



**JAEI**

# September 2024 Environmental Prayer Diary

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

## September of Season of Creation

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>World Day of Prayer for Creation</b></p> <p>Triune God, Creator of all, We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.</p> <p>We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.</p> <p>May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.</p> <p>Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.</p> <p>In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>
<p><b>Collect</b> God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honour of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p> <div data-bbox="1294 1469 1469 1619" data-label="Image"> </div>		
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Season of Creation</b></p> <p>In the letter of Paul the apostle to the Romans, the biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in</p> <div data-bbox="943 1733 1497 1930" data-label="Image"> </div>



show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used.

And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

**The symbol for 2024 is “The first fruits of hope”**

Hope is an instrument enabling us to overcome the natural law of decay. Hope is given to us by God as a protection and guard against futility. Only through hope we may realize the gift of freedom in fullness. Freedom to act not only to achieve enjoyment and prosperity, but to reach the stage in which we are free and responsible. Freedom and responsibility enable us to make the world a better place. Only when we work together with Creation can the firstfruits of hope emerge.

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Arbor Week</b> (<i>1<sup>st</sup> week in September</i>)</p> <p>In September we celebrate Arbor Day and Arbor Week in South Africa – a time to plant trees and pay special attention to our environment and the role trees play in it. We delve into the history of this occasion, and why you should celebrate it by planting a tree.</p>  <p>Trees offer more than aesthetic and ornamental value but play a vital role in producing the oxygen we breathe. It has become common knowledge that the climate is changing, and greening landscapes is an important defence against the effects of climate change thanks to their role in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Indigenous plants provide a home for wildlife and a far better suited to our water-stressed environment. They also provide a barrier against soil erosion and are often used for natural remedies on which hundreds of people depend</p> <p><b>The 2024 Trees of the Year are:</b></p> <p><b>Common tree:</b> <i>Searsia lancea</i>, (Karee) and <i>Searsia leptodictya</i>, (Mountain Karee). <i>Searsia</i> was formerly known as <i>Rhus</i>. <i>The name was changed back in 2007.</i></p> <p>The karee is an excellent shade tree and is evergreen and drought resistant. This tree does not have an aggressive root system and can be used near paving and tarred surfaces.</p> 
-----------------------	-----------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Rare (uncommon) Tree:** *Apodytes dimidiata subsp. dimidiata*, (Whitepear)

This tree essentially occurs in coastal evergreen bush, at the margins of medium altitude evergreen forest, in open woodlands and on grassy mountain slopes, often among rocks. It is a constituent of the forests.



- **Give thanks** for the awesome beauty, variety and diversity of plants in our Country.
- **Pray** for forgiveness when we have taken this beauty for granted and pray that each one of us will utilize and care for this resource wisely.

**Communion Forest. - To plant is to hope, to restore is to heal, to protect is to love**

*“I encourage you to join in this exciting initiative in your way, whether by protecting a precious environment, restoring a degraded one or planting something new. All these activities are spiritual acts too, for to plant is to hope, to protect is to love and to restore is to heal – to share in God’s reconciling work in all creation”.* **Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury**





On Wednesday 3rd August 2022 in the garden of Lambeth Palace, the **Communion Forest** was launched. Hundreds of bishops of the Anglican Communion, gathered for the Lambeth Conference, their spouses and invited guests joined in prayer and commitment to this new initiative.

The *Communion Forest* is an exciting global initiative of the Anglican Communion to join together in tree growing and ecosystem conservation, protection and restoration throughout the world, undertaken by parishes, dioceses and provinces across the Anglican Communion. It is a sign of the Anglican Communion’s commitment to the Anglican Fifth Mark of Mission: *“Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”*

*What better way to join in this global Anglican Communion initiative than to plant one of our beautiful indigenous South African trees, either at home, at your Parish or school. Trees are a lasting reminder marking special celebrations/commemorations – (Confirmations, Baptisms, Birthdays, Memorium etc).*

