

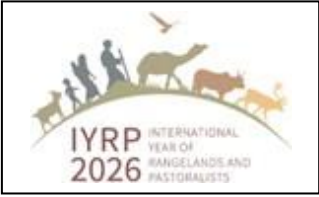






JAEI



January 2026 Environmental Prayer Diary



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

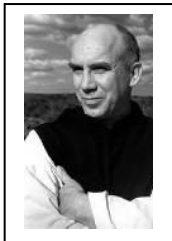
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>1</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>UN International Years</p> <p>Every year, various special celebrations are declared by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, etc., when they concern issues that fall within the scope of their competencies. Some of them may be later adopted by the General Assembly.</p> <p>The United Nations has designated 2026 as three international years:</p> <p><i>International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development</i></p> <p>Through Resolution 78/127, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY), thereby promoting and recognising volunteerism as a significant force for sustainable development.</p>  <p><i>International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists</i></p> <p>The economic, environmental and social importance of rangelands, and of pastoralists as their custodians, are fully recognized, rewarded, safeguarded and protected worldwide.</p>  <p>IYRP 2026 aims to raise awareness of the vital importance of rangelands and pastoralists as their frontline custodians. We recognize the indispensable benefits rangelands provide for supporting the livelihoods and socio-ecological resilience of hundreds of millions of people, conserving bio-cultural diversity, restoring degraded lands, fostering sustainable food systems, and advancing climate action.</p>

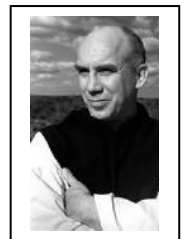
		<p><i>International Year of the Woman Farmer</i></p> <p>Women farmers are all women working in agrifood systems in different capacities across all segments of value chains. This includes farmers, producers, peasants, family and smallholder farmers, seasonal labourers, fishers, fish workers, beekeepers, pastoralists, foresters, processors, traders, traditional knowledge holders, women in agricultural sciences, formal and informal workers, and rural entrepreneurs. They encompass women in all their diversity, including young and older women, Indigenous women and women in local communities, women with disabilities, refugee and displaced women, and others.</p> <p>The definition is inclusive of women in both formal and informal work, recognising their contributions regardless of land ownership or employment status. It reflects the diverse and essential roles all women play in sustaining agrifood systems including through leadership, care and domestic work, while supporting food security, contributing to economic prosperity, and improving nutrition and livelihoods for their families and communities.</p> <p><i>Pray all involved and successful outcomes to these initiatives</i></p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>“We clasp the hands of those who go before us, and the hands of those who come after us; we enter the little circle of each other's arms, and the larger circle of lovers whose hands are joined in a dance, and the larger circle of all creatures, passing in and out of life, who move also in a dance, to a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it except in fragments.”</p> <p><i>Wendell Berry</i></p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Alternative Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Loving Presence, luminous in all creation, Hallowed be your name. Thy kingdom come. May we reflect on Earth The yielding perfection of the heavens. Help us to receive an illumined measure from Earth this day. Forgive us when we trespass against others, Human and other-than-human, As we forgive others who trespass against us. Keep us on the path of wisdom When we are tempted to take the selfish path. May it be your rule we follow, Your power we exercise, And your radiance that allures. May this be the truth that guides our lives, The ground from which our future will grow, Until we meet again.</p> <p><i>Bruce Sanguin, Darwin, "Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos: An Ecological Christianity."</i></p>	


