





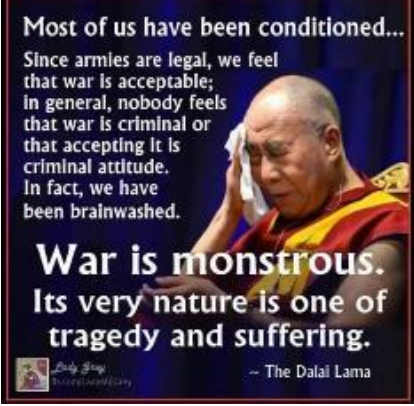




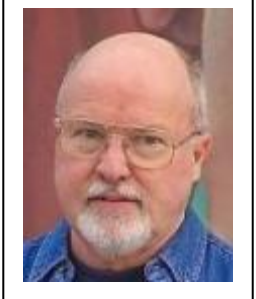
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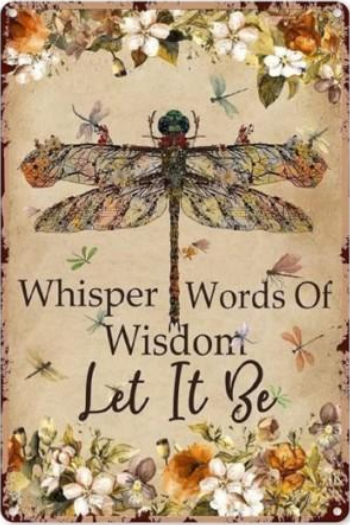
April 2026 Environmental Prayer Diary


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


<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Holy week</p> <p>We pray for the Environment and Earth</p> <p>Gracious God, We praise and thank you for the beauty of Creation and for the gifts that it provides us. We pray for our earth. We pray for those who make choices that harm the earth. We pray for those working to protect the environment. We ask forgiveness for not being good stewards of your Creation, and pray that we would seek solidarity with the Earth and all of Creation.</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Holy week – Maundy Thursday</p> <p>We pray for those who hunger and thirst</p> <p>Merciful God, We pray for the hungry in our community and in our world and pray that they will receive the help that they need. We pray for Soup Kitchens and Food Banks and the volunteers who work tirelessly to bring about relief of hunger pains. We pray for those who donate food to these organisations. We pray for poverty, the poor and the many challenges they face. We pray for families with young children We pray for Social Workers that they may have wisdom and empathy in dealing with those affected by poverty. We pray for policy makers and for an end to the systemic reasons for poverty.</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Good Friday</p> <p>Loving Father, as on this solemn day we bow at the foot of the Cross, may the love of Christ that was manifested there, stream into the hearts of all who serve you, so challenging and subduing all our desires, and winning from us that response which is your will for us.</p> <p>Leslie Weatherhead – adapted</p>	

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>We pray for peace</p> <p>All powerful God, We pray for those who have lost their lives in conflict. We pray for those who serve in conflict situations at present. We pray for those who have been injured both in body and mind in conflict. We pray for an end to gang violence in our cities and towns. We pray for communities who choose violence over peaceful negotiations. We pray for our Government and governments around the World to choose peaceful solutions to disagreements. We pray for policy makers and peacemakers.</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Easter Day</p> <p>"He is risen!" Easter is a joyous commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, symbolizing new life and victory over death. We celebrate with messages of hope, renewal, and joy, honouring the resurrection and focusing on new beginnings, and gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus.</p> <p>Celebrating Easter also focuses on themes of renewal, stewardship of creation, and sustainability. It bridges the theological, traditional story of resurrection with the modern need to protect the planet, viewing the earth as a gift that needs to be renewed and cherished rather than exploited.</p> <p>"Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5) connects the resurrection to the environmental, urging a "rebirth" of our commitment to sustainability and tackling climate change. It is also a call to move away from excessive, plastic-heavy consumerism toward more sustainable, thoughtful, and eco-friendly celebrations.</p> <p>Ultimately, celebrating Easter in an eco-friendly manner mirrors the spirit of rejuvenation, ensuring that the planet also experiences a "resurrection" and continues to thrive for future generations.</p>	
<p>Monday</p>	<p>6</p>	 <p>Most of us have been conditioned... Since armies are legal, we feel that war is acceptable; in general, nobody feels that war is criminal or that accepting it is criminal attitude. In fact, we have been brainwashed.</p> <p>War is monstrous. Its very nature is one of tragedy and suffering.</p> <p>— The Dalai Lama</p>	