***Plant a tree this week to show you care ...and encourage others to do the same***

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>“The one who received the seed that fell among thorns is the man who hears the word. But the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding and hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”</p> <p><b>Matthew 13.22-23</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies</b> (7 September)</p> <p><b>2024 Theme: “Together for Clean Air”.</b></p> <p>The theme focuses on the need for stronger partnerships, increased investment and shared responsibility to overcome air pollution. Given the transboundary nature of air pollution, all stakeholders have a responsibility to protect the earth’s atmosphere and ensure healthy air for everyone. Working together, across borders and boundaries, between sectors and beyond silos, will help reduce air pollution, leverage finance and investments towards air quality measures and solutions, and provide many benefits. This International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, everyone is called - from governments and corporations to civil society and individuals - to come together to overcome air pollution. <b>#TogetherForCleanAir</b></p> <p>The vast majority of South Africa's emissions are produced by the electricity sector, the metals industry, and the transport sector. The electricity sector's reliance on fossil fuels is one of the main reasons for the high levels of nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide in the air that many South Africans are exposed to.</p> <p>However, we all contribute to air pollution in our day-to-day lives without realising it. There are some simple steps we can all take to reduce this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riding a bike or walking instead of driving when it is safe to do so.</li> <li>• Taking a bus or carpooling.</li> <li>• Buying a car that has greater fuel efficiency.</li> <li>• <b>Cut down on car journeys</b></li> <li>• Turning off lights and appliances when they are not in use.</li> <li>• Using energy efficient light bulbs (LEDs) and appliances.</li> </ul> <p><b>Prayerfully consider ways you can contribute to reducing air pollution.</b></p> 

Saturday

7

## International Vulture Day

Vultures stalk death, and death stalks vultures. Think about the scavenger bird and images of disease and decay soon follow. The birds have a bad reputation – unjustifiably so, say conservationists, who argue vultures are one of nature’s great recyclers, and one of the most misunderstood creatures.



Sub-Saharan Africa is home to four critically endangered species of vulture, and in South Africa, a non-profit conservation and rehabilitation group called [VulPro](#) (based near Pretoria) is working to protect these fascinating birds.

During January 2024, VulPro relocated a mix of 160 Cape and African white-backed vultures 1,049 kilometres from their base in Pretoria to the vultures new home at the Shamwari Private

Game Reserve in Eastern Cape. The operation involved over 50 people, logistics company DHL and WeWild Africa, an NGO specializing in animal rewilding and translocation.



Many of the birds had been rehabilitated by the centre, others the product of its breeding program. The move comes with the hope of supplementing the number of vultures in the wild and establishing new populations, while also reducing the risk of VulPro’s birds falling victim to disease in the centre’s high-density environment.

The first perception to dispel is the idea vultures are dirty animals. Vultures are meticulous about their cleanliness and spend hours cleaning their feathers after feeding, because those feathers have to be so well streamlined and cleaned for flight. They don’t flap like other birds, they soar.

Vultures have evolved into highly efficient scavengers, traveling hundreds of kilometres in flocks, with excellent eyesight able to identify carcasses up to six kilometres. Their beaks are thick and strong, allowing them to tear into flesh, and can efficiently strip a large carcass within hours. Their stomachs are extremely acidic and packed with enzymes not found in other species, allowing them to digest what other animals cannot.

Vultures carry a bad reputation, but have an essential role in many ecosystems, preventing the transmission of disease to other animals through their consumption of carcasses.

Yet rather than being protected as an ally in the fight against disease outbreak, the vulture finds itself hunted and maligned in parts of Africa.

Some good news is that in an attempt to reintroduce the beautiful Egyptian vulture to South Africa, a breeding pair has been donated to Vulpro by the World Bird Sanctuary and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance in the USA. The birds arrived mid-July and will be quarantined and acclimatized before being

		<p>released in the Shamwari Private Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape. This achievement is the culmination of extensive planning and coordination, representing a notable milestone in the ongoing commitment to safeguarding endangered species and preserving biodiversity. Sadly, Egyptian vultures are endangered worldwide due to habitat loss, poisoning, and other human-related threats. Conservation efforts are crucial to protect these incredible birds.</p> <p><b><i>What is your attitude to these magnificent birds?</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Give thanks for the many organisations who are striving to protect these iconic birds and pray for blessings on their valuable work.</i></b></p>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8</b>	<p>We thank you for the resources of the world, and for the many goods available to us. Grant us wisdom and restraint in our spending and consumption; grant us inspiration in the re-use and recycling of resources. Bless those who collect our waste and those who work to recycle it.</p> <p>Lord in your mercy – hear us.</p>
<p><b>Collect</b>          Gracious God,          the air sings with songs of glory, water flashes silver with creation,          and the forests bloom with leaves for healing nations.          May your light and love fill our hearts and souls and minds,          that we may share your abundant grace with the world.          Amen</p>		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>9</b>	<p>God our Father,          As we celebrate the beauty and diversity of your creation,          we are truly sorry for our consumerism and wastefulness.          Have mercy on us for contaminating the Earth with billions of tons of plastic waste.          Please give each one of us the desire and the means to put things right;          no longer trusting in ourselves but in your grace and wisdom alone.          Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour,          Amen</p> <p><b><i>Revd Arthur Champion</i></b>  <i>Former Environment Officer, Diocese of Gloucester</i></p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10</b>	<p>God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved,          open the eyes of your people,          that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet.          Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.          Amen.</p> <p><b><i>Rt Revd Nicholas Baines</i></b>  <i>Bishop of Leeds</i></p>

