



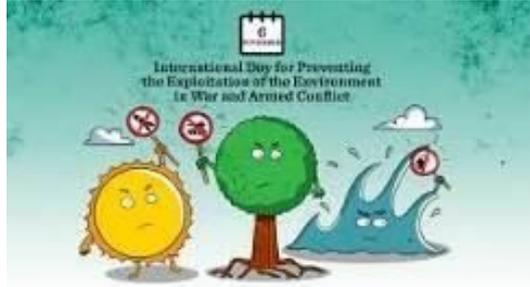
JAEI

November 2018 Environmental Prayer Diary

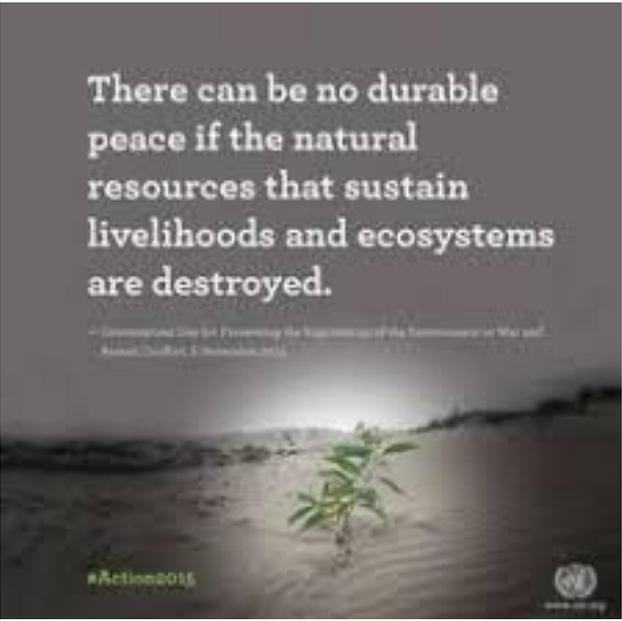
(The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)

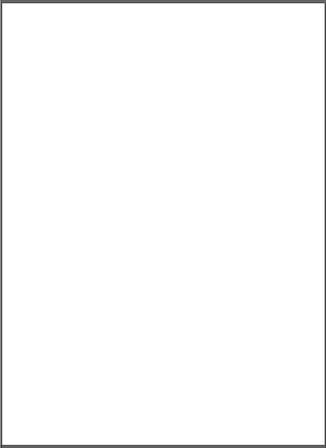
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The Anglicans Ablaze Conference was held from 3-6 October. One of the themes of the conference was Care for Creation.</p> <p>Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya (Bishop of Swaziland) inspired us to consider the environmental message of the Eucharist – it is food, it is fellowship. We are inspired to confess our sins of greed that have damaged the earth and to recognise the sacredness of the Earth</p> <p>Archbishop Thabo gave thanks that in the Province the environment is no longer seen a ‘tree hugger’ issue, but as an issue of social justice. He inspired us all to take practical actions to make a difference – saving water, energy and reducing our impact</p> <p>Various talks and workshops were held looking at the issues of air pollution, water pollution and land pollution. The outcomes of the discussion considered what actions the church should take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education people about the challenges • Churches to run clean up campaigns • Churches to provide recycling and education about waste • Save electricity and water • Share transport • Faith based advocacy – messages based on the Bible • Use our land for planting vegetables and indigenous plants • Collaborate with other sectors such as government and other churches • Put pressure on the mining industries to reduce water use and pollution • But there are many more! <p>Finally, people made pledges about how they can personally be #livingthechange</p> <p>Now is the time to consider YOUR own personal pledge for being #livingthechange</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him. Do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; Do not fret – it only leads to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.”</p> <p>Psalm 37. 7-9</p>



