

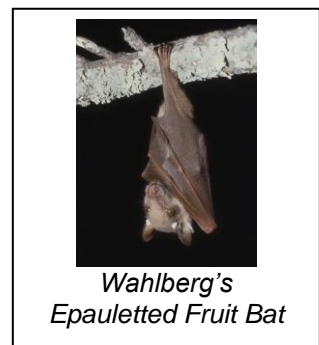
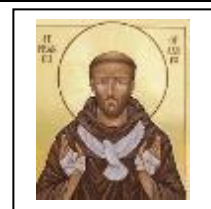


JAEI




October 2023 Environmental Prayer Diary

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

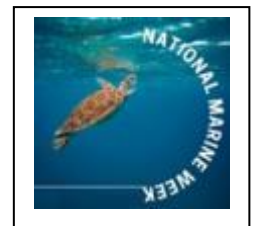
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>A Summer Blessing</p> <p>May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do wherever you go. Walking with God means... walking with honesty and with courage. Walking with love and respect and concern for the feelings of others.</p> <p>May you talk to God this summer on every day and in every situation. Talking with God means... praying Asking God's help in all your decisions. Expressing sorrow when you have failed.</p> <p>May you talk with God every day. Amen.</p> <p>Mark Hakomaki</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>“All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man.”</p> <p>St Francis of Assisi</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Bat Appreciation Month</p> <p>Bats are the only true flying mammals and are so unique that they have been placed in an order of their own: <i>Chiroptera</i> (meaning ‘hand-wing’) and their fossils date back to around 50 million years ago.</p> <p>The approximately 1200 species of bats make up a quarter of all mammal species globally and are found throughout the world except for the most extreme desert and polar regions. In Gauteng there are about 20 different species of bats and 56 in the country – none of which are the dreaded vampire bats of South America which feed on blood of livestock.</p> <p>Bats come in an amazing variety of sizes and appearances, weighing from a mere 2 grams up to 1.1 kilograms. The Wahlberg’s Epauletted Fruit Bat is the only fruit-eating bat occurring in Gauteng. Many bats odd facial features that may seem bizarre but allow them to perform very sophisticated navigation by sound. In addition, bats are not blind and many have excellent vision. All insectivorous bats (and one group of cave dwelling fruit-bats) navigate using high-frequency sounds (echolocation), enabling them, in total darkness, to</p>



		<p>detect obstacles as small as a human hair. A mother bat can locate her pup by its scent and sound out of millions in a roost.</p> <p>Bats are exceptionally long-lived, often attaining 15 to 20 years, certain species survive for more than 30 years.</p> <div data-bbox="440 315 703 533" data-label="Image"> <p data-bbox="461 499 687 528"><i>Cape Serotine Bat</i></p> </div> <p data-bbox="730 322 1481 510">About 70% of bats eat mainly insects and catch most of their food in flight. A Cape Serotine Bat (weighing in at a whopping gms) can potentially eat 2000 mosquitoes per night. Many bat species are known to pollinate fruit trees and are the primary pollinator of baobab trees.</p> <p data-bbox="448 533 1481 792">Building roosts with their stable climates and abundance of secure crevices within, are often readily exploited by bats which in the wild would roost in holes in trees, under loose bark or in gaps between rocks. In the Gauteng region, a number of different bat species, such as the Egyptian Free-tailed Bat, the Cape Roof Bat and the African yellow bat, are regularly found roosting in roofs. Several species such as the Egyptian slit-faced bat will often roost in abandoned buildings in rural areas.</p> <p data-bbox="448 815 647 846">Threats to bats</p> <p data-bbox="448 871 1442 1059">Many bats are under severe threat from increasing human pressures. Some bat species are as severely threatened as the black rhino (Critically Endangered) or cheetah (Vulnerable). Globally, the main threats to bats include habitat loss and degradation, climate change, overexploitation, disease, disturbance and persecution.</p> <p data-bbox="448 1081 1474 1344">Should you find yourself playing host to unwanted bat guests in your roof, contact a reputable company to remove them. Also consider installing a bat box which can solve your problem as they provide alternative roosting sites for maternity colonies. When constructed properly, bat boxes can serve as suitable places for females to raise their pups. With bat boxes, the bats get a safe roosting site outside the home, while homeowners benefit from the bats' control of insects.</p> <p data-bbox="448 1366 1289 1397"><i>Give thanks for these incredible and precious little animals!</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>World Animal Day (St Francis Day)</p> <p>The theme for World Animal Day 2023 is <i>Great or Small, Love Them All.</i> The mission is to raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe.</p> <div data-bbox="1189 1435 1477 1626" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Also celebrated on 4 October is St Francis Day. St Francis is associated with patronage of animals and the environment.</p> <p><i>Saint Francis and the Lambs</i></p> <p>Saint Francis had great love and respect for the sanctity of all life, seeing all creation as his brothers and sisters in the Lord. On one occasion he came upon a merchant carrying two small lambs to market. Moved by the plaintive bleating of the lambs, he caressed them and asked the peasant, "Why do you torment my brothers the lambs?" When he learned in horror that the man intended to sell them for slaughter, he declared "That will not happen!" and</p>

