
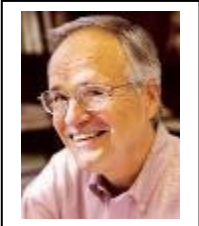







JAEI



July 2023 Environmental Prayer Diary

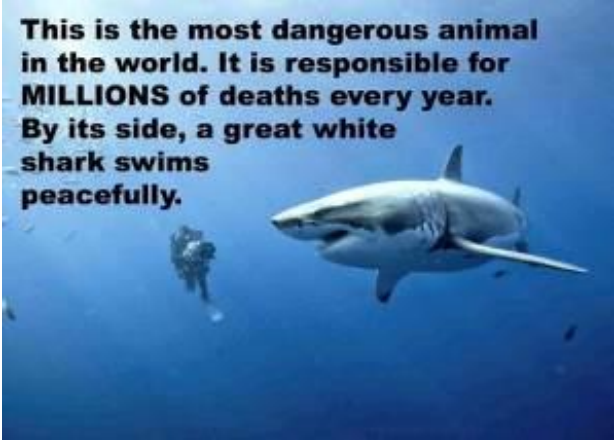


The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you.

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>1</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>As the sun rises, Lord, Let your light shine on me. Destroy the darkness about me, Scatter the darkness before me, Disperse the darkness behind me, Dispel the darkness within me. Let your light shine on me. As the sun rises, Lord, Let your light shine on me. The warmth of your Presence, The brightness of your love, The radiance of your joy, The shining of your hope. Let your light shine on me. As the sun rises, Lord, Let your light shine on me. Your light to guide, Your light to lead, Your light to direct, Your light to brighten. Let your light shine on me.</p> <p><i>From Power Lines: Celtic Prayers About Work by Fr David Adam.</i></p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>“I used to think that top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don’t know how to do that.”</p>  <p><i>Gus Speth</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Father God, you formed us from the dust of the earth and placed us in a garden. Remind s of our place as your creatures at home in your creation. Forgive us when we forget our connection to the earth, and our dependence upon the goodness of your world.</p>

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>We are the Earth</p> <p><i>Buddhist monk and teacher Thich Nhat Hanh describes our inherent connection to the Earth and how that understanding can shift our behaviour:</i></p> <p>“At this very moment, the Earth is above you, below you, all around you, and even inside you. The Earth is everywhere. You may be used to thinking of the Earth as only the ground beneath your feet. But the water, the sea, the sky, and everything around us comes from the Earth. Everything outside us and everything inside us comes from the Earth. We often forget that the planet we are living on has given us all the elements that make up our bodies. The water in our flesh, our bones, and all the microscopic cells inside our bodies all come from the Earth and are part of the Earth. The Earth is not just the environment we live in. We are the Earth and we are always carrying her within us.</p>  <p>Realizing this, we can see that the Earth is truly alive. We are a living, breathing manifestation of this beautiful and generous planet. Knowing this, we can begin to transform our relationship to the Earth. We can begin to walk differently and to care for her differently. We will fall completely in love with the Earth. When we are in love with someone or something, there is no separation between ourselves and the person or thing we love. We do whatever we can for them and this brings us great joy and nourishment. That is the relationship each of us can have with the Earth. That is the relationship each of us must have with the Earth if the Earth is to survive, and if we are to survive as well.</p> <p>If we think about the Earth as just the environment around us, we experience ourselves and the Earth as separate entities. We may see the planet only in terms of what it can do for us. We need to recognize that the planet and the people on it are ultimately one and the same. . . .</p> <p>Our false notion of separateness from the Earth not only creates physical harm but emotional harm as well:</p> <p>A lot of our fear, hatred, anger, and feelings of separation and alienation come from the idea that we are separate from the planet. We see ourselves as the centre of the universe and are concerned primarily with our own personal survival. If we care about the health and well-being of the planet, we do so for our own sake. We want the air to be clean enough for us to breathe. We want the water to be clear enough so that we have something to drink. But we need to do more than use recycled products or donate money to environmental groups. We have to change our whole relationship with the Earth.”</p> <p><i>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations www.cac.org</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>May none of God’s wonderful works keep silence, night or morning. bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers: May all these break into song as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May all the angels in the heavens reply: Amen, amen Power praise and honour, eternal glory to God the only Giver of grace Amen, Amen, Amen</p> <p><i>Third century hymn</i></p>