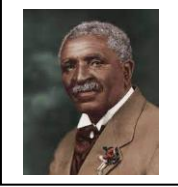

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Give us, Father, a deeper understanding of your purposes, that we may be steadfast amid the turmoil of our times. May our faith never fail, nor our love grow cold, nor our hope become faint. So may we look up and lift our heads as we look for the promise of your Kingdom, which you pledged for us in the sacrifice of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>“There is hope if people will begin to awaken that spiritual part of themselves, that heartfelt knowledge that we are caretakers of this planet.”</p> <p>Brooke Medicine Eagle</p> 
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>9</p>	 <p>May every creature find safety in the chaos. May compassion reach those who can't speak. May peace prevail amidst the violence.</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>This Is My Body – God’s Body</p> <p>“As I shared earlier, the prologue to John’s Gospel gives us a wonderful vision of the Christ Mystery. John uses the word <i>Logos</i>, which I take to mean blueprint. It is the inner pattern of reality, revealed in Jesus and in creation. Let’s take a closer look:</p> <p><i>In the beginning was the blueprint. The blueprint was with God. The blueprint was God. And all things came to be through this inner plan. [The inner reality of God is manifest in the outer material world. That is why we can consider creation to be the Body of God.] No one thing came to be except through this blueprint and plan. All that came to be had life in him. [Now it’s become personalized: in him, in Jesus. So, this great universal mystery since the beginning of time now becomes specific in the body and the person of Jesus. The blueprint has become personified and visible.] And that life was the light of humanity (John 1: 1-3).</i></p> <p>At the Last Supper, when Jesus held up the bread and spoke the words “This is my Body,” I believe he was speaking not just about the bread right in front of him, but about the whole universe, about everything that is physical, material,</p> 

		<p>and yet also spirit-filled. His assertion and Christians' repetition resound over all creation before they also settle into one piece of bread to be shared. The bread and wine, and all of creation, seem to believe who and what they are much more readily than humans do. They know they are the Body of Christ, even if many <i>Homo sapiens</i> resist and even deny such a thought. When celebrants speak these sacred words at the altar, they are speaking them to both the bread and the congregation—so they can carry it “to all of creation” (Mark 16:16). As St. Augustine (354–430 CE) preached, we must feed the Body of Christ to the people of God until they know that they are what they eat!</p> <p><i>We also are the Body of Christ, as is all of the universe. The Apostle Paul used a perfect metaphor: “As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. . . . Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27). I love to think of every flowing stream, every waterfall, and every river as “baptizing” the physical universe, washing away its inability to know how glorious it is. (Read a few Mary Oliver poems if you want to get the same message.) “</i></p> <p><i>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations</i> www.cac.org</p>
Saturday	11	<p>Creator God - Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for the places of restoration and healing, and challenge us to sustain the places that feed our lives and spirits.</p>
Sunday	12	<p>Lord, help us to maintain a reverent attitude towards nature, threatened from all sides today, in such a way that we may restore it completely to the condition of brother/sister and to its role of usefulness to all humankind for the glory of God the Creator.</p>
Monday	13	<p>Gracious God, Creator of All, We raise our hearts in grateful praise for all the beauty that surrounds us. May we learn to respect all as a sacred gift and do what we can to repair the damage we have caused through our consumerism, greed and carelessness. Grant us an ecological conversion so that we can leave our next generation with a future full of hope where there is enough for all. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen</p>
Tuesday	14	