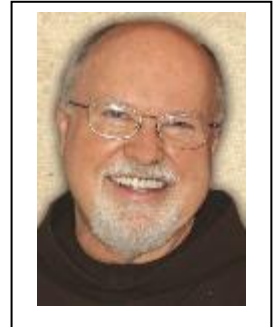


Wednesday

11

## The Shape of the Universe Is Love

In the beginning YHWH, the God of Israel, says, “Let *us* make humanity in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves” (Genesis 1:26). The use of the plural pronoun here seems to be an amazing, deep time intuition of what some would later call the Trinity—the revelation of the nature of God as community, as relationship itself, a Mystery of perfect giving and perfect receiving, both within God and outside of God. “Reality as communion” became the template and pattern for our entire universe, from atoms to galaxies. The first philosophical problem of “the one and the many” was already overcome in God; and we found ourselves to be both monotheists and Trinitarians at the same time. It is one participatory universe of many diverse things in love with one another.



Physicists, molecular biologists, astronomers, and other scientists are often more attuned to this universal pattern than many Christian believers. Palaeontologist and Jesuit mystic, Teilhard de Chardin, said it well: “The physical structure of the universe is love.” [1] For a contemporary and creative presentation with the same message, read William Paul Young’s inspired novel, *The Shack*. Who would have thought that someone could make the doctrine of the Trinity a mystery novel and a page turner? It has now sold forty million copies worldwide.

According to Genesis 1:26, God isn’t looking for servants, slaves, or contestants to jump correctly through some arbitrary hoops. God simply wants mirroring images of God to live on this earth and to make the divine visible. That is, of course, the way love works. *It always overflows, reproduces, and multiplies itself*. God is saying, as it were, “All I want are icons and mirrors out there who will communicate who I am, and what I’m about.” The experience of election, belovedness, and chosenness is the typical beginning of this re-imaging process. Then “We, with our unveiled faces gradually receive the brightness of the Lord, and we grow brighter and brighter as we are turned into the image that we reflect” (2 Corinthians 3:18). You must first surrender to the image within yourself before you will then naturally pass it on—and then you become a very usable two-way mirror.

Henceforth, all your moral behaviour is simply “the imitation of God.” First observe what God is doing all the time and everywhere, and then do the same thing (Ephesians 5:1). And what does God do? God does what God is: Love. The logic is then quite different than the retributive justice story line most of us were given. Henceforth, it is not “those who do it right go to heaven later,” but “those who receive and reflect me are in heaven now.” This is God’s unimaginable *restorative* justice. God does not love you *if and when* you change. God loves you *so that you can* change. That is the true story line of the Gospel.

### Gateway to Silence:

“The physical structure of the universe is love.” —Teilhard de Chardin

**From Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations**

[www.cac.org](http://www.cac.org)

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Seed, Scattered and Sown</b>  <i>Song by Dan Feiten</i></p> <p>Seed, scattered and sown,  Wheat, gathered and grown,  Bread, broken and shared as one,  The Living bread of God.  Vine, fruit of the land, wine,  Work of our hands, one cup that is  Shared by all; the Living Cup,  The Living Bread of God.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Is not the bread we break,  A sharing in our Lord?  Is not the cup we bless,  The blood of Christ outpoured?</p> <p>Seed, scattered and sown,  Wheat, gathered and grown,  Bread, broken and shared as one,  The Living bread of God.  Vine, fruit of the land, wine,  Work of our hands, one cup that is  Shared by all; the Living Cup,  The Living Bread of God.</p> <p>The seed which falls on rock  Will wither and will die,  The seed within good ground  Will flower and have life.</p> <p>Seed, scattered and sown,  Wheat, gathered and grown,  Bread, broken and shared as one,  The Living bread of God.  Vine, fruit of the land, wine,  Work of our hands, one cup that is  Shared by all; the Living Cup,  The Living Bread of God.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">As wheat upon the hills  Was gathered and was grown,  So may the Church of God  Be gathered into one</p> <p>Seed, scattered and sown,  Wheat, gathered and grown,  Bread, broken and shared as one,  The Living bread of God.  Vine, fruit of the land, wine,  Work of our hands, one cup that is  Shared by all; the Living Cup,  The Living Bread of God.</p> <p><a href="#">Listen</a></p>
------------------------	------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------





