





# JAEI

## November 2025 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>Saturday</b></p>	<p>1</p>	
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>We pray that we may all seek to live in harmony and peace with one another and with the natural world.          May we recognise the wonder and strength of diversity both in the natural world and among all people. May we live in peace with people of all faiths, of all nations, races, cultures and languages.          We pray we may rejoice in the variety of people and cultures and languages. May we rejoice in the diversity of the natural world that is of such beauty and wonder.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>“We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures. Nor can we call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ without participating in his outlook on creation and his care for all that is fragile and wounded.”</p> <p><b>Pope Leo XIV</b></p> 
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Creator God,          You have called us to be keepers of your Earth;          through greed, we have established an economy that destroys the web of life.          We have changed our climate and drown in despair.          Let oceans of justice flow,          May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother, Earth.          We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth;          as they gather in Belém, Brazil at the climate talks          May they negotiate with wisdom and fairness,          May they act with compassion and courage,          and lead us in the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children.</p>

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30)</b></p> <p>The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 30) will be held from 10–21 November, 2025, in Belém, Brazil.</p> <p>The main theme for COP30 is to accelerate action on climate change by focusing on forests, nature-based solutions, and sustainable development in the Amazon. Key themes will also include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transition to clean energy and low-carbon solutions, adapting to climate change, climate finance, and ensuring the equity and moral responsibility of climate action, with a special focus on the crucial role of the Amazon in global climate regulation.</p> <p>The fragility of International climate action remains fragile after US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. This signals a major test for global climate governance, raising concerns over multilateralism’s resilience and future. The present on-going conflicts and global tensions are expected to significantly affect COP30 by hindering the progress of national climate plans, potentially diverting focus from critical climate action, and exacerbating the climate crisis through increased emissions from military activities.</p> <p><i><b>Pray for all involved in this important Conference</b></i></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in Armed Conflict and War</b></p> <p>Armed conflict goes beyond just people destroying people – as if that was not bad enough!</p> <p>The environmental impact of wars begins long before they do. Building and sustaining military forces consumes vast quantities of resources. These might be common metals or rare earth elements and critical minerals, water or hydrocarbons. Control over militarily <b>relevant</b> critical minerals is becoming an increasingly important strategic consideration for militaries, as evidenced by policies towards <b>Ukraine</b> and the <b>DRC</b>. Maintaining military readiness means training, and training consumes resources. Military vehicles, aircraft, vessels, buildings and infrastructure all require energy, and more often than not that energy is oil, and energy efficiency is low. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the largest militaries are greater than many of the world’s countries combined.</p> <p>Militaries also need large areas of land and sea, whether for bases and facilities, or for testing and training. Military lands are believed to cover between 1-6% of the global land surface. In many cases these are ecologically important areas. While excluding public development from these areas can benefit biodiversity, the question of whether they could be better managed as civil protected areas is rarely discussed. Military training creates emissions,</p>



disruption to landscapes and terrestrial and [marine](#) habitats and creates chemical and noise pollution from the use of weapons, aircraft and vehicles.

A history of weak environmental oversight has left many countries with serious environmental legacies linked to military pollution, with impacts on public health and vast costs for environmental remediation.

Indirectly, high levels of military spending diverts resources away from solving environmental problems and away from sustainable development.

The environmental impact of conflicts themselves [vary greatly](#). Some international armed conflicts may be brief but highly destructive. Some civil wars may last for decades but be fought at low intensity. Many contemporary conflicts have blurred the lines, lasting years but with sustained periods of high intensity warfare. Who is fighting, where they're fighting and how they're fighting all strongly influence the environmental impact of a conflict.