<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>"Holy persons draw to themselves all that is earthly. . . . The earth is at the same time mother, She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human. She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all." <i>Hildegard of Bingen</i></p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Ecclesiastes 3</p> <p>¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. ⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil — this is the gift of God. ¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him. ¹⁵ Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; ¶ and God will call the past to account. ¹⁶ And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment - wickedness was there, in the place of justice - wickedness was there. ¹⁷ I said to myself, "God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, ¶ for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed." ¹⁸ I also said to myself, "As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. ¹⁹ Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless. ²⁰ All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. ²¹ Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?" ²² So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?</p>	

<p>Friday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>God of Wonders</p> <p>Lord of all creation Of the water, earth and sky The Heavens are Your Tabernacle Glory to the Lord on high</p> <p>God of wonders, beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy</p> <p>Lord of Heaven and Earth Lord of Heaven and Earth</p> <p>Early in the morning I will celebrate the light And when I stumble into darkness I will call Your name by night</p> <p>God of wonders, beyond our galaxy You are holy, holy The universe declares Your majesty You are holy, holy</p> <p>Lord of Heaven and Earth Lord of Heaven and Earth</p> <p>Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth.</p> <p>Chris Tomlin</p> <p>Listen</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>18</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>May none of God's wonderful works keep silence, night or morning. bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers: may all these break into song as we sing to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May all the angels in the heavens reply: Amen, amen Power praise and honour, eternal glory to God the only Giver of grace Amen, Amen, Amen</p> <p>Third century hymn</p>



<p>Monday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>“Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully, he can learn more than what is in books, for they speak with the voice of God.”</p> <p>George Washington Carver</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>O God, Grant us a deeper sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers and sisters to whom in common with us you have given this earth as home. We recall with regret that in the past we have acted high-handedly and crueling in exercising our dominion over them. Thus the voice of the earth which should have risen to you in song has turned into a groan of travail. May we realise that all these creatures also live for themselves and for you, not for us alone. They too love the goodness of life as we do, and serve you better in their way than we do in ours living it.</p> <p>Saint Basil of Caesarea (4th century)</p>	
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>Earth Day <i>2026 Theme: Our Power, Our Planet</i></p> <p>Earth Day takes place annually to mark the importance of environmental protection.</p> <p>Environmental progress and protection doesn't depend on any single official department, ministry or committee – it is sustained by daily actions of people - families and communities just like all of us – the power is in our hands to protect our precious environment where we live and work.</p> <p>Earth Day calls on all of us to take action to support clean air, clean water, clean energy, protect natural resources and climate stability. These factors are directly linked to human health, economic predictability, food security. The planet exists inside our daily lives. Homes, plants, and energy forms appear as connected elements.</p> <p>There are plenty of ways we can support the planet this Earth Day, right from the comfort of our homes to the great outdoors. Making changes in reducing our environmental footprint can make a massive difference! Small actions add up over time to create a bigger picture of sustainability. We each need to be that small pebble tossed into a pond and watch how the ripples extend outward and onward!</p> <p>Get involved and grow your support for Earth Day.</p>	
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Give us, Father, a deeper understanding of your purposes, that we may be steadfast amid the turmoil of our times. May our faith never fail, nor our love grow cold, nor our hope become faint. So may we look up and lift our heads as we look for the promise of your Kingdom, which you pledged for us in the sacrifice of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.</p>	