<p>Saturday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope.</p> <p>Wendell Berry</p>	
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Father, we thank you for creating this wonderful world and for giving us the task of caring for it. Have mercy on us and our planet. Fill us daily with your grace, that we may always remember that we are here as your stewards, who will one day be asked for our account</p> <p>www.greenchristian.org.uk/</p>	
<p>Monday</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook. When love is the way, the Earth will be a sanctuary.”</p> <p>Bishop Michael Curry</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in Armed Conflict and War’</p> <p>Though mankind has always counted its war casualties in terms of dead and wounded soldiers and civilians, destroyed cities and livelihoods, the environment has often remained the unpublicized victim of war. Water wells have been polluted, crops torched, forests cut down, soils poisoned, and animals killed to gain military advantage.</p> <p>Furthermore, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has found that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, whether high-value resources such as timber, diamonds, gold and oil, or scarce resources such as fertile land and water. Conflicts involving natural resources have also been found to be twice as likely to relapse.</p> <p>The United Nations attaches great importance to ensuring that action on the environment is part of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies - because there can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed.</p> <p>Pray that peaceful resolutions be found to conflicts</p>	

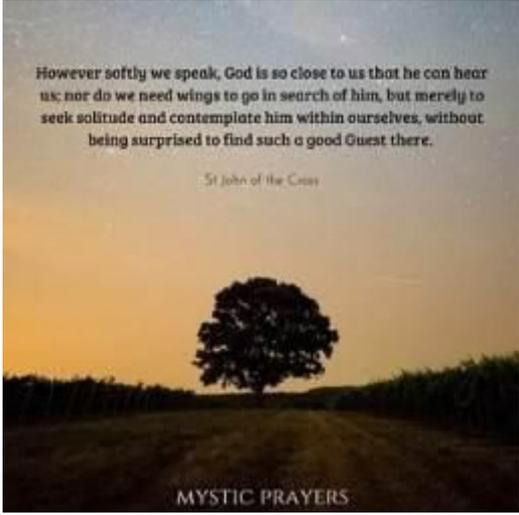
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Creation Gives God Glory</p> <p><i>Let the earth bless the Lord, praise and exalt God above all forever!</i></p> <p><i>Mountains and hills, bless the Lord,</i></p> <p><i>Everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord,</i></p> <p><i>You springs, bless the Lord,</i></p> <p><i>Seas and rivers, bless the Lord,</i></p> <p><i>You dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord,</i></p> <p><i>All you birds of the air, bless the Lord,</i></p> <p><i>All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord, praise and exalt God above all forever.</i></p> <p>Daniel 3:74-81</p> <p>Apparently Daniel is saying that dolphins, springs, and mountains are doing God’s will and giving God glory quite well, they are “blessing” God, and have been for millions and billions of years before we even showed up and long before we wrote the Bible. Was God not glorified until humans came along? Was God not in love until we arrived? If so, God had nothing to do for at least 14 billion years. Love always needs an object, and God has been in love for quite a long time.</p> <p>Acknowledging the intrinsic value and beauty of creation, elements, plants, and animals, is a major paradigm shift for most Western and cultural Christians. In fact, we have often dismissed it as animism or paganism. We limited God’s love and salvation to our own human species, and even then we did not have enough love left to cover all of humanity! God ended up looking quite miserly and inept, to be honest.</p> <p>Listen instead to the Book of Wisdom (a canonical book in the Catholic Bible):</p> <p><i>How dull are all people who, from the things-that-are, have not been able to discover God-Who-Is, or by studying the good works have failed to recognize the Artist.... Through the grandeur and beauty of the creatures, we may by analogy, contemplate their Author.</i></p> <p>Wisdom 13:1, 5</p> <p>In other words, matter is the outer lovely form, but Spirit is the inner source, coherence, and energy for everything that we know and see. Today quantum physics, astronomers, and molecular biologists seem to be discovering and celebrating this same thing. How lucky we are to be able to fully join in this celebration today - as humans both educated in the sciences and transformed by grace! We have the best of both worlds.</p> <p>Gateway to Silence:</p> <p>Let all the earth bless the Lord.</p> <p>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations www.cac.org</p>
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<p>Thursday</p>	<p>8</p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>9</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 my 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><i>by Thea (Aged 9)</i></p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>World Science Day for Peace and Development</p> <p>World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.</p> <p>By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable.</p> <p>The theme for 2018 is “Science, a Human Right” reminding us that everyone has a right to participate in and benefit from science, it will serve to spark a global discussion on ways to improve access to science and to the benefits of science for sustainable development.</p> <p>Pray for all engaged in all forms of science – that science may bring benefits to all</p> 