		<p>bought them from the man. At Portiuncula for many years, he had a tame lamb which followed him everywhere, even into the church, where its bleating mingled with the chants of the brethren.</p> <p>At another time in Rome Saint Francis procured a lamb for himself, which upon his departure he gave to the lady Jacopa. The lamb lived in her house many years and used to follow her to mass in the mornings. Indeed, in its eagerness to go to church it would often wake its mistress with friendly buttings of the head when she was late in getting up. Out of this lamb's wool, Jacopa spun and wove the habit which in the autumn of 1226 she took to St Francis in Portiuncula, and in which habit Saint Francis died.</p>	
Thursday	5	<p>World Teachers' Day</p> <p>World Teachers' Day celebrates the role teachers play in providing quality education at all levels. This enables children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in, and contribute to, their local community and global society.</p> <p><i>A Prayer for World Teacher Day</i></p> <p>Lord, I thank you for the wonderful role teachers play in the lives of children and in our society. Grant them peace in their classrooms as they conduct their daily tasks, lessons, and assignments with your grace. I pray for unity in the classroom among students, and for peace and harmony to prevail each day. Amen.</p>	
Friday	6	<p>Matthew 8:23-27</p> <p><i>Jesus Calms the Storm</i></p> <p>²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"</p> <p>²⁶ He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.</p> <p>²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"</p>	
Saturday	7	<p>"As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family. When we destroy our forests, ravage our soil and pollute our seas, we betray that noble calling."</p> <p><i>Pope Francis</i></p>	

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Creator of the universe, we pray in gratitude and praise. You were there at the beginning of all things, shaping our world and preparing it for us. You have provided the mountains and the trees, the waters and the earth. Help us to be caretakers of your gifts, protecting the land from abuse, and ready to share with all in need. Show us how to use our science and technology in creative, not destructive ways. Deepen our awareness of our connectedness with all your creation, so that future generations will also enjoy every blessing.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p>Michael Gormly SSC</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>National Marine Week</p> <p>The purpose of National Marine Week is to create awareness of the oceans and coastal environment, the promotion of sustainable utilization and conservation thereof, for the benefit of all.</p> <p>We live on a blue planet, with oceans and seas covering more than 70 per cent of the Earth’s surface.</p> <p>But despite their importance, our oceans are in serious trouble. Heating, pollution, acidification, and oxygen loss pose serious threats to the health of the ocean and to all living beings who call this vast planetary resource their home.</p> <p>Why should we care?</p> <p>Our shared oceans produce up to 70% of our oxygen, absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide and drive the Earth's weather systems. More creatures live in the oceans than on land, with over 12 000 marine species in South African waters alone.</p> <p>Oceans are an essential source of food, feeding over a billion people. Plus 10% of the world’s population rely on fishing-related activities for their livelihoods, from commercial and small-scale fishing to transport and tourism. The marine environment also holds great economic value, with South Africa’s coastal goods and services contributing a third to our gross domestic product - thus managing the many uses of our oceans and coasts is an ongoing challenge.</p> <p>The ocean affects us all in positive ways, no matter if you live on the coastline or in the desert. It is crucial that everyone work together to protect and save the ocean for the sake of our future survival on this planet.</p> <p>What can we do?</p> <p>We can all do our little bit to protect our precious oceans by using less plastic and recycling more. Fish populations are rapidly declining due to over-fishing and habitat degradation so help stop the demand for overexploited species by choosing seafood that is sourced sustainably. Vote with your wallet to motivate your favourite restaurants and supermarkets to sell sustainably-sourced seafood. Earth cannot survive without the ocean. This vital eco-system needs to flourish. Many people don’t know this. Educate yourself with all supporting facts to inspire change, whether through your local political representative or on your social media feed, or just around dinner with friends.</p>



Tuesday

10

“Weedbuster” Week/Invasive Species Week

So, what are invasive species, exactly? And how did they manage to move outside their home range?

