JAEI

November 2026 Environmental Prayer Diary

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

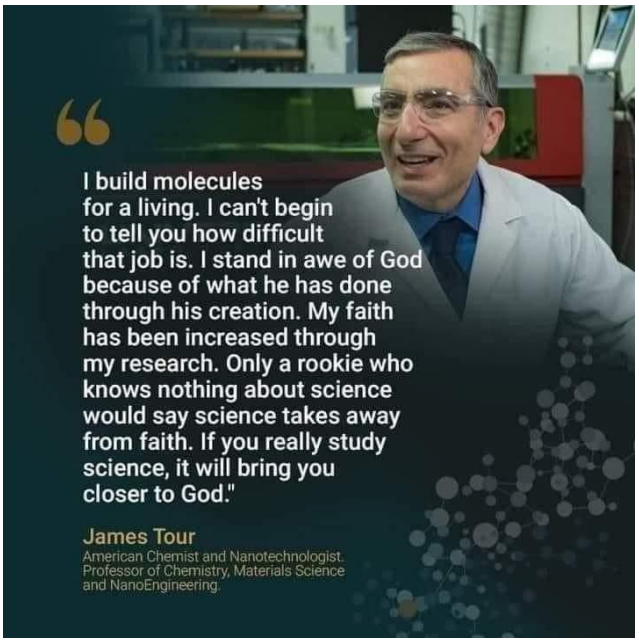
Sunday	**1**	Gracious God, you have given us much this day: the wheat and grapes which found our feast, the wisdom and will to transform them into bread and wine, and the precious presence of your Son who transfigures and redeems all that we have broken and lost. Send us out now to care for this fragile earth, our island home. Grant us the wisdom and the will to transform the toxic, irreverent ways we live, and the saving presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, who goes before us and calls us into this world you love. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and forever, Amen.
Monday	**2**	**Prayer for Climate Change** Your creative love, O God, brought forth our world, Once a garden where humans could taste and see the goodness of the earth. But our eyes have been blinded to the beauty of Creation, to the knowledge that it is Gift, none given so that all humans may live and flourish. Our indifference changes the world; Even mighty glaciers weep now. Our disregard for our sisters and brothers threatens the very skies above us. Our passivity begins to choke us, and the excess of our lifestyles blot out the sun. Call us to renewal, to stewardship; Call us to solidarity to the earth and all its creatures. Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains to us; Give us new spiritual energy to become active In loving the world through our daily life; Give us new voices to speak out for environmental solidarity. Bless us again with the gift Of being a joyful community; Bless us with a love of your Creation And we will glimpse your Eden once again
Tuesday	**3**	"What does the Earth Desire? I will put it in just a few short sentences... To be admired in her loveliness, To be tasted in her delicious fruits, To be listened to in her teaching, To be endured in the severity of her discipline, To be cared for as a maternal source from whence we come, a destiny to which we return. It's very simple." ***Thomas Berry***

Wednesday	**4**	**Creation sings the Father's song** Creation sings the Father's song He calls the sun to wake the dawn And run the course of day Till evening falls in crimson rays His fingerprints in flakes of snow His breath upon this spinning globe He charts the eagle's flight Commands the newborn baby's cry Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing Hallelujah! Fill the earth with songs of worship Tell the wonders of creation's King Creation gazed upon His face The ageless One in time's embrace Unveiled the Father's plan Of reconciling God and man A second Adam walked the earth Whose blameless life would break the curse Whose death would set us free To live with Him eternally Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing Hallelujah! Fill the earth with songs of worship Tell the wonders of creation's King Creation longs for His return When Christ shall reign upon the earth The bitter wars that rage Are birth pains of a coming age. When He renews the land and sky All heav'n will sing and earth reply With one resplendent theme The glories of our God and King Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing Hallelujah! Fill the earth with songs of worship Tell the wonders of creation's King ***Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend / Kristyn Getty*** Listen
Thursday	**5**	“Because the Divine could not express itself in any single being, the Divine created the great multiplicity of beings so that the perfection lacking to one would be supplied by the others. Thus the whole universe together participates in and manifests the Divine more than any single being whatever”. ***St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)***