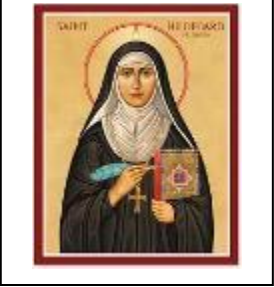
<p>Monday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Read Luke 3:15-16, 21-22</p> <p><i>“You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.”</i></p> <p>We sense the excitement and tension in the air as crowds of people in Jordan surge around John the Baptist, desperate for salvation.</p> <p>John has been preaching the Word of God so powerfully that many have started believing that he himself is the Messiah they have been anticipating for so long.</p> <p>This feeling of expectancy started for us back in Advent, when we were waiting for the coming of the infant Christ. In this week’s gospel, it is the adult Jesus who is expected. As depicted by John, he is an almost fearsome figure, one who will baptise with fire.</p> <p>Yet when Jesus does appear, the imagery is much more gentle: “The Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove.” This beautiful symbol of his baptism endures, the dove that brings new beginnings for us as Christians.</p> <p>Baptism is the first of the great sacraments we receive; as the water is poured on us and our heads anointed with oil, so we are “born anew with Christ”. Original sin has been washed away, we have become followers of Christ as proclaimed by John.</p> <p>Being thus born with Christ, how can we truly mirror his life in this new year ahead? What are we waiting for to bring that change into our lives</p> <p>Prayer: <i>Lord, Help us to live out the promise of our own baptism as we start out on a new year. May we be filled by your Holy Spirit, and like the dove, spread your gentleness and peace to all those around us. Amen.</i></p> <p>This reflection was written by Chris Burkette https://cafod.org.uk</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Epiphany</p> <div data-bbox="751 1323 1182 1744" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>God of light and God of night, Creator of seed and mountain, raindrop and fountain, We bring our offering of praise. God of right and God of might, Lover of child and childless, rich and homeless, We bring our offering of praise.</p>

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>“Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed ... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.”</p> <p>Wallace Stegner</p>	
<p>Friday</p>		<p>This is your garden, Creator God a thing of beauty beyond understanding, a poem that is being written not in words, but in colours, wind's whisper, soaring bird, snowdrop's petal, gentle rain, sunlight's warmth. This is your garden, Creator God, a thing of beauty beyond understanding,</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Meet South Africa’s Bird of the Year 2026</p> <p>For the past 18 years, BirdLife South Africa has named one South African bird as its Bird of the Year.</p> <p>The people of South Africa have spoken, and the Black Harrier (<i>Circus maurus</i>) will be BirdLife South Africa’s Bird of the Year for 2026</p> <p>Listed as Endangered in BirdLife South Africa’s Africa’s Regional Red Data Book of South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini (a record of the conservation statuses of threatened birds across the region), the Black Harrier has been the subject of intense conservation and scrutiny for many years. Known as the <i>Witkruisvleivalk</i> in Afrikaans, <i>mmankgodi-wa-dihlaba</i> in Sesotho and <i>umamhlangenomnyama</i> in isiZulu, it is categorised as “near-endemic”, meaning that - 70% of its population occurs within South Africa; a large portion of this population migrate in summer from their core ranges in the Western Cape province to grasslands in Lesotho and the Free State province, as they are attracted to heavy rainfall events. There is an isolated population of only around 10 individuals in northern coastal Namibia, and they have been observed in southern Namibia and Botswana, most often in winter.</p> <p>The conservation of this magnificent raptor has been overseen for several years by the members of the Black Harrier Task Force, who have greatly increased knowledge and understanding of the Black Harrier.</p> <p>Give thanks for this magnificent raptor and all involved in its conservation.</p>	 <p><i>Image by Warwick Tarboton</i></p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Praying with Creation</p> <p>Sometimes we fail to see that an entire created world can lead us to prayer. We don't need to look far for it, because often it's in our own home or yard. This week, let's pray with creation.</p>  <p>When you tend a plant, you are fulfilling one of your purposes as a human being on this earth. The Book of Genesis tells the story of God creating the world; Adam and Eve represent humanity, and the garden there in paradise represents the created world. Adam and Eve are charged with care of the garden. This earth is under our care, and too often we have damaged it rather than cared for it. But when we water our potted flowers or prune foliage when it's time or plant seedlings and harvest fruit, we are doing holy work. This can be a prayerful time.</p> <p>So when you tend your garden - consider this your time of communion with God. Do your work mindfully, not rushed, and not with a million other things on your mind. You can pray as you simply sit in your back yard and admire the begonias. You can pray as you prepare a meal from the fresh produce.</p> <p>When you deal tenderly with creatures, you are also doing holy work. If you're a farmer caring for cattle, sheep, pigs, or other, you can carry out your work in a number of ways. If you consider this work holy, not just a job but part of your role in caring for creation, then you will look at your practices in a certain light. If your main connection to creatures is a pet dog or cat, you are nevertheless caring for creation when you care for that pet. And whether you're doing the chores of a farmer or doing the daily tasks of a pet owner, you can treat these actions as prayer, as your connection with God the Creator.</p> <p>I have learned to pray while cuddling pets. What better thing can I do with this moment than allow the cat to sit on my lap and nuzzle me and let me rub her belly and talk to her? I'm not saying that talking to the cat is the same as talking to God, but I do believe that my communion with a creature can be experienced as an extension of my communion with the Creator. When I marvel at the perfect ears, the intricate patterns of colour in her fur, and the eyes that look straight into mine, my soul is doing good work, even prayerful work.</p> <p>How do you pray with creation?</p> <p>Vinita Hampton Wright https://www.ignatianspirituality.com</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>12</p>	 <p>Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful, and praising God until we ourselves are an act of praise.</p> <p>—Richard Rohr</p> <p>cac.org</p>