<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Leviticus 25:1-7</b></p> <p>The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. <sup>3</sup>For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. <sup>4</sup>But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. <sup>5</sup>Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. <sup>6</sup>Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, <sup>7</sup>as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</b></p> <p><b><i>Chapter Three - Envisaging and engendering an open world</i></b></p> <p><b>The value of solidarity</b></p> <p>116. The needy generally “practise the special solidarity that exists among those who are poor and suffering, and which our civilization seems to have forgotten or would prefer in fact to forget.</p> <p>Solidarity is a word that is not always well received; in certain situations, it has become a dirty word, a word that dare not be said. Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combatting the structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labour rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money... Solidarity, understood in its most profound meaning, is a way of making history, and this is what popular movements are doing”.<sup>[90]</sup></p> <p>117. When we speak of the need to care for our common home, our planet, we appeal to that spark of universal consciousness and mutual concern that may still be present in people’s hearts. Those who enjoy a surplus of water yet choose to conserve it for the sake of the greater human family have attained a moral stature that allows them to look beyond themselves and the group to which they belong. How marvellously human! The same attitude is demanded if we are to recognize the rights of all people, even those born beyond our own borders.</p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider how this affects our Country</i></b></p>



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15</b>	<p><b>International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer</b></p> <p>Creator God, the sun, the wind and the waves are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life on earth. Help us to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all.</p> <p>Through scientists, engineers and scholars' new knowledge comes to light; may new developments in the production of sustainable energy protect our fragile planet and promote the well-being of all peoples and all creatures on their journey to wholeness.</p> <p>Creator God, You have blessed humankind with understanding, imagination and memory. Show us how to learn from past mistakes and plan for the future creatively and responsibly.</p> <p>Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of Your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives with you and with the Holy Spirit forever.</p>
---------------	-----------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

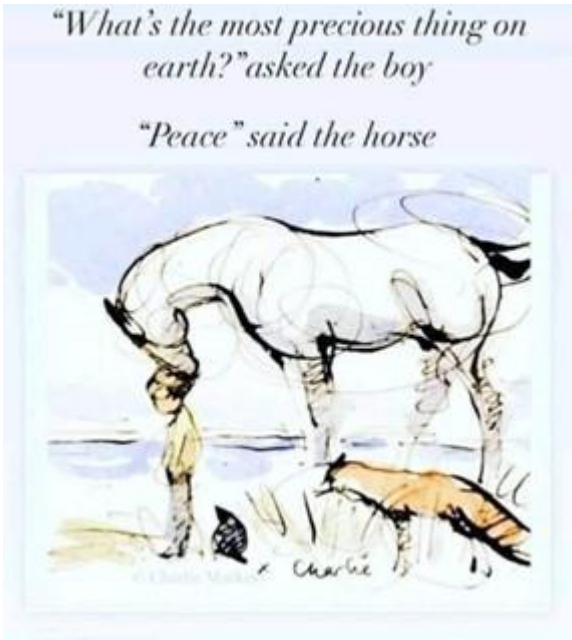

**Collect**

Creating God,  
 your name is written on every leaf, every bird,  
 every river, every stone, every living being.  
 We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation.  
 Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth  
 and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.  
 Amen



<b>Monday</b>	<b>16</b>	<p><b>National Clean-up Week (3<sup>rd</sup> Week in September)</b></p> <p>South Africa is facing a waste crisis, and every citizen can make a difference to reduce the amount of litter that pollutes our environment or ends up in landfill. Each one of us can make a difference where we live, where we work, where we go to school and where we just “chill out.” If everyone recycled and disposed of litter in the proper manner, together, we can make a lasting difference. During this Clean-up Week, be specifically conscious of how you address your waste disposal issues. Of course, the best way to address waste issues is to be mindful of your purchases in the first place – not only during this week, but every single day!</p>	
---------------	-----------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>17</b>	<p>Lord Jesus Christ,        In you will all things in heaven and earth find their completion.        You are beyond all things and in you the whole universe holds together.        All that is finds its fulfilment with you.        To you be all praise and all power.</p> <p>Help us to be at one with the earth, so that we know it as home.        Help us to be reconciled to other living creatures, so that we know them as neighbours.        Help us to be at peace with each other, so that we may live together in harmony.</p>
----------------	-----------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		<p>Just as you hold the whole world in your hands, hold us too.          Bless us with strength.          Fill us with love.          And inspire us to care for all that is.          In the name of Christ.          Amen.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	 <p><i>"What's the most precious thing on earth?" asked the boy</i>  <i>"Peace" said the horse</i></p>
<p><b>Thursday\</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>Zero Emissions Day (20 September)</b></p> <p>Zero Emissions Day is a global event dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of carbon emissions on our planet.</p> <p>South Africa is the world's 14th largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are principally due to a heavy reliance on coal and of course, vehicle emissions as well – something not exactly to be proud about!</p> <p>We all need to take a closer look at how we can change our daily energy habits to reduce harmful emissions, give the Earth a chance to breathe again, and help to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.</p> <p><b>On this one day - World Zero Emissions Day (ZeDay), - try to have a one-day moratorium on the use of fossil fuels. Or simply put, a day to turn off all your lights, stay at home (no driving anywhere) and use minimal electrical appliances, and just give the planet a day off. Possibly easier said than done – but it's worth a try for our Planets sake!</b></p> <p>Beyond this simple directive though, the point of <b>World Zero Emissions Day</b> is not just to make one day's worth of change but to raise awareness about our energy usage and keep that awareness in mind as we live our lives.</p> 