Friday	**6**	**International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in Armed Conflict and War** The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) observes this day annually highlighting the environment as a silent and forgotten victim of conflict. Over the last 60 years, at least 40% of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources (such as timber, oil, fertile land, and water). This day is an opportunity to recognise the environment as yet another victim of war. It is also an opportunity to take steps to reduce the collateral damage of conflicts and protect the natural resources that are so crucial for sustainable development. The natural environment has frequently remained a silent casualty of war. The consequences of environmental damage for conflict-affected populations are severe and complex, affecting their well-being, health and survival. When environmental degradation collides with climate risks, it compounds the challenges for people trying to survive in contemporary armed conflicts. While a certain amount of environmental damage may be inherent to war, it cannot be unlimited; international humanitarian law (IHL) contains rules that protect the natural environment and that seek to limit the damage caused to it by armed conflict. In 1994, in response to a request by the United Nations General Assembly, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued the first *Guidelines for Military Manuals and Instructions on the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict* to assist the instruction and training of the armed forces on IHL protecting the natural environment. Since then, the international legal framework has continued to develop. At the same time, armed conflicts have continued to cause environmental damage and destruction, highlighting the enduring need to reaffirm and promote greater respect for IHL. The Guidelines on the Protection of the Natural Environment in Armed Conflict set out rules and recommendations relating to the protection of the natural environment under international humanitarian law (IHL). They are intended to facilitate the adoption of concrete measures to reduce the environmental impact of armed conflict. Ultimately, better respect for IHL can limit the impact of armed conflict on the natural environment and the deeply interlinked consequences for conflict-affected populations who depend on it. If only these guidelines were taken seriously and implemented, but sadly, this is not the case.
Saturday	**7**	

Sunday	**8**	Lord, we pray that all your people, whether they be ministers, scientists or lay people, may be given the strength and courage to witness clearly to the need to care for the world that you created. May they speak out freely on the changes in lifestyle that are now needed to protect your creation
Monday	**9**	**COP 31** COP 31 is the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference, is scheduled to take place in Antalya, Turkey, from 9-20 November 2026. The primary goal of COP31 is to transition global climate commitments into measurable, practical implementation under the Paris Agreement The COP31 Presidency has outlined major headline goals and priority themes for the summit. • **Clean Electrification:** Raise the share of final energy demand met by electricity from just over 20% to 35% by 2035. • **Waste Reduction:** Halve the growth in global waste by 2035 through zero-waste and circular economic models. • **Resilient Cities:** Reduce energy consumption intensity in the building sector by at least 25% by 2035 and build urban systems resilient to extreme heat and climate risks. • **Green Industrialization:** Accelerate low-carbon industrial production, particularly across hard-to-abate sectors. • **Broader Action Agenda:** Advance targets covering food security, ocean and coastal resilience, and youth education. **Negotiation Objectives** • **NDC (***Nationally Determined Contributions***) Assessment:** Evaluate new national climate plans to see if they close the remaining emissions gap required to keep global warming under 1.5°C. • **Climate Finance:** Advance funding progress and mobilize trillions annually to support mitigation and adaptation in developing economies. • **Ecosystem Protection:** Track roadmaps aimed at halting and reversing global deforestation Although previous COP climate summits have achieved some global milestones, the fight against climate change has been very disappointing. Decisions requiring total consensus among members, which often waters down agreements to the lowest common denominator. Pledges made for loss and damage and general climate finance frequently fall far short of estimated real-world needs and many national targets lack strict enforcement mechanisms or fast enough real-world rollout. It remains to be seen if COP31 has any major successes. ***All we can do is cover this conference in prayer for a successful outcome!***