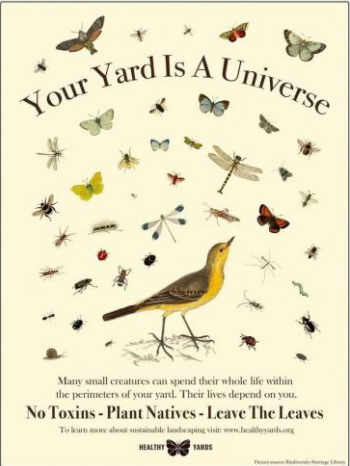
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Creation Hymn</p> <p>Creator God, who carved the canyons with a painless breath Who sends the rains on unmanned fields and tucks the sun to rest The dawn is clothed with brilliance and adorned in full array Reflections of the Father's love put wildly on display</p> <p>O Sovereign one who fashioned oceans deep by whisper strong Who rends the waters from the land and lends the depths her song The fullness of the sky and sea in reverence do they stand To testify the sovereignty and goodness of Your hand</p> <p>Halleluiah All creation sings Holy, Holy Glory to the King</p> <p>Eternal King, who shows no turning faithful through all change Unbroken praise and righteousness adorn Your matchless name The frailty of created things sustained by Christ alone Sufficient is Your providence Immortal is Your throne</p> <p>(c) 2009 Dayspring Music, LLC, Centricity Music Publishing, Love Your Enemies Publishing</p> <p>Listen</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>"Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies."</p> <p>Psalm 148:1-4</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>"The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another."</p> <p>Thomas Merton</p> 





<p>Friday</p>	<p>16</p>	 <p>My sheep listen to my voice: I know them, and they follow me. - JOHN 10:27 NIV</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>“Listen: there was once a king sitting on his throne. Around Him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground, and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself but because the air bore it along. Thus, am I, a feather on the breath of God. “</p> <p>Hildegard of Bingen</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Creator God, source of goodness and grace, fill us with reverence for the mystery of life and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race and our place in Creation. Grant us wisdom and determination to respect, protect and preserve life and all that supports it now and in the future, in accordance with your will.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name shall echoe through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p>From “A New Zealand Book of Prayer”</p>



<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Lord of all the earth Your words gave life to the plants in the field and the creatures of land and sea: As we reflect on our need of water for life and health Make us mindful of all living things, And their dependence on the same water Through Jesus Christ our Lord Who lives and reigns with you One God now and forever.</p> <p>Amen</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p>Chapter Four</p> <p>A universal horizon</p> <p>146. There is a kind of “local” narcissism unrelated to a healthy love of one’s own people and culture. It is born of a certain insecurity and fear of the other that leads to rejection and the desire to erect walls for self-defence. Yet it is impossible to be “local” in a healthy way without being sincerely open to the universal, without feeling challenged by what is happening in other places, without openness to enrichment by other cultures, and without solidarity and concern for the tragedies affecting other peoples. A “local narcissism” instead frets over a limited number of ideas, customs and forms of security; incapable of admiring the vast potential and beauty offered by the larger world, it lacks an authentic and generous spirit of solidarity. Life on the local level thus becomes less and less welcoming, people less open to complementarity. Its possibilities for development narrow; it grows weary and infirm. A healthy culture, on the other hand, is open and welcoming by its very nature; indeed, “a culture without universal values is not truly a culture”.^[127]</p> <p>147. Let us realize that as our minds and hearts narrow, the less capable we become of understanding the world around us. Without encountering and relating to differences, it is hard to achieve a clear and complete understanding even of ourselves and of our native land. Other cultures are not “enemies” from which we need to protect ourselves, but differing reflections of the inexhaustible richness of human life. Seeing ourselves from the perspective of another, of one who is different, we can better recognize our own unique features and those of our culture: its richness, its possibilities and its limitations. Our local experience needs to develop “in contrast to” and “in harmony with” the experiences of others living in diverse cultural contexts.^[128]</p> <p>148. In fact, a healthy openness never threatens one’s own identity. A living culture, enriched by elements from other places, does not import a mere carbon copy of those new elements, but integrates them in its own unique way. The result is a new synthesis that is ultimately beneficial to all, since the original culture itself ends up being nourished. That is why I have urged indigenous peoples to cherish their roots and their ancestral cultures. At the same time, though, I have wanted to stress that I have no intention of</p>