<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>Global Recycling Day</b></p> <p>South Africans generate 122 million tonnes of waste per year, and only 10% of this is recycled or recovered for other uses, while 90% is landfilled or dumped illegally. A huge amount of recyclable waste ends up in our rivers and oceans, on our beaches, and in rapidly filling landfills. Our resources are dwindling as the human population continues to grow (due to hit 9 billion by 2050), crippling the sustainability of the planet and putting extreme pressure on the environment.</p> <p>Recycling conserves our Earth's irreplaceable natural resources and also helps mitigate the environmentally damaging process of mining or harvesting new and as-yet-unused materials. Recycling also has a bigger positive impact than saving the environment – it inspires job creation through the collection, separation and reprocessing of recyclable materials. It decreases the amount of waste disposed of at landfills and other waste management sites, preventing negative health, safety and environmental impact.</p> <p><b>Unfortunately, not everything can be recycled, and it is important to ask your recycler what they are able to take. Generally, the following guidelines apply:</b></p> <p><b>Glass:</b></p> <p><b>Can be recycled:</b> Cooldrink bottles; Beer bottles; Sauce bottles; Wine bottles; Jam jars; Spice bottles</p> <p><b>Can't be recycled:</b> Drinking glass/ceramics; Cups and plates; Light bulbs (however, these can be dropped off at your local participating Woolworths or Builder's Warehouse); Mirrors; Window glass; Car windscreens; Light covers.</p> <p><b>Paper &amp; Cardboard products</b></p> <p><b>Can be recycled:</b> Books; Magazines; Flyers and catalogues; Newspapers; Telephone books; White and colour office paper; Writing and computer paper; Envelopes (without windows); Gift wrapping paper; Cardboard; Cereal boxes; The core from toilet rolls and paper towels; Carboard Boxes</p> <p><b>Can't be recycled:</b> Laminated, plasticized (shiny) coated paper; Carbon paper; Tissues; Paper towel; Waxed and grease proof paper; Waxed plastic coated paper; Overhead projector sheets</p> <p><b>Plastic Items</b></p> <p><b>Can be recycled:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PET Bottles (Polyethylene terephthalate):</b> Cooldrinks; Water; Flavourants; Salad dressings; Honey; Sauce; Peanut butter; Oil</li> <li>• <b>PE-HD (High-density polyethylene):</b> Milk; Juice; Shampoo; Detergent bottles e.g. Handy Andy Dishwashing Liquid</li> <li>• <b>PE-LD (Low-density polyethylene):</b> Frozen veggie bags; Bread bags; Milk sachets; Shopping bags; Black bin bags; Drinks pack wrappers e.g. the wrapping on a 6 pack of beer or soft drink; Bubblewrap</li> <li>• <b>PP (Polypropylene):</b> Yoghurt and ice cream containers; Margarine tubs; Medication bottles; Plastic bowls, cups and plates that have the PP identification code on them</li> <li>• <b>PS (Polystyrene):</b> Clean polystyrene and packaging; White polystyrene cups and food containers</li> </ul>
----------------------	------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PVC (Polyvinyl chloride):</b> Electrical cabling insulation; Garden hoses/pipes</li> </ul> <p><b>Can't be recycled:</b> Fruit and vegetable bags – crinkly/noisy ones; Chip packets; Sweet wrappers; Tea bag wrappers; Cup-a-Soup packets; Biscuits wrappers; Dog and cat food sachets; Rubber (tyres and tubes); Washing powder bags; PET food packaging trays (vegetables and fruits); Dog/cat food bags; Cat litter bags (plastic lined) ; DVDs and CDS</p> <p><b>Tins/Metals</b></p> <p><b>Can be recycled:</b> Beverage cans e.g. cooldrinks and beer; Food tins e.g. dog food, coffee, beans (steel); Clean paint tins; Steel oil drums; Aerosol cans e.g. deodorant, hair spray, polish; Braai grids, sieves, dish drainers; Metal aluminium (frames, doors and gates); Light steel (roofing zinc); Heavy steel (window frame); Aluminium/tin foil; Aluminium food trays</p> <p><b>Electronics</b></p> <p><b>Can be recycled:</b> Small household electronics e.g. toasters, irons, kettles, etc; Computers, components and printers; DVD/CD/VCR/MP3 players; Fridges, freezers, stoves, etc (by prior arrangement); Old geysers; TVs; Cell phones (keep battery separate); X-Rays.</p> <p><b>Can't be recycled: <i>NB* batteries and lightbulbs are considered hazardous waste, so no recycler will accept them. However, these items can usually be dropped off at participating Builder's Warehouse or Woolworths who ensure they're disposed of responsibly.</i></b></p> <p><b>Tetrapak</b></p> <p><b>Can be recycled:</b> Long life milk and juice cartons; Custard cartons</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ensure you are recycling responsibly</b></p>
--	--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>International Peace Day</b></p> <p><i>2024 Theme: "Cultivating a Culture of Peace".</i></p> <p>As defined by the United Nations, "Culture of Peace" is a "set of values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals groups and nations." It is a push for us to recognise how our individual and collective actions can affect and foster global peace. It is a summons that underscores our joint and individual duties to nurture peace.</p> <p>In a world with rising geopolitical tensions and protracted conflicts, there has never been a better time to remember the values needed for a culture of peace.</p> <p>For peace and non-violence to prevail, a culture of peace through education by ensuring attitudes and behaviours needs to be cultured in young people.</p> <p>Sustainable economic and social development by reducing economic and social inequalities need to be promoted, as well as eradicating poverty, assuring sustainable food security, social justice, empowerment of women, special measures for groups with special needs, and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Promoting respect for all human rights human rights and a culture of peace are complementary - without human rights, there can be no culture of peace.</p> <div data-bbox="1219 1144 1477 1375" data-label="Image"> </div>
------------------------	------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The International Day of Peace has always been a time to lay down weapons and observe ceasefires. But it now must also be a time for people to see each other's humanity. Our survival as a global community depends on that.