Tuesday	**10**	Holy God, Earth and air and water ae your creation, and the web of life is yours. Have mercy on us in the face of climate chaos. Help us to be keepers of your earth: To simplify our lives, To reduce our use of energy To share the resources you have given ud To raise our voices for justice And to bear the cost of change We kindle this light and pray for the climate change negotiations for Antalya, Turkey. (***Adapted from Bishop Desmond Tutu's prayer for Lima)***
Wednesday	**11**	**St Francis Meditation** *Sister Ilia Delio describes Francis of Assisi as a nature mystic:* Francis attained the heights of contemplation through his penetrating vision of creation.... Some regard him as "the first materialist" in the best sense of the word because of the way he looked on the material world—not for *what* it is but for *how* it is—God's creation. Francis has been described as a nature mystic, one who finds God in the vast and beautiful fields of nature. A nature mystic is one whose mystical experiences involve an appreciation of creation as God's handiwork; nature manifests the divine. Francis's nature mysticism included a consciousness of God, with the appropriate religious attitudes of awe and gratitude.... He took spontaneous joy in the material world, singing its praises like a troubadour poet. With a disarming sense of immediacy, he felt himself part of the family of the creation. *Delio describes how Francis's conversion deepened as he became more aware of God's presence in the material world:* Coming to an awareness of God's presence in creation was not an immediate experience for Francis but required growth in love. Conversion is a slow, lifelong process. It is a constant effort of moving away from sin-cantered attitudes and behaviors toward God-cantered relationships. With this movement from sin toward God, there is a gradual change in one's consciousness or awareness of others and in one's relationship to others. It took Francis a lifetime to realize his integral relationship to others, not only to humans but to all of creation. The *Canticle of Creatures*, which sings of Francis's cosmic fraternity, his integral relationship to all the elements of the universe, was composed in 1225, one year before he died. It took Francis a lifetime to realize that he was truly brother to the sun, moon, stars, fire and water, that is, to the whole cosmos…. In his Major Legend, Bonaventure describes Francis's relationship with Christ as one of deepening piety. The word "piety" (*pietas*) means "blood-related" or "family related." It can be defined as an attitude of respect toward those to whom one is bound by ties of religion, consanguinity; of relationships between human beings. Bonaventure highlights the idea that, through his relationship with Christ, Francis came to realize his "family" relatedness to everything, including the tiny creatures of creation….

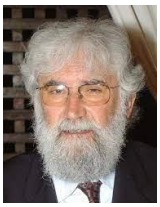
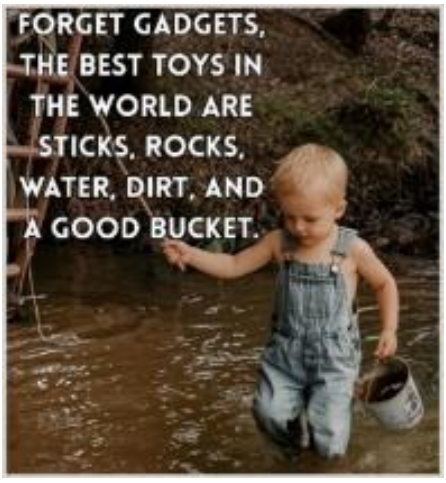
		Bonaventure claims that everything in creation “spoke” to Francis of God. He came to “see” God’s goodness in every aspect of creation, so that everything ultimately led him to Christ, the Word of God. That Francis came to “see” God in creation points to the idea that Francis contemplated God in the things of creation. Contemplation is a penetrating gaze that gets to the truth of reality, and Francis came to “see” the truth of things by following the footprints of Jesus Christ. ***www.Cac.org***
Thursday	**12**	Healing God, we look forward in hope to the day when by your mercy all things in your creation will be renewed and restored. You promised that your faithful people will be known as “repairers of the breach.” Give us courage to lead our nation in care of the earth, and to assist you in the healing of all its inhabitants
Friday	**13**	
Saturday	**14**	God of heaven and earth, you are calling us to play our part in the care of your creation and to manage carefully the land you have given us to tend. We pray for wisdom as we seek an agriculture designed, not for money-making, but for feeding the world. Guide our policy-makers, planners and farmers, and help us all to understand that we hold land, not in perpetuity, but in trust for generations to come.
Sunday	**15**	**We pray for scientists and engineers:** Creator God – creator of our world, of science, and of creativity itself, You hold all knowledge. We praise you and thank you for the insights you have given people into engineering, science and systems in the past. In your mercy, grant revelation to scientists and engineers that they might discover solutions and systems to aid adaptation. Not that we might continue to take the earth and its resources for granted, or grow arrogant, but that your precious children might be spared. Lord, in your mercy, lead our scientists and engineers to truth, and transformation

Monday	**16**	**Psalm 24** [1] The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; [2] for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. [3] Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? [4] The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. [5] They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior. [6] Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob. [7] Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. [8] Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. [9] Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. [10] Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty - he is the King of glory.
Tuesday	**17**	**Ecological Examen** Begin the Examen by placing yourself or your group in a posture that allows you to be open to the ways the Spirit is working in you. There are six steps in the Examen: ***Gratitude*** I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. • (Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?) ***Awareness*** I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendour and suffering. • (Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?) ***Understanding*** I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable. • (What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?) ***Conversion*** I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation. • (Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How do I ask for a conversion of heart?) ***Reconciliation*** I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation, and humanity and to stand in solidarity through my actions. • (How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?) ***Prayer*** I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.