<p>Friday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Faith Must Be Lived</p> <p>A rabbi and a soap maker went for a walk together. The soap maker said, “What good is religion? Look at all the trouble and misery of the world after thousands of years of teaching about goodness, truth and peace – after all the prayers, sermons and teachings. If religion is good and true, why should this be?”</p> <p>The rabbi said nothing. They continued walking until he noticed a child playing in the gutter. Then the rabbi said, “Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean but see the dirt on that youngster. Of what good is soap? With all the soap in the world, the child is still filthy. I wonder how effective soap is after all.”</p> <p>The soap maker protested and said, “But rabbi, soap can’t do any good unless it is used.”</p> <p>“Exactly,” replied the rabbi. “So it is with Judaism or any other religion. It is ineffective unless it is applied and used.”</p> <p><i>Taken from ‘Stories’ Vinnies Reflection Resource 2008 St Vincent de Paul Society</i></p> 
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Hear This Earth Mourning</p> <p>Hear this Earth mourning deep in pollution, Hear this Earth mourning, death in her lungs: “How I keep longing for that first morning, When all creation broke forth in songs”.</p> <p>Hear the trees falling deep in the forest, Hear the trees calling, tortured by chain: “Where are the songbirds, thousands of voices, Rising in one symphonic refrain”.</p> <p>Hear the blood crying, crying for justice; Hear the blood crying, deep in the ground: “Massacres, murders, species forgotten! Where is the healing? Where is it found”?</p> <p>Hear the land wailing deep in the darkness, Hear the land wailing, crying in pain: “Where are my children, torn from their homelands? Children, my children, come home again”!</p> <p>Hear that man crying, crucified dying; Hear that man crying, gasping for breath: I’ll share your suffering! I’ll stop your bleeding! I’ll bring you healing, even in death”!</p> <p>Words: © Norman Habel 2000</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>May God who established the dance of creation, Who marvelled at the lilies of the field. Who transforms chaos to order, Lead us to transform our lives and the Church To reflect God’s glory in creation.</p> <p>From Eco-congregation</p>

<p>Monday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>“All living creatures are sparks from the radiation of God’s brilliance, and these sparks emerge from God like the rays of the sun. If God did not give off these sparks, how would the divine flame become fully visible?”</p> <p><i>St Hildegard of Bingen</i></p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>World Population Day</p> <p>World Population Day seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.</p> <p>By 2050, the expected world population will reach 9.7 billion - increasing faster than many vital non-renewable and renewable resources. This means the amount of these resources per person is declining, despite modern technology. Human overpopulation is among the most pressing environmental issues, silently aggravating the forces behind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water shortages • Species Extinction • Habitat loss • Increased Global Warming and Climate Change • Pollution • Acidifying oceans • Invasive species • Over-exploitation of natural resources • Poaching • Rain forest destruction • Desertification • Toxic waste • Urban sprawl • More Intensive Farming Practices • Elevated Crime Rate • Political instability <p>However, ecological issues are just the beginning. Two billion people live in poverty, more than the population of the entire planet less than 100 years ago. Today there are more people suffering in misery and starvation in the world than ever before in history.</p> <p>Pray for ways to meet this enormous and urgent challenge with perceptive dignity and understanding.</p>	

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p>Chapter Three - Envisaging and engendering an open world</p> <p>87. Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfilment except “in the sincere gift of self to others”.^[62] Nor can they fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons: “I communicate effectively with myself only insofar as I communicate with others”.^[63] No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love. This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence. “Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity. On the contrary, there is no life when we claim to be self-sufficient and live as islands: in these attitudes, death prevails”.^[64]</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country.</i></p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>13</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>World Shark Awareness Day</p> <p>Celebrating Shark Week 2023 is all about <i>engaging with Sharks, promoting conservation efforts and dispelling misconceptions.</i></p> <p>These wondrous sea creatures have had a bad rep for quite a while now. When you think of the dangers of the sea, sharks definitely make it on the list because of the way they are depicted in movies and cartoons.</p> <p>However, Shark Awareness Day is not a day to cry foul at said innocent fish, but instead, it is a day of crying foul FOR them. The strong and extremely resilient predators are, in fact, more scared of humans than the other way around. From being killed because humans are scared of them to being harvested for their meat and fins, sharks have made it on the list of endangered species, which is bad news for them as well as the</p> <p>After Peter Benchley wrote his bestselling novel and blockbuster movie “Jaws”, he realised what his best seller had done to the detriment of sharks. He then spent the rest of his career struggling to</p>  