**Join with people around the world by observing “The PeaceWave” – A Minute of Silence/Moment of Peace at noon on the 21 September.** This began on the first observation of the UN International Day of Peace on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1982 and has continued to spread throughout the world in multiple ways. So, choose to take a minute out of your day at noon on 21 September and join people all across the globe in a *Minute of Silence/Moment of Peace*.

## **21 September - Season of Creation 2024: To Hope and Act with Creation Fossil Fuel Use - Preserving Creation requires action**

“Creation is groaning” (Romans 8:22). Daily, weekly, and monthly we see, sense, and hear about Creation's suffering. Humanity extracts and uses the bountiful resources of our Mother, the Earth, primarily for human greed rather than human needs, and with too little regard for the impact on all creatures and biodiversity. These unsustainable actions have led to the current climate crisis and loss of biodiversity while increasing human suffering.

One clear example is the impact of fossil fuel extraction and use on the climate. Whether it is the smoke of burning arboreal forests or tundra, the unrelenting impact of superstorms in the Pacific Ocean, or the years-long drought in the Horn of Africa, the Earth, and the bounty it produces is diminishing due to massive changes in our climate. It's estimated that thirty percent of the greenhouse gases that are impacting the climate are created by fossil fuel extraction and use.



### **Signs of hope for Creation**

The Season of Creation empowers communities at a local level and prepares us for action at the global level, particularly the annual United Nations climate conferences. This is where 182 countries come together to commit to actions such as reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. Last year, at the 28th meeting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (Conference of the Parties, COP28), the need to reduce fossil fuel use made it onto the agenda for the first time ever and was agreed to.

More is needed. The agreement was weak and did not set the targets needed to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. We need a stronger agreement if we are to have any chance of preserving biodiversity and life on Earth.

Reducing fossil fuel extraction and use, sometimes called a fossil fuel phaseout, will be on the agenda again at this year's climate conference, COP29. It is often linked to a just transition so that the phase-out is implemented in as fair a way as possible. This is meant to ensure that lesser-developed countries have a chance to catch up economically, while wealthier countries start to pull back meaningfully on fossil fuel use and extraction. By engaging with the range of actions outlined below you can support the cry for a stronger phase-out.