Wednesday	**18**	**Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship** ***Chapter Five*** **INTERNATIONAL POWER** 172. In this regard, I would also note the need for a reform of "the United Nations Organization, and likewise of economic institutions and international finance, so that the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth".[151] Needless to say, this calls for clear legal limits to avoid power being co-opted only by a few countries and to prevent cultural impositions or a restriction of the basic freedoms of weaker nations on the basis of ideological differences. For "the international community is a juridical community founded on the sovereignty of each member state, without bonds of subordination that deny or limit its independence".[152] At the same time, "the work of the United Nations, according to the principles set forth in the Preamble and the first Articles of its founding Charter, can be seen as the development and promotion of the rule of law, based on the realization that justice is an essential condition for achieving the ideal of universal fraternity… There is a need to ensure the uncontested rule of law and tireless recourse to negotiation, mediation and arbitration, as proposed by the Charter of the United Nations, which constitutes truly a fundamental juridical norm".[153] There is need to prevent this Organization from being delegitimized, since its problems and shortcomings are capable of being jointly addressed and resolved. 173. Courage and generosity are needed in order freely to establish shared goals and to ensure the worldwide observance of certain essential norms. For this to be truly useful, it is essential to uphold "the need to be faithful to agreements undertaken (pacta sunt servanda)",[154] and to avoid the "temptation to appeal to the law of force rather than to the force of law".[155] This means reinforcing the "normative instruments for the peaceful resolution of controversies... so as to strengthen their scope and binding force".[156] Among these normative instruments, preference should be given to multilateral agreements between states, because, more than bilateral agreements, they guarantee the promotion of a truly universal common good and the protection of weaker states. 174. Providentially, many groups and organizations within civil society help to compensate for the shortcomings of the international community, its lack of coordination in complex situations, its lack of attention to fundamental human rights and to the critical needs of certain groups. Here we can see a concrete application of the principle of subsidiarity, which justifies the participation and activity of communities and organizations on lower levels as a means of integrating and complementing the activity of the state. These groups and organizations often carry out commendable efforts in the service of the common good and their members at times show true heroism, revealing something of the grandeur of which our humanity is still capable. **SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHARITY** For many people today, politics is a distasteful word, often due to the mistakes, corruption and inefficiency of some politicians. There are also attempts to discredit politics, to replace it with economics or to twist it to one ideology or another. Yet

		can our world function without politics? Can there be an effective process of growth towards universal fraternity and social peace without a sound political life?[157] ***Prayerfully consider how this affects our Country***
Thursday	**19**	
Friday	**20**	Thank you, Lord, for the wonderful gift of Creation and our lives. Thank you for entrusting us with these wonderful gifts. I am sorry, Lord, for being so negligent with what you have entrusted to me and for being so selfish and greedy. I am sorry, Lord, for the times when my focus is not fully on you, the Provider and Creator of all Please stir more and more the desire to love and nurture your Creation in all its beauty
Saturday	**21**	**World Fisheries Day** World Fisheries Day is celebrated every year on 21st November throughout the world by fishing communities and allied parties. The day helps to highlight the critical importance of fish and the lives they sustain, both in and out of water. A recent United Nations study reported that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and global warming. Fish forms an important part of the diets of people around the world, particularly those that live near rivers, coasts and other water bodies. . South African fisheries face a severe systemic and environmental crisis, though the crisis varies across commercial and small-scale sectors A shortage of patrol vessels and fisheries control officers, leads to rampant poaching and massive economic losses from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Research and monitoring systems struggle with outdated data, unfilled posts, delayed research surveys, and underfunded science teams needed to accurately set catch quotas. Rising sea temperatures, acidification, and changing weather patterns are disrupting fish migration and spawning, reducing profitable days at sea for fishers. Small-scale fishing communities also face heavy regulatory restrictions, delayed permit allocations, and conflicts over cooperative management systems.