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Lord God, we pray that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move the hearts of the men and women who govern the nations that the barriers of fear, suspicion and hatred which separate us may crumble, and the body of humankind may be healed of its divisions and be united in addressing the serious problems of resource depletion, overpopulation and climate change. This we ask in the name of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>www.greenchristian.org.uk/</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>The earth has only a finite amount of freshwater. NASA scientists now warn that water shortages are likely to be the key environmental challenge of this century. They identify 19 hotspots where water depletion has been dramatic, especially northern and eastern India, the Middle East, California and Australia. In Iraq and Syria, widespread over-reliance on groundwater has resulted from the construction by Turkey of 22 dams on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. In northern India, groundwater extraction for irrigation of crops such as wheat and rice have caused a rapid decline in available water. Jonathan Farr of WaterAid commented: “We need to ensure that investment in water keeps pace with industrialisation and farming. Governments need to get to grips with this. However, we have been solving the problem of access to water resources since civilisation began. We know how to do it. We just need to manage it, and that has to be done at a local level.”</p> <p>www.greenchristian.org.uk/</p> <p>In South Africa we know that our water situation is precarious to say the least Speaking at the ‘Care of Creation’ Conference in July 2018, Archbishop Thabo Magoba said that “in today’s world, where water is scarce or taken for granted as something that flows from the tap and is sold as a commodity, “900 million people do not have access to the lifesaving 20 litres of water a day because the needs of the poorest of the poor are not taken into consideration, Water is mentioned 722 times in the Bible - the issue of water justice and climate care is real. We don’t have time to be quibbling about the science. We don’t need to be quibbling about the details. We need praxis.”</p> <p>A Prayer for Water Loving God, whose son Jesus Christ called all who were thirsty to come to him, believe and drink, Look in mercy on your people living in dry lands, and struggling to survive without access to safe drinking water. Forgive our selfishness in life and our misuse of our natural resources. We commit ourselves to value and care for your gifts to us. May rivers of living water and practical compassion for all who suffer flow out from our hearts. Refreshed by your Spirit, and following in the way of Jesus Christ,</p> 

		<p>We will continue to serve you in the people and creation entrusted to our care. Amen <i>Adapted from a prayer by Rev Canon Paul Robertson 2004</i></p>
Tuesday	13	<p>"The Lord answered Job out of the storm and said: 'Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? . . . Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line along it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? <i>Job 38.1-7</i></p>
Wednesday	14	 <p>"It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it." -Nelson Mandela</p>
Thursday	15	<p>If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy, If a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you, If the simple things of nature have a message that you understand, Rejoice, for your soul is alive. <i>Eleonora Duse</i></p>
Friday	16	<p>Reflection: <i>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</i></p> <p>169. As far as the protection of biodiversity and issues related to desertification are concerned, progress has been far less significant. With regard to climate change, the advances have been regrettably few. Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility, above all on the part of those countries which are more powerful and pollute the most. The Conference of the United Nations on Sustainable Development, "Rio+20" (Rio de Janeiro 2012), issued a wide-ranging but ineffectual outcome document. International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. Those who will have to suffer the consequences of what we are trying to hide will not forget this failure of conscience and responsibility. Even as this Encyclical was being prepared, the debate was intensifying. We believers</p>

		cannot fail to ask God for a positive outcome to the present discussions, so that future generations will not have to suffer the effects of our ill-advised delays.” Prayerfully reflect on this
Saturday	17	<p>Song of the Sky</p> <p>Lord of suns and star exploding Galaxies and swirling skies, Where you chose to show your glory Took the heavens by surprise. Lord of solar winds and wisdom, Super stars that blow our mind, Choosing such a fragile planet Hardly seems a grand design.</p>  <p>On this piece of stardust swirling, On this spinning spot in space, Life itself was born like music, When you showed your hidden face. What an honour to be chosen, Silent planet blue and green, Filled with glory, grace and gardens, Where the breath of God is seen.</p> <p>What is even more amazing We have poisoned Earth like fools. Help us change our way of living, Love the Earth and love her rules. Help us stem the tide of traders Leaving Earth an empty store; Join us now Creator Spirit, Come renew your Earth once more.</p> <p>Words: © Norman Habel 1999 <i>Melody: Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken</i></p>
Sunday	18	<p>Dear Father, you have given us matchless gifts in the realm of science and technology. Help us to understand that you alone are the source of all truth and understanding. Let us never be blinded by the lure of the market-place or tempted to put at risk the lives and health of our fellow-humans. Watch over our motives, loving Father, that we may always give prime place to the furtherance of your Kingdom. This we ask in the name of your Son, who died that we might live.</p> <p>www.greenchristian.org.uk/</p> 

