





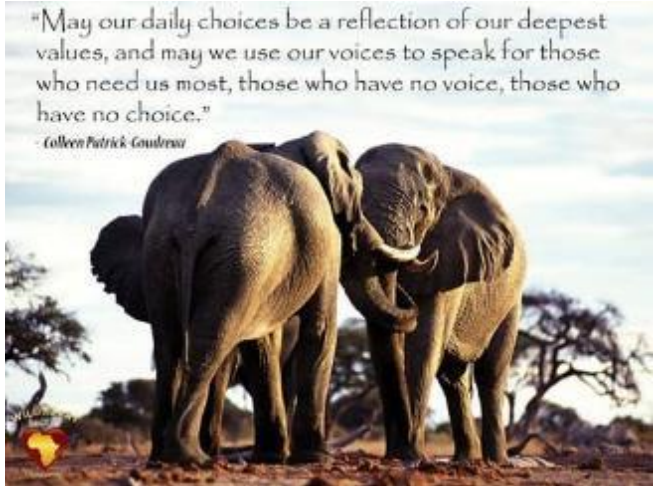
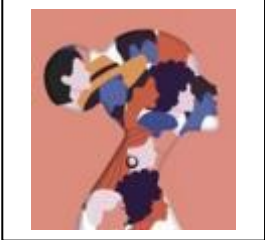


# JAEI


## August 2024 Environmental Prayer Diary


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

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>Creator God, Thank you for the waters of the earth, for the life-sustaining rains, lakes, and deep oceans. Keep us mindful of how precious these are, and how vulnerable they are. Help us to work together for clean water, and for the sharing of it with those who have need of it today. Amen.</p> <p><b><i>Rt Revd Christine Hardman</i></b> <i>Former Bishop of Newcastle</i></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Matthew 6:25-34</b></p> <p><b>Do Not Worry</b></p> <p><sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?</p> <p><sup>28</sup> “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.</p>



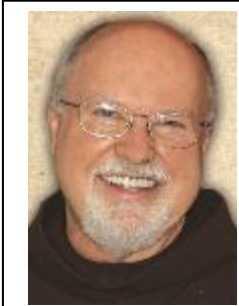
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Blessed are you, Creator of all to you be praise and glory forever as your dawn renews the face of the Earth bringing light and life to all creation bring hope to your people. May we rejoice in this day you have made open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to work for justice for all of creation, that the world may rejoice together and give you praise.</p> <p><b><i>Adapted from Lancelot Andrewes, 1626</i></b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p>“Even if you never have the chance to see or touch the ocean, the ocean touches you with every breath you take, every drop of water you drink, every bite you consume. Everyone, everywhere is inextricably connected to and utterly dependent upon the existence of the sea.”</p> <p><b><i>Dr Sylvia Earle</i></b> <i>Oceanographer and author of The World is Blue</i></p> 
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p>“The Lord answered Job out of the storm and said: 'Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? . . . Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line along it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?’”</p> <p><b><i>Job 38.1-7</i></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p>God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.</p> <p><b><i>From Pope Francis' Laudato Si</i></b></p>



<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p>"May our daily choices be a reflection of our deepest values, and may we use our voices to speak for those who need us most, those who have no voice, those who have no choice." - Colleen Patrick-Goudreau</p> 
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>Almighty God, We lift our hands up high in praise and worship. We give you thanks for the women in our lives and communities. We lift our hands up high to show that we are committed to seeing a gender equal world.</p> 
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>World Lion Day</b></p> <p>World Lion Day is celebrated annually and is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness about the majestic predator, the king of the jungle. Lions are an iconic species, but they face various challenges in the wild, including loss of habitat, conflicts with humans, and dwindling prey populations</p>  <p>In many cultures, the lion symbolises strength, power, and courage, often associated with royalty and leadership. It has been a prominent symbol in heraldry, representing nobility and authority. In Ezekiel 10:14: "Each of the cherubim had four faces: One face was that of a cherub, the second the face of a human being, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle." This passage uses the lion as a symbol of God's strength and command.</p> <p>Lions in South Africa are important; both as part of the natural ecosystem and as a symbolic and spiritual part of the national identity. But the launch of the captive lion breeding industry in the 1990's had devastating effects on both wild and captive South African lions.</p>  <p>In 2021, the government pledged to end the exploitation of captive lions - including through captive lion breeding - and shut down the facilities that housed them. By 2022, this had been watered down to creating "a voluntary exit strategy and pathways for captive lion facilities".</p> <p>Severely cross-eyed male lion held captive in South Africa. The disability is suffered by this lion and his brothers due to intense inbreeding. <i>Photo Credit: Anonymous, Blood Lion.</i></p>