		<p>proposing “a completely enclosed, a-historic, static ‘indigenism’ that would reject any kind of blending (mestizaje)”. For “our own cultural identity is strengthened and enriched as a result of dialogue with those unlike ourselves. Nor is our authentic identity preserved by an impoverished isolation”.^[129] The world grows and is filled with new beauty, thanks to the successive syntheses produced between cultures that are open and free of any form of cultural imposition.</p> <p>149. For a healthy relationship between love of one’s native land and a sound sense of belonging to our larger human family, it is helpful to keep in mind that global society is not the sum total of different countries, but rather the communion that exists among them. The mutual sense of belonging is prior to the emergence of individual groups. Each particular group becomes part of the fabric of universal communion and there discovers its own beauty. All individuals, whatever their origin, know that they are part of the greater human family, without which they will not be able to understand themselves fully.</p> <p>To see things in this way brings the joyful realization that no one people, culture or individual can achieve everything on its own: to attain fulfilment in life we need others. An awareness of our own limitations and incompleteness, far from being a threat, becomes the key to envisaging and pursuing a common project. For “man is a limited being who is himself limitless”.^[130]</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy. You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.</p> <p><i>Psalm 65:5-13</i></p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>23</p>	

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>God of the universe, We thank You for Your many good gifts - For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants.</p> <p>Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted And wasted what You have given us. Transform our hearts and minds So that we would learn to care and share, To touch the earth with gentleness and with love, Respecting all living things.</p> <p>We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference, And we pray that the day would come when everyone has enough food and clean water. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species And help us to willingly share your gifts Today and always. Amen.</p> <p><i>Fiona Murdoch, Eco-Congregation Ireland</i></p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Loving Father and Creator of all we come to you today deeply grateful for your creation.</p> <p>As we look around, we are amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that you have made. Nature around us speaks of your greatness - the vast expanse of the sky, the mountains, trees, lakes and streams speak of your great design. You have given us such beauty in the colours of the rainbow, the beauty of flowers and fields. Words cannot adequately express the magnificence of all you have created.</p> <p>We join in praise with the writer of the psalms when he says, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth." May we show our love and reverence to you, our Lord, by caring for all that you have created.</p> <p>We humbly give you praise and thanks. Amen</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>World Environmental Education Day <i>2026 Theme: "Decision Making and Sense of Justice"</i></p> <p>The theme emphasises making decisions that foster environmental justice and understanding our interconnectedness with the planet.</p> <p>Environmental education is important because it raises awareness of environmental issues, fosters a deeper understanding of ecosystems, and equips individuals with the skills to make informed, responsible decisions and take action for a sustainable future. It improves academic achievement and cognitive abilities, promotes a connection with nature, and develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for meeting 21st-century challenges.</p> 