Invasive species are a global problem, with countries having to invest heavily to avoid species from other countries impacting negatively on their local ecosystems.

Invasive species are primarily spread by human activities, often unintentionally. People, and the goods we use, travel around the world very quickly, and they often carry uninvited species with them. Invasive species not only degrade the ecosystems they invade, but they can negatively impact human health by infecting humans with new diseases, serving as vectors for existing diseases, or causing wounds through bites, stings, allergens, or other toxins.

With no natural enemies, invasive species have a competitive advantage over indigenous species as they are able to reproduce rapidly to spread and invade local ecosystems.

Some of the worst plant invasive species in South Africa are:

- Pompom weed (*Campuloclinium macrocephalum*)
- Water hyacinth
- Famine weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*)
- Lantana (*Lantana camara*)
- Bugweed (*Solanum mauritianum*)



Pompom weed

Some of the worst bird invasive species in South Africa are:

- Common myna
- Rose-ringed parakeet
- Mallard duck
- Indian house crow



Rose-ringed parakeet

Why worry about invasive species?

It's easy to turn a blind eye to invasive species, in the belief that invasive species have no bearing on your life.

The truth is that every individual is impacted directly or indirectly by invasive species – which means that we have a shared responsibility to manage the problem.

In short ... With no natural enemies, invasive species out-compete our indigenous fauna and flora, block up our rivers, pose a fire and health risk and threaten the existence of our natural heritage.



What can we do about invasive species


- The best way to fight invasive species is to prevent them from occurring in the first place.

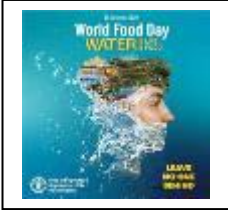
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify that the plants you are buying for your garden are not invasive. Remove invasive plants from your garden and replace with indigenous plants. • When boating, clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water. • When hiking, clean your boots before you hike in a new area to get rid of hitchhiking weed seeds and pathogens. • Don't "pack a pest" when traveling. Fruits and vegetables, plants, insects and animals can carry pests or become invasive themselves. Don't move firewood (harmless looking firewood can harbour unwanted critters). • Don't release aquarium fish and plants, live bait or any exotic animal or bird into the wild. If you plan on owning an exotic pet, do your research and plan ahead to make sure you can commit to looking after it. Also ensure that you have the required permits if needed.
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<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Praying a Psalm in its Nature Setting</p> <p>What a joyful and renewing experience it is to pray a Psalm in its nature setting!</p> <p>Nature and the Psalms</p> <p>The beauty of God's creation draws us to delight in God's goodness and his loving presence in the moment. And the prayer of the Psalmist gives voice and shape to our struggles and longings and connects us with God's loving heart.</p> <p>Psalm 104 and the Bird</p> <p>Look and listen for the birds. Notice how joyfully they sing! The same Father that cares for them cares for you. Let the birds lead you to give thanks and praise to God. With the birds and the angels of the heavens you are joining God's love song – he sings his love over you first!</p> <p>Meditate on the birds and on Psalm 104:1, 12, 28, 30: <i>"Praise the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great... The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches... When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things... When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."</i></p> <p>Recently have you been appreciating God's goodness and care? Right now is a good time to smile, sing, and give thanks to God!</p> <p>Bill Gaultiere www.soulshpherd.org/pray-a-psalm-in-its-nature</p>
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<p>Thursday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>National Garden Day (<i>Sunday, 15 October</i>)</p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction</p> <p><i>"Our world is plagued by a perfect storm on a number of fronts. Start with the short-term, a global economic crisis. The outlook is bleak. We see deepening inequalities and a rapidly unfolding cost-of-living crisis – affecting women and girls the most. Supply chain disruptions and an energy crunch. Soaring prices. Rising interest rates along with inflation. And debt levels pounding vulnerable countries." - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres</i></p> <p>The 2023 theme is "Reciprocal Relationship Between Disasters and Inequality –Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future".</p>  <p>Impoverished people are more likely to live in hazard-exposed areas and are less able to invest in risk-reducing measures. Disasters often cause the poor to lose most of the assets they depend on for their survival. In addition, the lack of education and a lack of access to health care causes them to be more vulnerable to risks.</p> <p>Inequality creates the conditions that render people exposed and vulnerable to disasters. Disasters also disproportionately impact the poorest and most at risk people, thus worsening inequality. Reducing vulnerability to disasters requires addressing these dimensions</p> <p>By 2030, with current climate projections, the world will face some 560 disasters per year. An additional estimated 37.6 million people will be living in conditions of extreme poverty due to the impacts of climate change and disasters by 2030. A "worst case" scenario of climate change and disasters will push an additional 100.7 million into poverty by 2030.</p>