The atrocities of war are vast, both for the people and the environment:

- Human displacement
- Environmental human rights and oversight
- [Land mines](#), cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war marine pollution.
- Increased hunting and poaching
- Environmental damage during occupations
- Slow collapse of critical [environmental infrastructure](#)
- Deforestation and pollution
- Resource grabs and over-extraction used to [finance conflicts](#)
- Poor [waste management](#) - waste dumping and burning
- Projects and programmes supported by the international community curtailed
- Major infrastructure works undertaken with little environmental oversight
- Weak state control
- Competing social and economic priorities

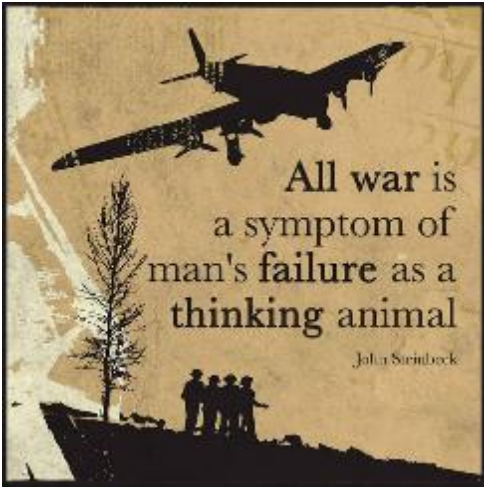

It is rare these days for conflicts to conclude cleanly with a peace agreement and a ceasefire. Low level conflict and insecurity can continue for long periods. In this respect many of the forms of harm that occur during conflicts are also applicable to this phase, particularly in its early stages.

*(This is an extract from the [Conflict and Environment Observatory](#) website and it is recommended that you visit this excellent expose of the destructive force of war and conflict on the environment and its people)*

**Prayer**

Lord God,  
Remember Christ, your Son, who is peace itself,  
and who has washed away our hatred with his blood.  
Because you love all men and women,  
look with mercy on all who are engaged in battle.  
Banish the violence and evil within all combatants  
so that one day, we may all deserve to be  
called your sons and your daughters.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**Author Unknown**

<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Appreciating Our Place in Time</b></p> <p>Here's one way to try to grasp our place in time, in the history of the universe and the Earth. Begin by imagining a ten-volume encyclopaedia set. This will represent the 5 billion year history of Earth (which followed 8-10 billion years of the universe's development).</p> <p>Each volume of Earth's history holds 500 pages; each page represents 1 million years. In such an encyclopaedia set, life - in the form of the first cellular life - does not appear until volume 8, with much of that volume devoted to plants, though reptiles reach their peak about page 440. Humans come along fairly late in this story ...page 499, of the last of the ten volumes! In this model (configured to stop at the year 2000), the time of organised human civilization (the past 6,000 years) is represented by <b><i>the final two words on the very last page! ... Something to think about!</i></b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Prayer from Nigeria</b></p> <p>God of Heaven and earth,  The tall mountains and deep blue seas  Even wonderful creatures to adorn it  And have given us dominion over all of them  Help us to preserve and appreciate this gifts that others may benefit  Even generations to come, this we pray  through Jesus Christ, our Lord and the Holy Spirit  one God now and for ever.  Amen.</p> <p><b><i>Chukwuemeka Roderick Oji,</i></b>  <i>Preach Water Foundation, Nigeria</i></p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>"In reality, there is a single integral community of the Earth that includes all its component members whether human or other than human. In this community every being has its own role to fulfil, its own dignity, its own inner spontaneity. Every being has its own voice. Every being declares itself to the entire universe. Every being enters into communion with other beings."</p> <p><b><i>Thomas Berry</i></b></p> 

Tuesday

11

## Creation as the Body of God

*The universe itself can be understood as the primary revelation of the divine - Thomas Berry*

The incarnation of God did not only happen in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. That is just when some of us started taking it seriously. The incarnation actually happened approximately 13.8 billion years ago with a moment that we now call “The Big Bang” or the First Manifestation.

At the birth of our universe, God materialized and revealed who God is. Ilija Delio writes: “Human life must be traced back to the time when life was deeply one, a Singularity, whereby the intensity of mass-energy exploded into consciousness.” This Singularity provides a solid basis for inherent reverence, universal sacrality, and a spiritual ecology that transcends groups and religions.



St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) stated, “The immense diversity and pluriformity of this creation more perfectly represents God than any one creature alone or by itself.”