		<p>In February 2024, the South African Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) released a report recommending <a href="#">voluntary exit options for the captive lion industry</a>. While a good stepping stone, animal rights organisations are advocating for stronger measures.</p> <p>This issue is an extremely controversial, delicate and complicated matter – but our lions are still bearing the brunt of our greed and complacency.</p> <p><b><i>Pray that those in authority would deal more urgently and divisively with this traumatic and sensitive issue.</i></b></p>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	<p>Entrusted with an earthly home Our minds did not create or build, We live as visitors and guests Until our years have been fulfilled.</p> <p>Through centuries, without concern For all the grandeur and the grace, We've taken beauty from the earth And left it poor – a barren place.</p> <p>Our carelessness has clogged the streams, Which once were clear and sparkling strands, Our industries have blacked the skies, And left a smog on all our lands</p> <p>O God, we've been ungrateful guests, Upon this earth which you designed; Within our time, help us restore our blighted world for all mankind.</p> <p><b><i>Jean Carriot</i></b></p>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12</b>	<p><b>World Elephant Day</b></p> <p><i>World Elephant Day</i> asks you to help conserve and protect elephants from the numerous threats they face. The elephant is loved, revered and respected by people and cultures around the world, yet we balance on the brink of seeing the last of this magnificent creature.</p>  <p>In February 2024, The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment published the <a href="#">Policy position on the conservation and sustainable use of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros</a>. South Africa's priority is to secure the survival of species in the wild. This Policy Position focuses primarily on correcting unsustainable practices, promoting conservation, sustainable use, and the well-being of the five species and providing policy direction for international commercial trade in the five species.</p> <p>South Africa is a country, with diverse and exceptional biodiversity, much of which is unique, and with high levels of endemism – but with this this rich endowment comes the responsibility and challenge of ensuring our species</p>

		<p>and ecosystems are conserved and used sustainably for the benefit of all South Africans and future generations.</p> <p>While this is great news, there will unfortunately be those elephants that will be poached, abused and inevitably calves orphaned. The good news, though, is that these little orphaned elephant calves can have a fighting chance.</p>  <p><b>HERD Orphanage</b> (Hoedspruit Elephant Rehabilitation and Development Trust - a registered PBO) was established in 2019 in response to a growing number of young, orphaned elephant calves that needed a place of rehabilitation and more importantly, an existing herd that will accept them unconditionally.</p> <p>Over the years, this herd has continued to accept wild elephant calves that needed a new family, who had lost theirs as a result of human-elephant conflict. Together, the elephants spend their days happily roaming and foraging in the wilderness with their loyal carers, many of whom have travelled from Zimbabwe with the herd. This small organisation is doing amazing work in rehabilitating orphaned elephants and giving them second chance at life.</p> <p><i>Read their story ....</i></p> <p><b><i>Give thanks for these dedicated champions for elephants in need and pray for their efforts to be richly blessed.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>God's World</b></p> <p>God who made the world and loves it  grieves to see the way we've hurt  the good earth and diverse creatures.  Wake our guilt, make us alert  to our part in global warming  floods and drought, polluted seas  starving people, loss of species  dried up farmland, burned up trees.</p> <p>Wake us, God, to thought and action  spur us, show us how we can  turn the tide and ease the suffering,  live on earth as you have planned.</p> <p>God who let us split the atom,  speed through space and reach the moon  teach us how to use such powers  peacefully, for everyone.</p> <p>When the world of good and evil  forces us to make a choice  may we give due weight as you do  to each suffering, pleading voice.</p> <p>God who speaks, help us to listen,  work and vote, pray and sing,  change our values, live more simply  build a world where love is king.</p> <p><b><i>Averil Stedeford</i></b></p>