		<p>Careful and coordinated planning is required in order to curb the destructive power of hazards turning into disasters to reduce people’s exposure and vulnerability to harm.</p> <p>Although hazards may be unpredictable, their impacts and outcomes need not be – especially when we pool our expertise at the global level.</p> <p>Discuss with your Parish/school/office/home an appropriate plan of action in the event of an unpredictable natural disaster under the actions of (1) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; (2) Disaster Preparedness; (3) Disaster Response; and (4) Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery to ensure a timely response.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>World Migratory Bird Day (2nd of 2)</p> <p><i>2023 Theme: "Water: Sustaining Bird Life"</i></p> <p>Marked twice a year – in May and October – the awareness and education drives highlight the plight of migratory birds and the protection of their habitats. The day in October marks the peak migratory dates for birds returning to our shores. The day also aims to draw attention to the ecological importance of these birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.</p>  <p>World Migratory Bird Day is organised by the United Nations Environment Programme’s Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), both of which South Africa is party to.</p> <p>Most migratory birds, which travel long distances to and from their wintering grounds and rely on aquatic ecosystems for their survival. Environments such as inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, marshes, and ponds serve as vital environments for feeding, drinking, breeding, nesting, and places to rest and refuel during their long journeys.</p> <p>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 have a direct impact on the availability of clean water and the conservation status of many migratory birds, highlighting the importance that countries strengthen their actions to identify and protect these key water resources and aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>One of the key initiatives to improve the protection and management of wetlands in South Africa is the development and implementation of the National Wetland Management Framework, and the identification and designation of wetlands of international importance or Ramsar Sites, which are sites of global importance which provide habitat to rare and endangered waterbirds. South Africa currently has 29 Ramsar Sites and two of these Ramsar site are habitats for the Iconic bird species, the White Winged Flufftail (Ingula Nature Reserve and Middelpunt Nature Reserve).</p> <p>South Africa is home to a number of migratory species such as divers, grebes, pelicans, cormorants, herons, storks, rails, ibises and spoonbills.</p> <p><i>We welcome our returning migrants with enthusiasm!</i></p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Creator, Conspire with us to create a world where all have access to nutritious and sustainable food sources, and none live with scarcity or food insecurity.</p> <p>Redeemer, Save us from oppressive and unjust systems. Mobilise us to be a part of a world response that works in partnership with those of good will to foster equitable resource sharing.</p> <p>Sustainer, Cultivate our resilience and expand our imaginations, so that we might continually find new ways to answer the call to end hunger— until all may flourish.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p><i>A prayer for World Food Day by Alydia Smith</i></p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>World Food Day</p> <p>2023 Theme: <i>"Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind."</i></p> <p>The theme aims to highlight the critical role of water for life on earth and water as the foundation of our food. It also seeks to raise global awareness about the importance of managing water wisely as rapid population growth, economic development, urbanization, and climate change threaten water availability.</p> <p>Access to clean water is not only essential for survival but also plays a vital role in ensuring food security for all. Together, let's work towards a future where no one is left behind in the journey towards a nourished and sustainable world.</p> <p>Water is essential to life on Earth. It makes up over 50% of our bodies and covers about 71% of the Earth's surface. Only 2.5% of water is fresh, suitable for drinking, agriculture, and most industrial uses. Water is a driving force for people, economies and nature and the foundation of our food. Indeed, agriculture accounts for 72% of global freshwater withdrawals, but like all natural resources, fresh water is not infinite.</p> <p>Rapid population growth, urbanization, economic development, and climate change are putting the planet's water resources under increasing stress. At the same time, freshwater resources per person have declined 20% in the past decades and water availability and quality are deteriorating fast due to decades of poor use and management, over extraction of groundwater, pollution and climate change. We risk stretching this precious resource to a point of no return.</p> <p>Today, 2.4 billion people live in water-stressed countries. Many are smallholder farmers who already struggle to meet their daily needs, particularly women,</p> 