		<p>Today is the day to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about environmental issues: Learn about the causes and effects of climate change, the importance of renewable energy, and the role of water in life on Earth. • Educate others about the importance of sustainability and biodiversity. • Take action by planting indigenous plants in your garden that will supply bees and butterflies with their need and take a serious look at your own environmental footprint.
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>International Day of Clean Energy (26 January) <i>2026 theme: “Clean energy: for all and for the planet”</i></p> <p>Energy lies at the core of a double challenge: leaving no one behind and protecting the Planet. And clean energy is crucial to its solution.</p> <p>In a world grappling with climate change, clean energy plays a vital role in reducing emissions and can also benefit communities lacking access to reliable power sources. Still today, 685 million people live in the dark - more than 80 per cent of them in Sub-Saharan Africa.</p>  <p>The connection between clean energy, socio-economic development, and environmental sustainability is crucial in addressing issues faced by vulnerable communities worldwide.</p> <p>For populations without clean energy access, the lack of reliable power hinders education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, and many of these developing regions still rely heavily on polluting fossil fuels for their daily life, perpetuating poverty. If current trends continue, by 2030 around 1.8 billion people will still use unsafe, unhealthy and inefficient cooking systems, such as burning wood or dung.</p> <p>Although this situation has generally been improving, the most recent figures show that the number of people without electricity actually increased by 10 million in 2022, as population growth outpaced progress. The world is not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7), which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.</p> <p>Adopting clean energy is integral to the fight against climate change. The science is clear: to limit climate change, we need to end our reliance on fossil fuels and invest in alternative sources of energy that are clean, accessible, affordable, sustainable, and reliable. Renewable energy sources – which are available in abundance all around us, provided by the sun, wind, water, waste, and heat from the Earth – are replenished by nature and emit little to no greenhouse gases or pollutants into the air.</p> <p>At the same time, improving energy efficiency is key. Using less energy for the same output – through more efficient technologies in the transport, building, lighting, and appliances sectors for instance. This saves money, cuts down on carbon pollution, and helps ensure universal access to sustainable energy for all.</p> <p>South Africa's transition to clean energy is not on target to meet its long-term climate goals, although there are some positive developments like increased</p>

		<p>solar and wind procurement. The country still relies heavily on coal (over 74% of electricity), and many analyses suggest current targets are insufficient and progress is slow, particularly because delaying action will make deeper cuts more expensive late</p> <p>South Africa's largest source of clean electricity is solar (8%). Its share of wind and solar (13%) is just below the global average (15%). South Africa relied on fossil fuels for 83% of its electricity in 2024.</p> <p><i>Pray for accelerated progress of renewable energy in South Africa.</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Is God calling you to be a prophet?</p> <p>Care for Creation is an urgent matter. We are called to be guardians of the Earth. Now is the time when God is raising up prophets - in our churches, organisations, home groups, Dioceses, however large or small the group you are part of - is God calling YOU to be a prophet?</p> <p>Prophets, by their very nature, cannot be at the centre of any social structure. Rather, they are “on the edge of the inside.” They cannot be fully insiders, but they cannot throw rocks from outside either. They must be educated inside the system, knowing and living the rules, before they can critique what is non- essential or not so important. Jesus did this masterfully (see Matthew 5:17-48)</p>  <p>This is what Martin Luther King, Jr. taught the United States, what Gandhi taught British-occupied India, and what Nelson Mandela taught South Africa. Only with great respect for and understanding of the rules can a prophet know how to properly break those very same rules—for the sake of a greater purpose and value. A prophet critiques a system by quoting its own documents, constitutions, heroes, and Scriptures against its present practice. This is their secret: systems are best unlocked from inside.</p> <p>Holding the tension of opposites is the necessary education of the prophet, yet the Church has given little energy to what Paul says is the second most important charisma for the building of the church (1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11).</p> <p>Is God calling you to be a missionary of the Fifth Mark of Mission- "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth"</p> <p>"Here am I Lord, Send me"</p> <p><i>Adapted from Richard Rohr</i> www.cac.org</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>God, I thank you for the healing rain that washes the curving hills bright green. I thank you for the beams of sunlight that falls softly on a child's face. I thank you for butterflies and flowers, birds and fish, stars and trees, all of these beautiful things you created for us. I pray that all of your children see and wonder at these, and that the joy of these follows them through their lives now and forever. In your name we pray, Amen.</p> 

<p>Friday</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>International Zebra Day</p> <p>Zebras are iconic symbols of the African savannahs, known for their striking stripes and unique social behaviours.</p> <p>Did you know that Zebras form a group known as a harem. This social structure includes one dominant stallion, several mares and their young.</p> <p>Young male zebras, known as colts, are chased out the herd at around two years of age however once they are around the age of four and a half years old, they approach other herds to 'steal' young females, fillies, to create their own harem structure.</p> <p>On this day, we celebrate these magnificent creatures and the important role they play in our ecosystems.</p> <p><i>Do what you can to raise awareness of this iconic species and the preservation of their natural habitats.</i></p>



*Jesus replied,
"Foxes have holes,
and birds of the air have nests,
but the Son of
Man has no place
to lay his head."
Matthew 23:27 NIV*

Kingdom Bloggers

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