<p>Friday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p>Chapter Five</p> <p><i>A Better Kind of Politics</i></p> <p>158. Here, there can be a misunderstanding. “‘People’ is not a logical category, nor is it a mystical category, if by that we mean that everything the people does is good, or that the people is an ‘angelic’ reality. Rather, it is a mythic category... When you have to explain what you mean by people, you use logical categories for the sake of explanation, and necessarily so. Yet in that way you cannot explain what it means to belong to a people. The word ‘people’ has a deeper meaning that cannot be set forth in purely logical terms. To be part of a people is to be part of a shared identity arising from social and cultural bonds. And that is not something automatic, but rather a slow, difficult process... of advancing towards a common project”.^[132]</p> <p>159. “Popular” leaders, those capable of interpreting the feelings and cultural dynamics of a people, and significant trends in society, do exist. The service they provide by their efforts to unite and lead can become the basis of an enduring vision of transformation and growth that would also include making room for others in the pursuit of the common good. But this can degenerate into an unhealthy “populism” when individuals are able to exploit politically a people’s culture, under whatever ideological banner, for their own personal advantage or continuing grip on power. Or when, at other times, they seek popularity by appealing to the basest and most selfish inclinations of certain sectors of the population. This becomes all the more serious when, whether in cruder or more subtle forms, it leads to the usurpation of institutions and laws.</p> <p>160. Closed populist groups distort the word “people”, since they are not talking about a true people. The concept of “people” is in fact open-ended. A living and dynamic people, a people with a future, is one constantly open to a new synthesis through its ability to welcome differences. In this way, it does not deny its proper identity, but is open to being mobilized, challenged, broadened and enriched by others, and thus to further growth and development.</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how this affects our Country</i></p>
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Saturday

25

World Malaria Day

2026 Theme: **“United Against Malaria”**.

World Malaria Day is an occasion to emphasise the need for continued investment and sustained global commitment to prevent, treat and ultimately eliminate malaria. Established by WHO Member States during the 2007 World Health Assembly, the day continues to galvanise global action toward ending this deadly disease.



The [WHO World Malaria Report 2025](#), casts a strong focus on the rising threat of antimalarial drug resistance with a worrying rise in the global malaria burden. The African Continent remains disproportionately affected, bearing 95% of global cases and deaths, and tragically, children under five account for 75% of all deaths in the region.

These statistics underscore the critical need to accelerate innovation, strengthen health systems, expand access to lifesaving tools and champion equitable solutions that protect the most vulnerable. Ending malaria is possible but only through collective action, renewed commitment and bold investment.



Malaria is distinctly seasonal in South Africa, with the highest risk being during the wet summer months (September to May). All of South Africa's neighbouring countries, with the exception of Lesotho, have malaria transmission.





Gauteng is technically malaria-free, however there has been quite a few cases of malaria reported and unfortunately some have proved fatal, largely due to misdiagnosis patients who did not travel. These are patients who suffer from [Odyssean malaria](#), colloquially referred to as “taxi malaria”. These cases are due to a mosquito that has “hitched a ride” from an endemic area, such as north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal, parts of Mpumalanga and Limpopo and neighbouring Mozambique.

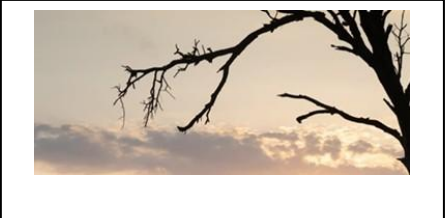
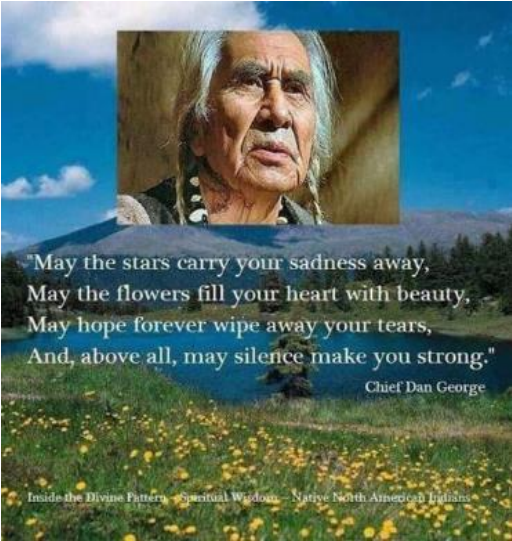
Whilst we in Gauteng are still relatively safe from this disease, it is projected that cases of malaria will increase over the next few years due to climate change. This isn't great news, but if we act now with malaria prevention campaigns, this can certainly be kept to a minimum.