	<p>protect sharks from the stigma that his masterpiece unleashed.</p> <p>Sharks have been on the planet for more than 420 million years – far longer than plants and dinosaurs. They have also survived five mass extinctions – will they be able to survive the present “Sixth Extinction”?</p> <p>Over the decades, shark numbers have dwindled due to several reasons. People have been hunting them for their skin, meat, and fins all over the world. This overfishing has led to many shark organizations lobbying to make the shark meat trade illegal. Yet many fishing companies refuse to follow the laws and protocols, continuing to catch sharks for their personal gain. The scary and dangerous image of sharks, created by pop culture, has led to many unnecessary killings of the fish – reducing shark populations by over 7-0% in the past 50 years. This does not bode well for the health of the Oceans – ocean ecosystems, and in turn us humans who rely heavily on our oceans.</p> <p>As apex predators, sharks play a vital role in the ocean's eco-system by maintaining the species below them in the food chain and serving as an indicator for ocean health. They help remove the weak and the sick as well as keeping the balance with competitors helping to ensure species diversity. Their removal from the ecosystem will have drastic and unpredictable consequences.</p> <p>Now is the time to reconsider our perception of these magnificent creatures and consider the ways in which we can contribute to their conservation ... And it all begins with our day-to-day living. We have heard it all before – but really it is time to develop more sustainable lifestyles!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn as much as you can about sharks - By educating yourself on the issues, you can find effective ways to help. • Do not use shark products - Shark cartilage and oils are found in a range of products from beauty items to health nutrition. Become aware! • Reduce your seafood consumption - Commercial fishing negatively impacts sharks by reducing the populations of their food sources and sharks are often killed as a by-product of commercial fishing. • Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - One of the biggest threats to shark species is ocean plastic pollution. • Talk! Spread the shark conservation message – especially to children. <p>Pray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the ceasing of the senseless killing of sharks for the restaurant and “muti” market. • for all those involved in shark conservation • Revisit your own mindset on sharks and encourage others to do the same. • Revisit your lifestyle choices
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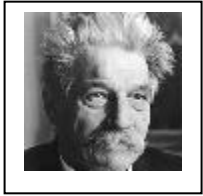
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>World Snake Day</p> <p>World Snake Day highlights how critical snakes are to the ecosystem. Like every other living creature on this planet, snakes are extremely important for a balanced ecosystem. This means, without snakes, a negative chain reaction for the environment may be triggered.</p> <p>Snakes are threatened by many of the same issues that affect all wildlife (habitat loss, climate change, and disease), negative attitudes toward snakes may be the biggest barrier to their preservation because it often impedes efforts to address other threats.</p> <p>Of the 170 species of snakes in Southern Africa only a handful are capable of inflicting a deadly bite – notably the mambas, cobras, boomslangs and adders. The vast majority of snakes are totally harmless to both humans and pets.</p> <p>Overcoming <i>Ophidiophobia</i> (fear of snakes) is a long process but learning more about these amazing creatures and their role in the environment would be a really good start.</p> <p>So, should you see a snake in your garden or in a nature reserve, let it be (call a snake-catcher if you are against snakes being in the garden). <i>Do not harm it!</i></p> <p>If you are concerned about snake identification and whether it is venomous or harmless – download the excellent free app from the African Snakebite Institute. (Also available on <i>PlayStore</i> on your cell phone.) This app also has an up-to-date list of experienced snake catchers in your area.</p> <p>Let's use this day to share positive stories about snakes with friends and families.</p> <p><i>Consider how you can change your own perspective of this wonderful creature that God has created</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Benedicite</p> <p>Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. Bless the Lord you heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord: bless the Lord all you his hosts; bless the Lord you waters above the heavens: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>Bless the Lord sun and moon: bless the Lord you stars of heaven; bless the Lord all rain and dew: sing his praise and exalt him for ever.</p> <p>Bless the Lord all winds that blow: bless the Lord you fire and heat;</p>