		<p>Indigenous Peoples, migrants and refugees. Competition for this priceless resource is increasing as water scarcity becomes an ever-increasing cause of conflict.</p> <p>Around 600 million people who depend, at least partially, on aquatic food systems for a living are suffering the effects of pollution, ecosystem degradation, unsustainable practices and climate change.</p> <p><i>It's time to start managing water wisely</i></p> <p>We need to produce more food and other essential agricultural commodities with less water, while ensuring water is distributed equally, our aquatic food systems are preserved, and nobody is left behind.</p> <p>We all need to stop taking water for granted and start improving the way we use it in our daily lives. What we eat, and how that food is produced all affect water. We can make a difference by choosing local, seasonal, and fresh foods, wasting less of it - even by reducing food waste, and finding safe ways to reuse it while preventing water pollution.</p> <p>Together, we can take water action for the future of food, people, and the planet.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully decide what actions you will take.</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</p> <p>2022/23 Theme: “Dignity For All in Practice”</p> <p>The dignity of the human being is not only a fundamental right in itself but constitutes the basis of all other fundamental rights. Therefore, “Dignity” is not an abstract concept: it belongs to each and every one. Today, many people living in persistent poverty experience their dignity being denied and disrespected.</p> <p>With the commitment to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people everywhere enjoy peace and prosperity, the 2030 Agenda again gestured toward the same promise established under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet, the current reality shows that 1.3 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty with almost half of them children and youth.</p> <p>Inequalities of opportunities and income are sharply on the rise and, each year, the gap between the rich and poor gets even wider. In the past year, as millions struggle through the erosion of workers’ rights and job quality to make it to another day, corporate power and the wealth of the billionaire class have recorded an unprecedented rise.</p> <p>Poverty and inequality are not inevitable. They are the result of deliberate decisions or inaction that disempower the poorest and marginalized in our societies and violate their fundamental rights. The silent and sustained violence of poverty – social exclusion, structural discrimination and disempowerment –</p>



		<p>makes it harder for people trapped in extreme poverty to escape and denies their humanity.</p> <p>In a world characterized by an unprecedented level of economic development and technology means that millions of persons are living in extreme poverty and is a moral outrage. Poverty is not solely an economic issue, but rather a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses a lack of both income and the basic capabilities to live in dignity.</p> <p>Persons living in poverty experience many interrelated and mutually reinforcing deprivations that prevent them from realizing their rights and perpetuate their poverty, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dangerous work conditions • unsafe housing • lack of nutritious food • unequal access to justice • lack of political power • limited access to health care <p>Everyone can contribute to alleviate the suffering of those living in poverty. Donations can help in so many ways. They do not always have to take the form of money. This can include donating books to a poor child or buying groceries for a poor family for a week to help fight hunger. Donating old clothes, furniture and toiletries can also help improve the well-being of the poor.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider what your contribution will be</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>18</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>“When our eyes are graced with wonder, the world reveals its wonders to us. There are people who see only dullness in the world and that is because their eyes have already been dulled. So much depends on how we look at things. The quality of our looking determines what we come to see.”</p> <p><i>John O'Donohue</i> <i>Priest, Author & Irish Poet,</i></p> 

Friday

20

God Is Not Only “Over There”

The core message of the incarnation of God in Jesus is that the Divine Presence is here, in us and in all of creation, and not only “over there” in some far-off realm.

Indigenous religions largely understand this, as do some scriptures (see Daniel 3:57–82, or Psalms 98, 104, and 148). In Job 12:7–10 and most of Job 38–39, YHWH praises many strange animals and elements for their inherently available wisdom—the “pent-up sea,” the “wild ass,” the “ostrich’s wing”—reminding us humans that we are part of a much greater ecosystem. Creation offers lessons in all directions. “Is it by your wisdom,” God asks Job, and us by extension, “that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings to the south?” (Job 39:26) The obvious answer is no.