Prayer:

Almighty God, we know that you can do all things, and no plan of yours can be thwarted. We pray for your sons and daughters, in Africa and around the world, who are suffering from, or at risk for, malaria. Lord, bless and aide the malaria intervention programs so that they would be as effective and efficient as possible. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

***Adapted from the Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Arongo,
Diocese of Tamale, Ghana***

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>26</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,</p> <p>wind's whisper, soaring bird, flower's petal, gentle rain, sunlight's warmth.</p>  <p>This is your garden, Creator God, a thing of beauty beyond understanding.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>International Hyena Day</p> <p>On this International Hyena Day, it's time to appreciate their true value.</p> <p>Shrouded in dark mythology and evil folklore for centuries, the hyena has struggled to gain the recognition it deserves. Observed as the 'dirty joke of the natural world' by Ernest Hemingway; the hyenas' slouched, scruffy appearance and eerie vocals along with their unshakable association with death have helped uphold these negative connotations. Disney might have us believe that hyenas are brainless, cackling lunatics. salivating over their next meal and doing no good whatsoever, but they actually contribute significantly to their environment, and they're really quite sweet!</p> <p>Here in South Africa, we are really fortunate to have three of the four species – the familiar Spotted hyena, Brown hyena and Aardwolf. The only one we don't have is the striped hyena which frequents north and east Africa, and parts of Asia.</p> <p>The spotted hyena, the largest of the species, is particularly known for their vocalisations which sound like laughter and most often occur with excitement of stress. Although alleged to be solely scavengers, they are formidable hunters. The clan is led by a matriarch and while male hyenas play little to no parental role, hyena mothers are very attentive and caring.</p>   <p>The brown hyena is a more solitary creature. They're shaggy and endearingly shy, quiet animals. While their spotted associates are thriving, these delightful animals are unfortunately classed as Near Threatened.</p> <p>Smaller and more timid than their close relatives, the aardwolf is vulnerable to larger predators and thus is cautious. Its name translates as 'earth wolf' in Afrikaans and they feed primarily on termites.</p>  <p>The Hyaenidae are sometimes painted as nothing but scavengers who are damaging to the ecosystems they live in. Far from being pests in these areas though, Hyaenidae make a positive impact on their environment. For starters, they provide a very efficient cleaning service. They're absolutely brilliant at clearing the ecosystem of carcasses or infirm animals. In doing so, they help to recycle nutrients and stop disease</p>

		<p>spreading. They also hate waste – while other predators pick and choose what they consume, the hyenas eat everything except the hair. All this bone they've eaten creates calcium compounds in their stools providing further nutrition for other animals who can't eat bones themselves but can devour hyaena poop! Aardwolves meanwhile keep termite populations in check, thus protecting agricultural land from the damage they incur.</p> <p>So if you're lucky enough to find yourself looking at a hyena, take a moment to appreciate the good they're doing – they're integral threads within Mother Nature's rich tapestry.</p> <p>Action: Assess your own attitude to these remarkable animals and change negative to positive!</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>The Seasons' Whisper</p> <p>Time ticks loud for the human heart, Moments fleeting, lives torn apart. Yet for the trees, the rivers, the breeze Life moves in circles, as steady as the seas.</p> <p>No rush, no haste, no fear of loss, Just autumn's gold and springtime's gloss. Winter's stillness, summer's flame, The rhythm of nature remains the same.</p> <p>Wile clocks may fade and memories wane, The earth turns gently, immune to pain. For time to nature is not a race, But seasons dancing in eternal grace.</p> <p>With acknowledgment to Tanda Tula, Timbavati.</p> 
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men."</p> <p>St. Francis of Assisi</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>30</p>	 <p>"May the stars carry your sadness away, May the flowers fill your heart with beauty, May hope forever wipe away your tears, And, above all, may silence make you strong."</p> <p>Chief Dan George</p> <p><small>Inside the Divine Pattern – Spiritual Wisdom – Native North American Elders</small></p>