However, for some reason, perhaps human self-absorption, Christians thought humans were the only creatures that God cared about, and all else—animals, plants, light, water, soil, minerals—was literally just “food” for our own sustenance and enjoyment. I do not believe that the Infinitely Loving Source we call God would or could be so stingy and withholding.



God created millions of creatures for millions of years before *Homo sapiens* came along. Many of these beings are too tiny for us to see or have yet to be discovered; some have seemingly no benefit to human life; and many, like dinosaurs, lived and died long before we did. Why do they even exist? A number of the Psalms say that creation exists to reflect and give glory to God. The Jewish people already had a kind of “natural theology.” God has chosen to communicate God’s very Self in multitudinous and diverse shapes of beauty, love, truth, and goodness, each of which manifests another facet of the Divine. (See Job 38-39, Wisdom 13:1-9, Romans 1:20.)

Christians must realize what a muddle we have gotten ourselves into by not taking incarnation and *the body of God* seriously. As Sally McFague, a Christian theologian, says so powerfully, “Salvation is the direction of all of creation, and creation is the very place of salvation.” All is God’s place, which is our place, which is the only and every place.

Our very suffering now, our crowded presence in this nest that we have largely fouled, will soon be the *one* thing that we finally share in common. It might be the one thing that will bring us together politically and religiously. The earth and its life systems, on which we all entirely depend, might soon become the very thing that will convert us *to a simple lifestyle, to a necessary community, and to an inherent and natural sense of the Holy*. We all breathe the same air and drink the same water. There are no Native, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, or Muslim versions of the universal elements. They are exactly the same for each of us.


**Richard Rohr**



<https://cac.org/>

<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p>Sovereign Lord of all nations, we pray for all who are called to leadership in the affairs of the world. Give them the vision to see far into the crucial issues of our time, courage to uphold what they believe to be right, and integrity in their words and motives. May their service to their peoples promote the welfare and peace of all humankind, through the strength of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p>When the mind is festering with trouble or the heart torn, we can find healing among the silence of mountains or fields, or listen to the simple, steady rhythm of waves. The slowness and stillness gradually takes us over. Our breathing deepens and our hearts calm and our hungers relent. When serenity is restored, new perspectives open to us and difficulty can begin to seem like an invitation to new growth.</p> <p>This invitation to friendship with nature does of course entail a willingness to be alone out there. Yet this aloneness is anything but lonely. Solitude gradually clarifies the heart until a true tranquillity is reached. The irony is that at the heart of that aloneness you feel intimately connected with the world. Indeed, the beauty of nature is often the wisest balm for it gently relieves and releases the caged mind.</p> <p><b><i>John O'Donohue</i></b></p> 
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p>Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord. Let the earth be fruitful and its resources be hallowed.</p> <p>Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord. Prosper the work of our hands; free the exploited and oppressed; may all find dignity and just reward in their work.</p> <p>Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord. Guide us into a sustainable future and give us the will to share the fruits of the world.</p> <p>Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord. Teach us to cherish the water of the earth, and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p>Gracious host of all creation, you freely provide food and drink for all living creatures. You husband the fruitless tree. At our Lord's Table, you nourish us with bread that is broken and renew our spirit with poured-out wine. Liberate us from our dependence on stores of food and energy seized and held by imperial power. Lest we all perish, move our nation's agriculture into policies and practices that respect the metabolisms of nature and resist the improvident mandates of our capital markets.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>Gentleness</b></p> <p><i>In this lyric, "God is felt in a gentle breeze or as a force that comes in the still of the night. This is nature inspired music that completes the circle of our understanding about creator and creation." (Amie)</i></p> <p>Gentle breeze, gentle breeze  Blowing through the trees  And the meadow filled with flowers  Showing me Your gentleness  How I love You  Showing me Your gentleness  How I love You</p> <p>In the still of the night  When you draw me near  Just to whisper how you care  Showing me Your gentleness  How I love You  Showing me Your gentleness  How I love You</p> <p>Your dear Son walked the earth  He was full of love  Now He lives within my heart  Showing me Your gentleness  How I love You  Showing me Your gentleness  How I love You</p> <p><b>Written by Georgian Banov &amp; Winnie Banov</b>  <a href="#">Listen</a> - (instrumental)</p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>Lord, you know how often we fail as caretakers for your creation. Show us how to protect, not just the plants and animals, but the soil, air and water by which we live, so that there can be no excuse for those who exploit or pollute them for their own profit or convenience. Help us to cherish these necessities for our survival, and guide those in authority to ensure that the human spirit is not starved in pursuit of material comfort and wealth.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>Forgive us, Lord, for the damage we have done to your earth.  Forgive us that rivers and seas have been polluted by the waste of our civilisation.  Forgive us that the air has been fouled by our emissions of pollutants.  Forgive us that flowers and animals have gone extinct through our relentless invasion of their natural habitat.</p>