God is not bound by our commonly held presumption that humans are the centre of everything. Creation did not actually demand or need Jesus (or *us*, for that matter) to confer additional sacredness upon it. From the first moment of the Big Bang, nature was revealing the glory and goodness of the Divine Presence; it must be seen as a gratuitous gift. Jesus came to live in its midst, and enjoy life in all its natural variations, and thus be our model and exemplar. *Jesus is the gift that honoured the gift*, we might say.

Strangely, many Christians today limit God’s providential care to humans, and very few of them at that. How different we are from Jesus, who extended divine generosity to sparrows, lilies, ravens, donkeys, the grasses of the fields (Luke 12:24, 27–28), and even “the hairs of the head” (Matthew 10:30). No stingy God here! (Although God did neglect the hairs of *my* head.) But what stinginess on our side made us limit God’s concern—even eternal concern—to just ourselves and our group? And how can we imagine God as caring about us if God does not care about everything else too? If God chooses and doles out care, we are always insecure and unsure whether we are among the lucky recipients. Yet once we become aware of the generous, creative Presence that exists in all things by their very nature, we can honour the Indwelling Spirit as the Inner Source of all dignity and worthiness. Dignity is not doled out to the supposedly worthy. It grounds the inherent worthiness of things in their very nature and existence.

The true and essential work of all religion is to help us recognize and recover the divine image in everything. It is to mirror things correctly, deeply, and fully until all things know who they are. A mirror by its nature reflects impartially, equally, effortlessly, spontaneously, and endlessly. It does not produce the image, nor does it filter the image according to its perceptions or preferences. Authentic mirroring can only call forth what is already there.



From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations
www.cac.org

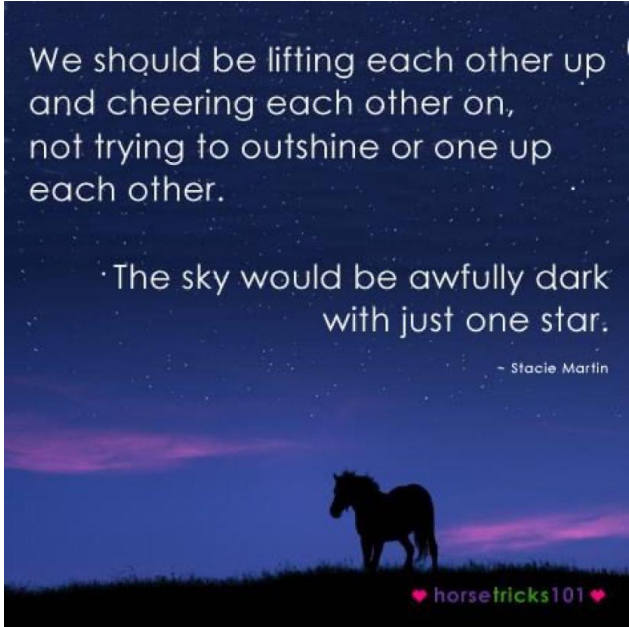
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>For This Great Sunburnt Land</p> <p>For this great sunburnt land We join in celebration, With all its native life, The joy of God's creation: Fresh lakes and tall thorn trees Who raise their voice on high, Blue herons that sweep with grace Across the morning sky.</p> <p>Now thank we, God, this day For pioneers with vision, Who found this heritage A gift from God's deep passion. O God of this wide land, Grant us the faith to see, You filled its soul with song, A sacred mystery.</p> <p>Words: © Norman Habel 1991 <i>(Adapted)</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>Summer Prayer</p> <p>Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You Amen.</p> <p>Source unknown</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Under the warmth of the summer sun the world awakes and blossoms into every imaginable colour. You created a garden for us to enjoy and within it planted the most magical of flower and trees. You needed no horticultural training to plan your colour scheme, no gardening expert to recommend variety or design. Your garden is perfect its colours harmonious its scale immense spoilt only by the clumsiness of those who tend it.</p> <p>Creator God who breathed this world into being who is discernible within the harmony of nature, the perfection of a butterfly's wing, the grandeur of a mountain range, and the soaring eagle and hummingbird, thank you for this world which you have created.</p> <p>Thank you for summer sun which reminds us that your creative breath is still alive and active. Thank you for the warmth of your love sustaining this world: your garden</p> <p>John Birch.</p>