<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	 <p>Your kindness is killing me.</p> <p>The cute cubs you pet could grow up to be used in canned hunting trophy killing</p>  <p>ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p>Heavenly Father, we face hard choices as we confront the realities of climate change and the depletion of natural resources.</p> <p>Help us to understand the opportunities offered by a return to a simpler lifestyle. Help us to fulfil our responsibilities to those suffering from our careless use of natural resources and give us the resilience to adopt a lifestyle that is fairer to others and gentler on your world.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>One Great Act of Giving Birth</b></p> <p><i>Humanity alone is called to assist God. Humankind is called to co-create.</i> — Hildegard of Bingen</p> <p><i>For of his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.</i> —John 1:16, NASB</p> <p>The Greek word here for “fullness” is <i>pleroma</i>, which Paul also uses in his writings (see Ephesians 1:23, 3:19; Colossians 2:9) to describe a historical unfolding. It is an early hint of what we now call evolutionary development, the idea that history, humanity, and yes, even God are somehow growing and coming to a divine fullness. And we are always in on the deal. What hope and meaning this gives to all life!</p> <p>In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul writes: “From the beginning until now, the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth” (Romans 8:22, JB). This view of creation is very feminine, by the way; maybe that is why men historically were so opposed to it. Just that line should be enough to justify the theory of evolution for Christians. Wouldn't it make sense that God would give such autonomy and freedom and grace to creation to continue self-creating, just as any mother or father desires for their children?</p> <p>Creation did not happen once by a flick of the divine hand and now it's slowly winding down toward Armageddon and tragic Apocalypse (which is the hopeless universe inside of which many fundamentalists live). Creation is in fact a life-generating process that's still happening and winding <i>up!</i> We now know the universe is still expanding—and at an ever faster rate, which means that we are a part of creating God's future. That is what Love always does for all that it loves (see Romans 8:28, in fact</p> 

		<p>most of Romans 8). What a different future than one of a threatening courtroom scene or an eternal torture chamber for the bad guys (as if we are not bad guys too!).</p> <p>Humanity is creation come to consciousness and freedom (although many humans are still quite unconscious). Animals “know,” even bread and wine “know” what they are, but we humans also <i>know that we know</i>, and that is a huge leap forward. The French Jesuit geologist and palaeontologist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), shared these inspired words: “‘The world is still being created, and it is Christ who is reaching his fulfilment in it.’ When I heard and understood that saying, I looked around and I saw, as though in an ecstasy, that through all nature I was immersed in God.” That was full consciousness!</p> <p>The common Christian understanding that Jesus came to save us by a cosmic evacuation plan is really very individualistic, petty, and even egocentric. It demands no solidarity with anything except oneself. We whittled the great Good News down into what Jesus could do for us personally and privately, rather than God inviting us to participate in God’s universal creative work.</p> <p>Instead of believing that Jesus came to personally fulfil you privately, how about trusting that you are here to fulfil Christ? To take your small but wonderful part in what Thomas Merton calls “The General Dance.” That more than enough fulfils you without even trying to “get fulfilled.” You are a part of this movement of an ever-growing Cosmic Christ that is coming to be in this “one great act of giving birth.”</p> <p><b>Gateway to Silence:</b> Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.</p> <p><b>From Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations</b> <a href="http://www.cac.org">www.cac.org</a></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">       “To care about climate change, you only have to be one thing, a human living on planet earth; and we’re all that.”  <i>- Katherine Hayhoe</i> </p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>Loving God, You saw everything that you had made – and it was very good. We are awed by what we see that is still good but weep for what we have spoilt. Give us the heart and will in our living and praying to restore all creation to the very good So we may show our love to you, the Lord of love. Amen</p>