<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>Psalm 1</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one  who does not walk in step with the wicked  or stand in the way that sinners take  or sit in the company of mockers,  <sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  and who meditates on his law day and night.  <sup>3</sup> That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  which yields its fruit in season  and whose leaf does not wither—  whatever they do prospers.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Not so the wicked!  They are like chaff  that the wind blows away.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>World Fisheries Day</b></p> <p>The annual <i>World Fisheries Day</i> was established to draw attention to overfishing, habitat destruction and other serious threats to the sustainability of our marine and freshwater resources and bring awareness of the importance of aquatic environments in sustaining life both in and out of water.</p> <p><b>Why Care about Fisheries?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries and aquaculture employ more than 43 million individuals worldwide.</li> <li>• More than 25% of the world's dietary protein is provided by fish.</li> <li>• The human population consumes over 100 million metric tons of fish annually</li> <li>• Studies confirm that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have collapsed or are currently being overfished. Much of the remaining one third is in a state of decline because habitat degradation from pollution and climate change.</li> <li>• Escalating amounts of point and non-point pollution continue to threaten water quality and fish habitat</li> <li>• All natural fish stocks today contain at least trace amounts of mercury.</li> <li>• Due to the ever-increasing plastic pollution affecting the oceans, plastic microparticles and associated toxic compounds are getting into the flesh of fish eaten by humans</li> </ul> <p><b>Prayer:</b></p> <p><i>O God, Father and Lord of the universe,  We praise and bless you for having created man and woman, calling them to collaborate in the work of Creation through their labour. Today, World Fisheries Day, we humbly ask you to bless and protect all those involved in the production, processing, distribution and trade of fish, which contributes to food</i></p> 

		<p><i>security, economic growth and poverty reduction. As your children, with all confidence we ask you to stop the physical and verbal abuse and the indiscriminate exploitation of fishermen, which includes countless cases of forced labour, human trafficking and disappearances at sea. Free us from these evils that pollute the beauty of life, sea and work, your precious gifts which must be watched over with great care.</i></p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<p>Father, forgive us for our short-sightedness, our greed and for the part we have played, however unwittingly, in the destruction of your world. Forgive us that we have exploited the world's resources for ourselves while so many others lack the basic necessities. Create in us a new heart and a new determination, that we may adopt a lifestyle that is gentle to the earth and just to the poor.</p>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>24</b>	<p><b>Buy Nothing Day</b>  <b>Shop responsibly</b>  <i>Buy Nothing Day:</i> Consumers are reinventing Black Friday</p> <p>The best way to save money during Black Friday, the year's biggest shopping frenzy, is to buy nothing or if you really have to, buy green.</p> <p>Beyond the obvious suggestions to plan ahead, set a budget, arrive armed with a shopping list, compare prices and read the terms and conditions, there is a growing wave of retailers and consumers who are now boycotting the day associated with reckless spending and needless buying, by declaring it "Buy Nothing Day" as a backlash against rampant consumerism and wastage. Globally, there's a growing anti-Black Friday movement, driven by shifting consumer trends towards ethical, conscious consumption.</p> <p>The dramatic increase in consumerism over the Black Friday period doesn't just affect the planet, but also the workers who produce, package and deliver the goods, placing them under immense pressure at this time of year, working long hours to meet targets.</p> <p>There is also growing concern about e-waste, due to a dramatic increase in sales of appliances such as televisions and smartphones, which contain toxic</p> 

and polluting electronic waste once discarded. Many of this ends up in the developing world, where they are stripped and components are burnt to extract copper and other metals.