<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Lord, help us to maintain a reverent attitude towards nature, threatened from all sides today, in such a way that we may restore it completely to the condition of brother/sister and to its role of usefulness to all humankind for the glory of God the Creator.</p> <p><i>Franciscan prayer</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>25</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><i>The unique value of love</i></p> <p>People can develop certain habits that might appear as moral values: fortitude, sobriety, hard work and similar virtues. Yet if the acts of the various moral virtues are to be rightly directed, one needs to take into account the extent to which they foster openness and union with others. That is made possible by the charity that God infuses. Without charity, we may perhaps possess only apparent virtues, incapable of sustaining life in common. Thus, Saint Thomas Aquinas could say – quoting Saint Augustine – that the temperance of a greedy person is in no way virtuous.^[69] Saint Bonaventure, for his part, explained that the other virtues, without charity, strictly speaking do not fulfil the commandments “the way God wants them to be fulfilled”.^[70]</p> <p>The spiritual stature of a person’s life is measured by love, which in the end remains “the criterion for the definitive decision about a human life’s worth or lack thereof”.^[71] Yet some believers think that it consists in the imposition of their own ideologies upon everyone else, or in a violent defence of the truth, or in impressive demonstrations of strength. All of us, as believers, need to recognize that love takes first place: love must never be put at risk, and the greatest danger lies in failing to love (cf. 1 Cor 13:1-13).</p> <p>Saint Thomas Aquinas sought to describe the love made possible by God’s grace as a movement outwards towards another, whereby we consider “the beloved as somehow united to ourselves”.^[72] Our affection for others makes us freely desire to seek their good. All this originates in a sense of esteem, an appreciation of the value of the other. This is ultimately the idea behind the word “charity”: those who are loved are “dear” to me; “they are considered of great value”.^[73] And “the love whereby someone becomes pleasing (grata) to another is the reason why the latter bestows something on him freely (gratis)”.^[74]</p> <p>Love, then, is more than just a series of benevolent actions. Those actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing and beautiful apart</p>



		<p>from their physical or moral appearances. Our love for others, for who they are, moves us to seek the best for their lives. Only by cultivating this way of relating to one another will we make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></p>
Thursday	26	<p>World Sustainability Day</p> <p>World Sustainability Day gives the world the opportunity to become more familiar with the topic and come together to learn what we can do to promote sustainability in all its forms.</p> <p>Sustainable actions help make a real difference in society. Being committed to sustainability will reduce your carbon footprint and the amount of toxins released into the environment, making it safe. When we focus on sustainability, the entire world benefits and gets to live in clean, more healthy living conditions.</p> <p>Do something with your own family and friends, come up with a new plan for recycling, or even upcycling. Try out some new sustainable products and or discuss easy ways to reduce plastic waste. There are so many ways you can be active on Sustainability Day.</p> 
Friday	27	<p>As dawn breaks through, gently erasing the darkness of the night, heralding the start of each new day, enable us to do the same, rising out of the darkness of our night, into the light of your revealing love.</p> <p>As the sunshine pushes shadows aside, revealing the beauty of this world through colour, shape and song, may your love perform a similar miracle in our hearts each day, revealing the beauty of your creation in our lives, through our words, thoughts, actions and our prayers.</p>
Saturday	28	<p>“Sooner or later, we will have to recognise that the Earth has rights, too, to live without pollution. What mankind must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans.”</p> <p><i>Evo Morales</i></p> 
Sunday	29	<p>God by whom our fragile earth is blessed, make us servants of your creation, respecting and protecting all that you have made.</p> <p>Teach us the joy of field and flower, the splendour of forest and tree,</p>

		<p>the grandeur of ocean and river.</p> <p>Make us yearn for a world where all may flourish. Show us how to walk gently on the earth and hold all in trust for future generations. Amen.</p> <p>Anne Marie Coppock/CAFOD</p>
Monday	30	 <p>We should be lifting each other up and cheering each other on, not trying to outshine or one up each other.</p> <p>The sky would be awfully dark with just one star.</p> <p>- Stacie Martin</p> <p>horse tricks 101</p>
Tuesday	31	<p>World Cities Day - Prayer for Cities</p> <p>Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth.</p> <p>Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life.</p> <p>Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfilment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p>Amen.</p>