<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>International Orangutan Day</b></p> <p>International Orangutan Day a day on which we focus attention on the conservation status of the wild Orangutans facing extinction in their home rainforest habitats on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.</p> <p>There are 3 species of orangutan - the Bornean, the Sumatran and the recently confirmed new species (as of 2017), the Tapanuli. These great apes are only found in the wild on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. All three orangutan species are critically endangered.</p> <p>We in South Africa are not familiar with these amazing apes which spend most of their lives swinging through the canopies and need vast stretches of forest to find enough food and mates.</p> <p>The main threat to these apes (which, incidentally, is the world's heaviest tree dwelling animal) is the loss or fragmentation of their forest habitat, caused by logging for timber materials, forest fires and making way for oil palm plantations. Forest fires are also becoming more frequent with climate change.</p> <p>The good news is that studies have shown deforestation is slowing down in Borneo. And Indonesia and Malaysia are setting stronger requirements for forest protection.</p> <p>Oil palm trees produce palm oil - an edible vegetable oil - which is used in many products, from toothpaste to pizza. Indonesia and Malaysia make up over 85% of the global supply of palm oil.</p> <p>Cutting down pristine rainforest to make more palm oil is incredibly unsustainable and releases lots of carbon into the atmosphere. But the good news is that we can produce palm oil sustainably - protecting species like the orangutan - if we ensure that it is deforestation free. This means planting on already degraded land rather than replacing jungle with oil palm. And palm oil itself yields far more oil than other crops such as olive oil or sunflower oil – so it needs far less land to produce the same amount of oil.</p> <p>As consumers, we can fight to only buy sustainable palm oil. Boycotting isn't the answer; demanding more action is.</p> <p><b><i>Will you join the fight – and protect these amazing apes?</i></b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>World Mosquito Day</b></p> <p><b><i>World Mosquito Day</i></b> is observed to spread awareness about diseases caused by mosquitoes. Mosquito menace is a big problem worldwide. A small puddle of stagnant water causes mosquito breeding, leading to an infestation in that area.</p>





Possibly one of the world's most hated creatures – the mosquito! But here is another “take” on this little pest!

### **Up Close With The World's Deadliest Animal**

(ft. John Green)

***This is a transcript taken directly from the YouTube video from “Journey to the Microcosmos” as John looks closer at this little pest and finds a stunningly beautiful little creature. It will be well worth watching this video!***



*“I’m John Green, author, vlog brother, and whatever the opposite of a mosquito enthusiast is.*

*You never want to get up close and personal with mosquitos... unless it’s like this, a microscope’s distance away. Under the lens, the mosquito undergoes a transformation of sorts. Before, it was a pesky, biting insect whose presence was felt at best through the itchy bumps left on our skin, and at worst through a whole slew of diseases.*

*But under the microscope, mosquitos undergo a metamorphosis sculpted in gold. The buzzing body takes on a life of its own, its usual role as menace lying far beyond the margins of the screen.*

*The mosquito is beautiful, a sentence I never expected to say, and that I assume you never expected to hear. Even the parts that are less elegant become charming, like their legs. They may look like a Christmas tree that’s collapsed into a pile of*



*Cheeto dust right now. But when you think about the tiny hooks along their surface that allow the mosquito to latch onto surfaces, and of the scales that help repel water so they can walk across ponds... well, then you start to realize you’re looking at an incredible feat of, you know, feet.*

*And of course, there are the wings, which are always an impressive part of nature to witness in action. Along the edges, you can see scaly hairs that the insect uses to process its surroundings. Mosquito wings are unique in several ways. They’re unusually long and narrow, and they flap at an incredibly high rate, even compared to other insects of their size, around 800 times per second. To learn how those wings work, scientists needed to use high-speed cameras capturing 10,000 frames per second so they could distinguish each step of that rapid movement. In the process of flying, the movement of the wings creates the buzzing that warns us a mosquito is nearby. It’s an infuriating noise when it’s right against your ear. But for the mosquitos, it’s a signal, an instrument that guides them towards each other. Male and female mosquitos will even go so far as to converge on the same wing-flapping frequency when they are courting, and with that image in mind, we’ve conjured up a vision of the mosquito that is both beautiful and romantic, flirting wistfully through wing flap patterns.*

*All it takes to shatter that notion is this part, the proboscis - this is what allows the mosquito to drink from us. At first, the proboscis looks like a simple instrument, like a very pokey straw that connects with our blood vessels. But in reality, it is a complex machine, made up of six thin spear-like structures called stylets. Two stylets hold the tissue apart while another pair act like drill bits digging through our skin. And then a*

stylet called the labrum sniffs out blood vessels using receptors that turn our body's chemistry into a map. When it does find the vessel, the labrum converts itself into a pipeline, carrying blood to the mosquito. The sixth and last stylet helps the labrum with its task by injecting mosquito saliva into our blood vessels. This is not just gross mosquito backwash - mosquito saliva contains enzymes that dilate our blood vessels and prevent our immune system from responding. At least, that's what the female mosquito does. Because all of this work, it's not actually to provide the mosquito's main meal. Mosquitos sustain themselves on nectar and fruit juices. Blood, on the other hand, is about the next generation, and the eggs that will make them. So male mosquitos don't consume blood. Their proboscis isn't even strong enough to pierce our skin. But female mosquitos need blood for reproduction, using the nutrients - particularly iron - to fuel the growth of their eggs. Over her lifetime, the female mosquito may lay around 500 eggs. So if the physical discomfort that follows a bite is not enough misery for you, rest uneasily in the knowledge that your blood has fuelled the birth of the next round of mosquitos that will plague you, and the world.