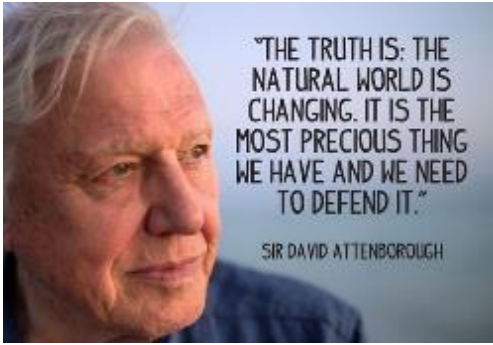


		<p> bless the Lord scorching wind and bitter cold: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. Bless the Lord dews and falling snows: bless the Lord you nights and days; bless the Lord light and darkness: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. Bless the Lord frost and cold: bless the Lord you ice and snow; bless the Lord lightnings and clouds: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. O let the earth bless the Lord: bless the Lord you mountains and hills; bless the Lord all that grows in the ground: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. Bless the Lord you springs: bless the Lord you seas and rivers; bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. Bless the Lord all birds of the air: bless the Lord you beasts and cattle; bless the Lord all people on earth: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. O people of God bless the Lord: bless the Lord you priests of the Lord; bless the Lord you servants of the Lord: sing his praise and exalt him for ever. Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit: bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart </p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p> Job 28:1-11 <i>Interlude: Where Wisdom Is Found</i> 28 There is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined. ² Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore. ³ Mortals put an end to the darkness; they search out the farthest recesses for ore in the blackest darkness. ⁴ Far from human dwellings they cut a shaft, in places untouched by human feet; far from other people they dangle and sway. ⁵ The earth, from which food comes, is transformed below as by fire; ⁶ lapis lazuli comes from its rocks, and its dust contains nuggets of gold. ⁷ No bird of prey knows that hidden path, </p>

		<p>no falcon's eye has seen it.</p> <p>⁸ Proud beasts do not set foot on it, and no lion prowls there.</p> <p>⁹ People assault the flinty rock with their hands and lay bare the roots of the mountains.</p> <p>¹⁰ They tunnel through the rock; their eyes see all its treasures.</p> <p>¹¹ They search^[a] the sources of the rivers and bring hidden things to light.</p>
Tuesday	18	<p>Nelson Mandela International Day</p> <p>The 18th of July 2023 would have marked the 105th birthday of Nelson Mandela, and now, more than ever, we need to look at climate change, persistent and increasing levels of poverty as well as inequality. We need to ask ourselves if we are living up to the legacy Nelson Mandela has left us.</p> <p>The theme for the tenth anniversary of Madiba's passing is "The Legacy Lives on Through You". The theme for this year's Nelson Mandela International Day is "Climate, Food & Solidarity". Our call to action is "It is in your hands".</p> <p>With globally increasing consciousness of the interdependence of climate change, food security, poverty and inequity, The Nelson Mandela Foundation has embarked on long-term and sustainable interventions which equip communities to take climate action that ensures food security and thus alleviate poverty and inequality. The Programme aims to capacitate as many home-based and community food gardens as possible, whilst planting one million trees, 60% of which are fruit trees.</p> <p>Possible actions could be to donate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vegetable seedlings and/or fruit trees to worthy causes, • potting soil and compost • gardening implements • hose pipes • water tanks <p>https://www.nelsonmandela.org/news/entry/climate-food-and-solidarity</p>
Wednesday	19	<p>Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for your gracious providing may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p>Amen.</p>



<p>Thursday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>“What we call love is in its essence reverence for life.” Albert Schweitzer</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, you have called us to be your witnesses on earth. Help us to proclaim, by word and deed, the message of your love to all humankind, and to declare your lordship over creation and our responsibility as your stewards.</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>Environmental Creed</p> <p>We believe in God the Creator, who reminds us, in the drawing of every new day, that new life is possible. We believe in the wonder and grandeur of a universe where the whole of life is called to live in harmony of care. <i>This we believe</i></p> <p>We believe in Jesus Christ, who prayed in mountains of peace, and brought us the Word in mustard seeds of faith and fig trees of blessing, whose footsteps touched the earth in love and who invites us to follow. <i>This we believe</i></p> <p>We believe in the Holy Spirit, whose wisdom often lies embedded in ancient peoples. They trod lightly across deserts and lived gently among plants and creatures. They reached respectfully for the mystery, which is God-with-us, the One who never leaves us nor forsakes us. <i>This we believe</i></p> <p>We believe in the everlasting hope, the great calling of the people of God, the church, for the transforming of all things, which is possible in God. <i>This we believe, Amen</i></p> <p><i>Dorothy McRae-McMahan,</i> <i>Uniting Church in Australia.</i></p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Creator God, Bless the tear we shed for the resources we have squandered. Bless the sigh we breathe out for the atmosphere. Bless the head we hang for the creatures lost and exploited. Bless the hands we wring for the things we have broken and wasted. Bless us as we lament. Cradle us as we regret. Restore us as we start afresh. Amen <i>John Polhill</i></p>	

