</p> <p>Have we forgotten that wilderness is not a place, but a pattern of soul where every tree, every bird and beast is a soul maker?</p> <p>Have we forgotten that wilderness is not a place but a moving feast of stars, scales, footprints and beginnings?</p> <p>Since when did we become afraid of the night and that only the bright stars count or that our moon is not a moon unless it is full?</p> <p>By whose commands were the animals, through groping fingers, one for each hand reduced to the big and the little five?</p> <p>Have we forgotten that every creature is within us, carried by tides of earthly blood and that we named them?</p> <p>Have we forgotten that wilderness is not a place but a season and that we are in its final hour.</p> <p>Dr. Ian McCallum <i>Poet and Author</i></p> <p><i>This poem was is written for Ian Player. Internationally recognised for his work as a conservationist and naturalist, history will show that he ranks among the great visionaries of the wild.</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>Holy Spirit, you are the Lord, the giver of life—all life—lilies and dandelions, predators and prey, and life forms not esteemed, which cleanse the earth and make it habitable. Creation lives by your common grace. Raise us up to walk this earth faithfully with justice and compassion for all living things.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Ezekiel 47:1-12</p> <p>47 The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.</p> <p>³ As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. ⁴ He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. ⁵ He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in - a river that no one could cross. ⁶ He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?"</p> <p>Then he led me back to the bank of the river. ⁷ When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. ⁸ He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. ⁹ Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. ¹⁰ Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. ¹¹ But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. ¹² Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>31</p>	<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px;"> <p>"Before I was six years old, my grandparents and my mother had taught me that if all the green things that grow were taken from the earth, there could be no life. if all the four-legged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. if all the winged creatures were taken from the earth, there could be no life. If all our relatives who crawl and swim and live within the earth were taken away, there could be no life. But if all the human beings were taken away, life on earth would flourish. That is how insignificant we are."</p> <p>Russell Means, Oglala Lakota Nation (November 10, 1939 – October 22, 2012).</p> </div>