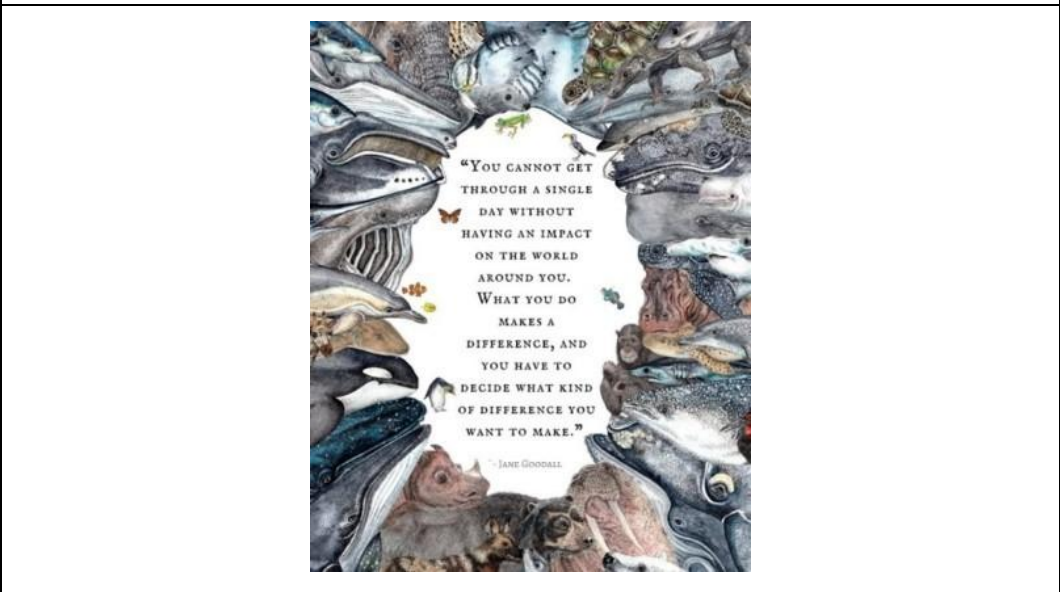
South African NGO, [Circular Energy](#) warns old appliances and other electrical items that will be replaced with Black Friday deals can pose a threat to the environment if they are not discarded properly. The organisation says anything that depends on an electrical current to work or products with a plug, cable or battery can – and should – be recycled when it will no longer be used because they contain hazardous materials that are extremely harmful to the environment when they end up in landfill or elsewhere. For every gram of recyclable materials not recovered from these items, tonnes of raw material have to be mined or manufactured, causing even more environmental harm.

South African consumers are not in the habit of recycling their unwanted electrical and electronic items, as the country is a few years behind other countries with the implementation of the so-called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations. The EPR regulations in South Africa require manufacturers, importers and resellers of recoverable items and materials to fund legally compliant recycling schemes through a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO).

Plastic packaging is a further environmental nightmare. The overwhelming majority of items purchased during the Black Friday shopping period will be wrapped in plastic packaging which will end up either in landfill, incineration or low quality recycling, often after a very short life. Very little of the packaging can be recycled.





So, if your anyone tries to convince you to rush out to any of the “Black Friday” sales .... just tell them you're celebrating “Buy Nothing Day” instead. Rather than push people out of the way to get the last pair of cheap R10 socks, heat up some leftovers and settle in for a day of chilling in under a shady tree reconnecting with Creation!