<p>Monday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>God's Grandeur</p> <p>The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil; It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod? Generations have trod, have trod, have trod; And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil; And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.</p> <p>And for all this, nature is never spent; There lives the dearest freshness deep down things; And though the last lights off the black West went Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs - Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.</p> <p>Gerard Manley Hopkins</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>“We recognise a tree by its fruit, and we ought to be able to recognise a Christian by his action. The fruit of faith should be evident in our lives, for being a Christian is more than making sound professions of faith. It should reveal itself in practical and visible ways. Indeed, it is better to keep quiet about our beliefs, and live them out, than to talk eloquently about what we believe, but fail to live by it.”</p> <p>Ignatius of Antioch</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>26</p>		
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>When we are unkind to people, and forget they are God's children, When we are careless with the beasts, and forget they are God's creation, When we ill-treat the land, and forget the splendour of God, Forgive us, O God of love, and reconcile us to yourself, to one another and to the Creation.</p> <p>Teach us that the earth and all its fullness is yours, the world and all who dwell in it.</p> <p>Remind us that your Son too enjoyed the fruits of the harvest in Galilee and joins us now as we celebrate your good gifts together.</p> <p>Call us again to safeguard the gift of life, now and forever.</p> <p>Amen</p>	

<p>Friday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>World Conservation Day</p> <p>World Nature Conservation Day - established in 2000 - stresses the need for preserving a healthy environment and natural resources to maintain a stable and healthy society.</p> <p>Our planet's natural resources found in nature are finite (non-renewable) and are being depleted at an alarming rate. Currently, nearly 8 billion people populate the Earth and this number is expected to exceed 9 billion by 2050 - all of whom use the earth's natural resources every day. For this reason, we need to stress the importance of conserving our natural resources.</p> <p>Saving plants and animals that face the threat of extinction is another of the primary goals of World Nature Conservation Day, emphasises the need to keep biodiversity intact, both now and for future generations.</p> <p>World Nature Conservation Day a great opportunity for everyone to get involved and make a difference, , whether it be through volunteering at a local nature reserve or simply picking up litter when you go out for a walk. We can all join forces with others in our communities, and indeed, around the world and make this day count!</p> <p>The good news is that there are many simple ways to conserve our natural resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce, reuse and recycle • Plant trees to reduce soil erosion • Carpool with co-workers • Shut off lights when leaving a room • Go digital instead of printing things on paper • Volunteer for community cleanups • Use non-toxic cleaning supplies • Make your own compost <p>If everyone does their part, our planet's natural resources will be available for years to come.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>29</p>	<div data-bbox="1114 170 1477 443" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="676 1585 1082 1877" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>In honour of Friendship Day in 1998, Nane Annan, wife of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, named Winnie the Pooh as the world's Ambassador of Friendship at the United Nations.</p> <p><i>Have you chatted to your friends today?</i></p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>International Day of Friendship</p> <p>Our world faces many challenges, crises and forces of division - such as poverty, violence, and human rights abuses - among many others - that undermine peace, security, development and social harmony among the world's peoples.</p> <p>To confront those crises and challenges, their root causes must be addressed by promoting and defending a shared spirit of human solidarity that takes many forms - the simplest of which is friendship.</p> <p>Through friendship - by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust - we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good.</p> <p><i>Almighty Father, I give thanks today for the friendships in my life. Lord, this life isn't meant to be lived alone, so I am grateful for the people who walk alongside me, supporting me, loving me, and encouraging me. For we cannot do it all alone but are better together.</i></p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>World Ranger Day</p> <div data-bbox="646 1160 1294 1579" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>We salute our rangers protecting our heritage. Thank you.</p> <div data-bbox="1123 1771 1262 1910" data-label="Image"> </div>