And "plague" is the obvious word to go with when it comes to mosquitos. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention call mosquitos "the World's Deadliest Animal" because of the essential role they play in spreading disease. A shortlist of mosquito's notorious diseases includes malaria, dengue, West Nile, Zika, and lymphatic filariasis.

The actual organisms responsible for these diseases include protists, worms, and viruses. But their spread is driven by mosquitos, hopping from person to person to get their blood, and leaving behind an unwanted memento of the microcosmos when they leave.

Malaria, for example, is the potentially fatal work of parasitic protists that belong to the genus *Plasmodium*. When an infected mosquito bites a human, the plasmodium quickly travels to the liver, usually reaching its destination in 20 minutes. And then the parasite reproduces, moving through different stages of their life cycle as they infect red blood cells. When another mosquito comes along for blood, it will end up taking some of the parasite with it, keeping the cycle going and going and going.


In 2021, there were 247 million cases of malaria worldwide, and 619,000 people died from the disease. To try and prevent these deaths, humans have tried many strategies to curb the mosquito population or their ability to spread disease. Insecticides, genetic engineering ... there have been a wide range of tools. But we want to end with the one that resonates most with the microcosmos. It would look kind of like this, an array of ciliates borne across the skin of a larva.

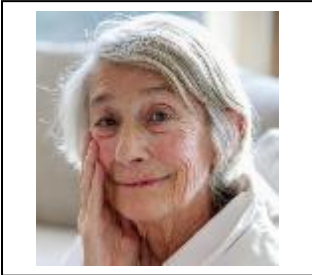


When scientists have pitted the vorticella - a Journey to the Microcosmos favourite - against the larvae of certain mosquito species, the mosquitos have fared quite poorly. It's not clear why or how, but the mosquito larvae die. The vorticella might prevent them from staying on the surface of water, getting in the way of their respiration. Or the vorticella might simply be poisoning the mosquitos with chemical secretions of their own. And if only the mosquito weren't a mosquito, perhaps we could sympathize. Because we know the plight of a pest attached to our skin, leaving behind misfortunes both small and deadly.

But the microcosmos is the beginning and end of so many journeys, and even the mighty mosquito - the vector of so many diseases - can find its own wanderings cut short. "

**Pray for all who are involved in the fight against malaria.**




<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p>Creator of light and dark, your presence is known in the rising and setting of the sun. With the faith of Abraham we see signs of your promises in both the stars of heaven and the deep and terrifying darkness of the cleft earth. When the rulers of this world threaten to destroy the creatures of your making, the spirit of your Son gathers us as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. May the certainty of our citizenship in heaven inspire and sustain our resolve in caring for your beloved earth.</p>
<p><b>Thursday\</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</b>  <b><i>Chapter Three - Envisaging and engendering an open world</i></b></p>  <p><b>The value of solidarity</b></p> <p>114. I would like especially to mention solidarity, which, “as a moral virtue and social attitude born of personal conversion, calls for commitment on the part of those responsible for education and formation. I think first of families, called to a primary and vital mission of education. Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on. They are also the privileged milieu for transmitting the faith, beginning with those first simple gestures of devotion which mothers teach their children. Teachers, who have the challenging task of training children and youth in schools or other settings, should be conscious that their responsibility extends also to the moral, spiritual and social aspects of life. The values of freedom, mutual respect and solidarity can be handed on from a tender age...</p> <p>Communicators also have a responsibility for education and formation, especially nowadays, when the means of information and communication are so widespread”.<sup>[87]</sup></p> <p>115. At a time when everything seems to disintegrate and lose consistency, it is good for us to appeal to the “solidity”<sup>[88]</sup> born of the consciousness that we are responsible for the fragility of others as we strive to build a common future. Solidarity finds concrete expression in service, which can take a variety of forms in an effort to care for others. And service in great part means “caring for vulnerability, for the vulnerable members of our families, our society, our people”. In offering such service, individuals learn to “set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, ‘suffers’ that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people”.<sup>[89]</sup></p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider how this affects our Country</i></b></p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p>God of the wilderness, all the wild areas of the earth cry out for restoration and preservation. May we be mindful of the creatures of the deserts, the oceans and the forests, that the habitat you have given them will survive and prosper, so that they may live in abundance and in peace with all of their neighbours</p>