		Despite these systemic crises, certain commercial sectors like the hake-trawl industry maintain stable, internationally certified stock levels and biodiversity management. Individuals can help combat the fisheries crisis in South Africa by making informed seafood choices, supporting sustainable retailers, and reporting illegal fishing activities. • Consult the WWF-SASSI (Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative) traffic-light system: buy **green-listed** species (best choice), think twice about **orange** ones, and avoid **red-listed** (endangered or illegal) species. • Look for trusted eco-labels like the **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)** blue fish tick when purchasing packaged seafood. • Shop at major South African supermarkets that have public commitments to sustainable seafood procurement. • Ask store managers and restaurant staff to stock and serve certified sustainable or local green-listed alternatives. • Report illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing or suspicious sales of no-sale species (like poached abalone or rock lobster out of season) to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Environmental Crimes and Incidents Hotline at **0800 205 005**. • Support local marine protected areas (MPAs) and conservation groups working to restore coastal fish stocks and habitats. • Educate others in your community about overfishing and the importance of responsible marine consumption Get the WWF-SASSI free mobile app to easily identify and choose sustainable seafood – while cooking, dining out or shopping! Now with an AI-powered camera fish identification feature, this app not only provides information on seafood species, their sustainability status, and recommendations for more responsible choices, but is a seafood identification system in the palm of your hand! Download from Apple Store or Playstore. This new SASSI tool will make identifying your favourite sustainable seafood species much easier. All you need to do is scan the fish top to tail at a fish counter and the app will do the work for you. By ensuring you are eating ethically caught seafood, you are doing your bit to help our South African fishers
Sunday	**22**	Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of a new creation, founded on the covenant of your love. Amen.
Monday	**23**	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

Tuesday	**24**	"Today social justice represents one of the most serious challenges to the conscience of the world. The abyss between those who are within the world 'order' and those who are excluded is widening day by day. The use of leading-edge technologies has made it possible to accumulate wealth in a way that is fantastic but perverse because it is unjustly distributed. Twenty-percent of humankind control eighty percent of all means of life. That fact creates a dangerous imbalance in the movement of history."  ***Leonardo Boff*** *Brazilian theologian, philosopher writer, and former Catholic priest*
Wednesday	**25**	Lord, we confess our sins that stain the sanctity of all creation, Our wild consumerism that has exhausted the earth and our greed that has caused hunger, destruction and inequality. We ask your forgiveness that we have not been good stewards of the garden that manifests your glory. We ask your forgiveness as our style of life is often rotten and has left a bad smell in your nostrils. Free us from ruining the green valleys and polluting the tranquil waters that refresh the soul. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who poured out his blood to reconcile everything. Amen. ***Tearfund prayer***
Thursday	**26**	
Friday	**27**	**Buy Nothing Day** Join the international annual protest against consumerism - pledge to buy nothing for 24 hours!

Saturday	**28**	**What about an eco-friendly Christmas this year?** As we head into the festive season and turn off anything that requires effort, we ought to remember that the environment has no off season and constantly experiences the effects of our lifestyles. Thinking of the environment doesn't mean doing away with traditions and festive season favourites, it just means thinking differently about them. By making small, thoughtful changes - like choosing eco-friendly gifts, reducing waste, and opting for energy-efficient decorations - you can enjoy a meaningful holiday while caring for the planet. A sustainable Christmas isn't just better for the Earth; it's also a chance to create unique, heartfelt traditions. Ecofriendly shopping reduces your carbon footprint, household waste and has less impact on the environment. Celebrating sustainably is crucial to reduce the environmental impact of festivities. In South Africa, with its rich biodiversity and natural beauty, adopting eco-friendly practices ensures that you protect the environment while enjoying this special season.
Sunday	**29**	**Advent Week 1: Hope (Focus on the Earth, Soil, and Dry Lands)** ***Theme: Longing for renewal in a parched or strained landscape.*** **Prayer:** Creator God, as we light the first candle of Advent, we look across the valleys, highveld, and dry earth of South Africa. We wait in hope for the coming of your Son, who entered our world in humility. Forgive us for the ways we have degraded the soil and overtaxed the land. Grant us the patience and vision to heal what is broken, to restore our native grasslands and forests, and to plant seeds of hope that will flourish under your rain. Come, Lord Jesus, bring new life to the dust of the earth. Amen**.**
Monday	**30**	