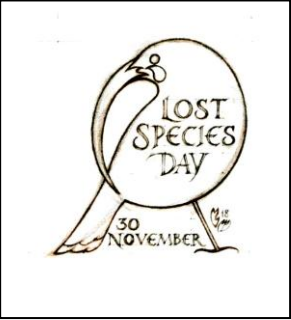

**Tuesday**      **25**

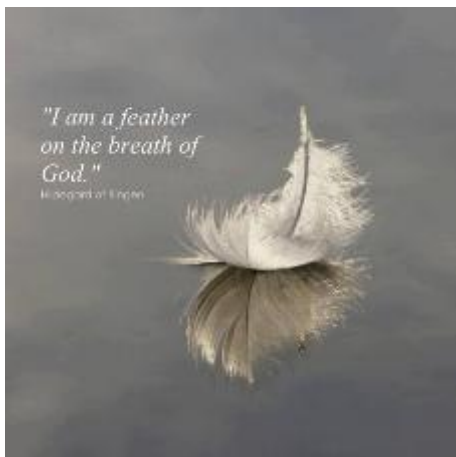


**Wednesday**      **26**

Lord, we lift into your hands the witness of Christian thinkers, teachers, scientists and communicators on the environment and your created world. We thank you for those who have created beauty, fruitfulness and order. We pray for our generation, that we may hand on to our successors a world better for our having lived in it.

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p><b>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</b></p> <p><b>Chapter Four</b></p> <p><b><i>Local and Universal</i></b></p> <p>142. It should be kept in mind that “an innate tension exists between globalization and localization. We need to pay attention to the global so as to avoid narrowness and banality. Yet we also need to look to the local, which keeps our feet on the ground. Together, the two prevent us from falling into one of two extremes. In the first, people get caught up in an abstract, globalized universe... In the other, they turn into a museum of local folklore, a world apart, doomed to doing the same things over and over, incapable of being challenged by novelty or appreciating the beauty which God bestows beyond their borders”.<sup>[124]</sup> We need to have a global outlook to save ourselves from petty provincialism. When our house stops being a home and starts to become an enclosure, a cell, then the global comes to our rescue, like a “final cause” that draws us towards our fulfilment. At the same time, though, the local has to be eagerly embraced, for it possesses something that the global does not: it is capable of being a leaven, of bringing enrichment, of sparking mechanisms of subsidiarity. Universal fraternity and social friendship are thus two inseparable and equally vital poles in every society. To separate them would be to disfigure each and to create a dangerous polarization.</p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider how this affects our Country</i></b></p> 
<p>Friday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p><b>World Children’s Day (30 November)</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="472 1341 903 1872" style="width: 45%;"> <p>“Let’s raise children who can name plants and animals, not celebrities and brands!”</p> <p>– Dr. Joel Gator</p>  </div> <div data-bbox="927 1341 1465 1872" style="width: 45%; background-color: #e0f0ff; padding: 10px;"> <p>Children need to be allowed to play in the dirt to fully develop their immune systems.</p> <p>Not all germs are bad, most will just stimulate your children's immune system and make them stronger.</p> <p>Jack Gilbert - Germ expert</p>  <p><small>Image : Created by Bgfox - Freepik.com</small></p>  </div> </div>

<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>Lost Species Day (30 November)</b></p> <p>Remembrance Day for Lost Species is a chance each year to explore the stories of extinct and critically endangered species, cultures, lifeways, and ecological communities.</p> <p>Whilst emphasising that these losses are rooted in violent and discriminatory governing practices, the day provides an opportunity for everyone to make or renew commitments to all who remain, and to develop creative and practical solutions.</p> <p>Remembrance Day for Lost Species honours diverse experiences and practices associated with enduring and witnessing the loss of cultural and biological diversity.</p> <p><b><i>Pray for all involved in the conservation and protection of endangered species.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> week of Advent - Prayer for Hope</b></p> <p>Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn't the beginning of that message of hope because the old testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is when we read the story of Jesus' birth in scripture.</p> <p>Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the salvation that only you, our Heavenly Father, can give when we believe on your Son, repent of our sins, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior.</p> <p>That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.</p>	



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