### **Join us: Support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**

This year the Season of Creation encourages parishes and faith groups to engage with the **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** (FFNPT). The Treaty brings together nations, civil society, and faith groups to reduce fossil fuel use. According to their website, “The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is a

global effort to foster international cooperation to accelerate a transition to renewable energy for everyone, end the expansion of coal, oil, and gas, and equitably phase out existing production in keeping with what science shows is needed to address the climate crisis.”

**21 September** is scheduled as the global day of action for individuals, communities, organizations, and all levels of government to [endorse the Treaty](#). All signatures will be used to influence decision-makers at the next UN conference on climate change, COP29, scheduled for November 2024 in Azerbaijan.

As a member of a parish or faith group you are invited to approach your faith leaders and let them know of the Treaty and how to support it.

***(JAEI has already endorsed the Treaty )***

**Collect**

Gracious God,  
 you reveal your goodness in the beauty and diversity of creation;  
 in the circle dance of earth and air and water;  
 and above all in the gift of Jesus Christ,  
 who emptied himself to serve your world.  
 And so we offer thanks and praise to you,  
 one God in three persons:  
 the Author and Source of all, Christ the Incarnate Word,  
 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
 Amen.



<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p>May the oppressed people and those who oppress them, free each other                  May those who are handicapped, and those who think they are not, help each other                  May those who need someone to listen touch the hearts of those who are too busy                  May the homeless bring joy to those who open their doors reluctantly                  May the lonely heal those who think they are self-sufficient                  May the poor melt the hearts of the rich                  May seekers for truth give life to those who are satisfied that they have found it                  May the dying who do not wish to die be comforted by those who find it hard to live                  May the unloved be allowed to unlock the hearts of those who cannot love                  May prisoners find true freedom and liberate others from fear                  May those who sleep on the streets share their gentleness with those who cannot understand them                  May the hungry tear the veil from the eyes of those who do not hunger after justice                  May those who live without hope cleanse the hearts of their brothers and sisters who are afraid to live                  May the weak confound the strong and save them                  May violence be overcome by compassion                  May violence be absorbed by men and women of peace                  May violence succumb to those who are totally vulnerable                  That we may be healed                  Amen</p>
----------------------	------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Monday

23

### World Rhino Day (22 September)

World Rhino Day is a day of awareness for all five rhino species and the work being done to save them. Since 2011, World Rhino Day has been celebrated internationally on September 22nd by rhino experts and advocates around the world! On World Rhino Day, the International Rhino Foundation celebrates the five species rhinos and all those who care about them. Join us on Team Rhino as we ‘keep the five alive.’



It is good to know that here in South Africa – nestled within the Barberton Nature Reserve complex, [Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary](#) has its base. *Care for Wild* envisions a future where viable, free-ranging populations of black and white rhinos thrive within protected, vibrant ecosystems. We strive for a sustainable development model that empowers and involves rural communities at the core of conservation efforts, ensuring the preservation of endangered species and the overall biodiversity of our planet.







Their mission is rooted in a holistic approach to conservation, encompassing the preservation of the rhino species and the protection of biodiversity. To achieve this, they are committed to a set of fundamental pillars that guide their work:



1. **Rapid Rescue:** They work collaboratively with other organisations to swiftly respond to rhinos and other endangered wildlife in life-threatening situations.
2. **Thorough Rehabilitation:** They provide comprehensive and thorough rehabilitation programs, that address the physical and psychological needs of rescued rhinos and wildlife preparing them for a successful return to the wild.
3. **Successful Rewilding and Release:** They reintroduce rehabilitated rhinos and other wildlife into healthy ecosystems, facilitating their gradual acclimatization and enabling them to thrive in their natural habitats.
4. **Proper Protection:** They implement a sophisticated and multidimensional security strategy to safeguard rhinos and their ecosystems, employing advanced monitoring techniques, technologies and anti-poaching strategies.
5. **Community Involvement:** They partner with and empower local communities, fostering a sense of stewardship and ownership in sustainable conservation practices.