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>Why I Wake Early</b></p> <p>Hello, sun in my face.  Hello, you who made the morning  and spread it over the fields  and into the faces of the tulips  and the nodding morning glories,  and into the windows of, even, the  miserable and the crotchety –  best preacher that ever was,  dear star, that just happens  to be where you are in the universe  to keep us from ever-darkness,  to ease us with warm touching,  to hold us in the great hands of light –  good morning, good morning, good morning.  Watch, now, how I start the day  in happiness, in kindness.</p> <p><i>Mary Oliver</i></p> 
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p>Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,  for all things speak of you.</p> <p>Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.  Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.</p> <p><i>From Pope Francis' Laudato Si</i></p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>World Wild Dog Day</b></p> <p>African Wild Dogs have disappeared from much of their former range. Their population is currently estimated at approximately 6,600 adults in 39 subpopulations, of which only 1,400 are mature individuals – fewer than 600 wild dogs are left in South Africa.</p> <p>African Wild dogs are a native species to sub-Saharan Africa. They are highly efficient pack hunters but need large home ranges to survive and avoid competitors like lions. The problem is that most of the remaining habitats are so small and fragmented that they can't support large populations anymore. Usually, when wild dogs are subadults (around two-years-old) they move far away and form their own pack. But being stuck in small reserves, they cannot do this. Instead they interbreed, reducing their genetic diversity.</p> <p>Genetic diversity helps build resilience to disease. Outbreaks of rabies and canine</p>  

		<p>distemper virus are frequent – either spread from domestic dogs nearby, or from existing virus already present in reserves. Those diseases can spread rapidly among wild dogs and decimate a pack in a very short period of time.</p> <p>However, new research has been developed to freeze sperm and artificially inseminate suitable alpha female wild dogs to help distribute genetic diversity between isolated populations. Sperm can be taken from dogs in a region with resistance to canine distemper virus and mix those valuable genes into many other packs quickly in order to protect the populations from these disease outbreaks.</p> <p>Researchers propose to create a bank of African wild dog sperm from multiple males. Sperm is frozen in liquid nitrogen tanks can last 50 or 100 years and still produce offspring. The frozen sperm will be taken into the field in portable liquid nitrogen tanks. It is planned to build multiple sperm banks throughout South Africa s back-ups.</p> <p><b><i>Give thanks for the researchers involved in this project and pray that their efforts will be hugely blessed.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>Oh Lord, all the world belongs to you</b></p> <p>O Lord, all the world belongs to You and You are always making all things new. What is wrong, You forgive, and the new life You give is what’s turning the world upside down.</p> <p>The world’s only loving to its friends, but Your way of loving never ends, loving enemies too; and this loving with You is what’s turning the world upside down.</p> <p>The world lives divided and apart, You draw men together, and we start in our friendship to see that in harmony we can be turning the world upside down.</p> <p>The world wants the wealth to live in state, but You show a new way to be great: like a servant You came, and if we do the same, we’ll be turning the world upside down.</p> <p>O Lord, all the world belongs to You and You are always making all things new. What is wrong, You forgive, and the new life You give is what’s turning the world upside down.</p> <p><b>©1965 Josef Weinberger</b></p> <p><a href="#">Listen</a></p>



<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>“I imagine my future grandkids asking me what I did. I don’t want to say, “Nothing.” I don’t want to tell my future grandkids that I sat on my hands and did nothing while emissions kept rising, while the ice caps melted, species disappeared, and the oceans got more acidic. I really think that future generations will curse us, and say we were stupid, and selfish and mean. So, I may not be able to change the world, but I can change my own behaviour. “</p> <p><b>Rachel Carson</b>  <i>Catalyst for the modern environmental movement and author of Silent Spring</i></p>	
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p>Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.</p> <p><b>Psalm 105:1-45</b></p>	
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p>God of revealing light, every dawn tells us how intricately your world is knit: Bare twigs snare the sun and clouds, the shifting winds weave a favourable atmosphere, moisture sifts through in mist or snow, and slowly penetrates the waiting soil. Cleanse our hearts as we repent of human pollution and violence; help your people preserve this life-giving air.</p>	
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	