		<p>6. <b>Sustainability:</b> They embrace sustainable practices and promote environmental stewardship, recognizing the interdependence between human well-being and the health of ecosystems.</p> <p>7. <b>By the Grace of God:</b> They acknowledge the divine grace that guides and inspires our work, humbly recognising the importance of our collective efforts in the conservation of rhinos and the preservation of the natural world.</p> <p><b><i>Give thanks for this Organisation and add your prayers to theirs for blessings on their vital work!</i></b></p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>24</b>	<p><b>Heritage Day</b></p> <p>We stand together and pray for God to heal our beloved country South Africa, and strengthen His people.</p> <p>God, you show us the splendour of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts.</p> <p>Defend our liberties and give those who we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our beloved country.</p> <p>We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Saviour, Amen!</p> 
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>25</b>	<p>Gracious God, we thank you for inviting us to share the hospitality of your table and to enjoy the blessings of a bountiful earth.</p> <p>Call forth in us the same generosity as we find in you.</p> <p>In the power of your Spirit, raise up in us a hunger for justice, a commitment to kindness and a passion for service, that we may be a blessing in the world, in Jesus' name</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>26</b>	<p><b>World Environmental Health Day</b></p> <p>2024 Theme: <b><i>“Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities Through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation”.</i></b></p> <p>Climate Change and disaster risks are fundamental threats to sustainable development, the living and health conditions for all humans on the globe and the reduction of poverty. The negative impacts threaten to roll back decades of development gains.</p> <p>Climate Change is inextricably linked with disaster risks and will lead to worsening cyclones, drought, floods, heatwave, infectious diseases (mosquitoes that transmit malaria have been found close to Pretoria), wildfire,</p> 

		<p>sea level rise and coastal flooding. In recent months, South Africa has borne the brunt of all these hazards – they are no longer just risks – Climate Change is Real! ... and natural hazards driven by climate change are increasingly going into full disasters.</p> <p>There is a growing recognition that vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk and climate change impacts are driven to a great deal by social, cultural, economic, and political factors, including multi-dimensional inequalities, discrimination, and marginalisation.</p> <p>We all need to be aware that health of our environment is definitely in need of a lot of TLC (tender, loving care) and we must strengthen our initiatives in terms of mitigation and adaption against Climate Change – it’s not going to get any better any time soon! So we need to buckle up and knuckle down to mitigate Climate Change as best we can by reducing our use of fossil fuels and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>World Rivers Day</b></p> <p><i>“Rivers are the arteries of our planet; they are lifelines in the truest sense.”</i>  ~ Mark Angelo</p> <p>World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world.</p>  <p>Sadly, rivers, just like the oceans and beaches, are heavily polluted. We live in a society where throwing things “away” is the norm. Interestingly enough, few of us know where “away” is. If it is organic, hopefully it will biodegrade. If what you have thrown away isn’t biodegradable, it sits in landfill for however long it takes to break into smaller and smaller pieces .... but it doesn’t go away. Or, it escapes landfill and ends up in the environment, be it a river, the ocean, your favourite park, game reserve or your backyard.</p>

		<p>Perhaps you might think that you are not connected to the ocean if you live inland, but you are. You are connected to the ocean through your rubbish.</p>  <p>What you do on land, no matter where you are, affects the ocean.</p> <p>Rivers are the lifeblood of our planet. Keep them clean</p> <p><b>Prayer</b></p> <p>God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rivers, the streams and waterways of Earth. Help us empathise with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the vibrant world of the rivers. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and restores all things in creation. Amen.</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p>Let us arise today  Through the strength of heaven;  Light of sun,  Radiance of moon,  Splendour of fire,  Speed of lightning,  Swiftness of wind,  Depth of sea,  Stability of earth,  Firmness of rock.</p> <p>Let us arise today  Through the mighty strength,  the invocation of the Trinity  Through belief in the threeness  Through confession of the oneness  Of the Creator of all Creation</p> <p><b>St Patrick, 5th Century</b></p>
<p><b>Collect</b>  Lord of the lost ones,  You come to our broken world and call us your own.  May our tables be graced by your presence as guest  and our possessions freed to serve the poor;  through Jesus Christ our Lord  Amen</p> 		
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (29 September)</b></p> <p>Food loss and waste undermines the sustainability of our food systems. When food is lost or wasted, all the resources that were used to produce this food - including water, land, energy, labour and capital - go to waste. In addition, the disposal of food loss and waste in landfills, leads to greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change. Food loss and waste can also negatively impact food security and food availability and contribute to increasing the cost of food.</p>

Our food systems cannot be resilient if they are not sustainable, hence the need to focus on the adoption of integrated approaches designed to reduce food loss and waste. Actions are required globally and locally to maximise the use of the food we produce.

Approximately 13% of food production is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17% of total global food production is wasted in households, food service and retail combined. In South Africa, 10 million tonnes of food go to waste every year which is equivalent to 34% of local food production, but, because South Africa was a net exporter of food, the losses and waste were the equivalent of **45%** of the available food supply in the country. This is a staggering amount of food waste! (not only of actual food waste, but also of resources like water and energy! – and also of our individual hard-earned Rands escaping from our pockets!)

***When last did you check on your own wastage – perhaps now is a good time to do an assessment! Put some strategies in place to ensure that you're guilty of wasting precious food!***



[www.jaei.org.za](http://www.jaei.org.za)