<p>Monday</p>	<p>19</p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.</p> <p><i>Psalm 33:6-9</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>World Fisheries Day</p> <p><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. Observance can also help bring awareness of the importance of aquatic environments in sustaining life both in and out of water.</p> <div data-bbox="1131 1173 1449 1402" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 199px; height: 102px; margin-left: 50px;"></div> <p>Why Care about Fisheries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fisheries and aquaculture employ more than 43 million individuals worldwide. ● More than 25% of the world’s dietary protein is provided by fish. ● The human population consumes over 100 million metric tons of fish annually ● A recent United Nations study reported 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. ● Escalating amounts of point and non-point pollution continue to threaten water quality and fish habitat ● All natural fish stocks today contain at least trace amounts of mercury.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Thursday	22	<p><i>The Paris Agreement</i> sparked hope that governments were serious about working together to combat climate change. Unfortunately, there is still a yawning gap between the targets agreed in Paris and what governments have actually pledged. However, all countries must submit new action pledges every 5 years and these pledges must be declared in December at the UN climate talks (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland. Preparatory discussions have allowed negotiators and citizen groups across the globe to input research to support an increased ambition in countries' pledges – the so-called Talanoa Dialogue.</p> <p><i>Read more at https://talanoadialogue.com/</i></p> <p><i>Cover this process with prayer</i></p>

Friday

23

Buy Nothing Day – 24 November

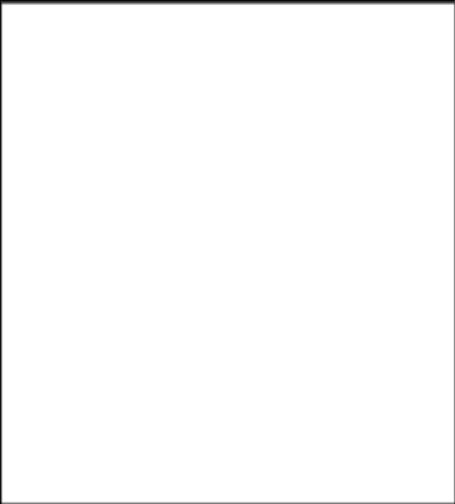
“Buy Nothing Day” is your special day to unshop, unspend and unwind. Relax and do nothing for the economy and for yourself - at least for a single day. *Adbusters*, the founders of Buy Nothing Day, are a global network of artists, activists, writers, students, educators and entrepreneurs. Their aim is to question existing power structures and encourage consumer lifestyle changes in the 21st century. Buy Nothing Day, celebrated on the last Saturday in November, challenges us to avoid participating in the economy. We should bear in mind that it is not only when we take cash from our wallets to pay for goods, that we are spending money, but also when we make a cell phone call, use electricity or water in our homes, or drive our cars. Many people are beginning to realise that the population explosion, coupled with our consumerist lifestyles are putting unnecessary pressure on our planets dwindling resources, only to produce an enormous amount of waste that is difficult and costly to dispose of. This situation is not sustainable. If we are to make lifestyle changes that reduce our environmental footprint, we need to think and reflect on how we, as consumers, are adding to the problem, and come up with creative ways in which we can live on this planet in a more sustainable manner



Prayerfully assess what impact your transactions may have on the environment.

Prayer

Lord help me to live simply,
To give my life and all I am into your hands.
Help me to unclutter my belongings -
For I have too much stuff that takes me away from your presence.
Help me unclutter my calendar -
For I am often too busy to focus my attention on you
Help me clutter my mind -
For if have too many unguided thoughts that distract me from your instructions

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Big Birding Day</p> <p>Birds belong to the class Aves and, of the higher vertebrates, they are the most studied, the most easily seen and accessible, the most melodious and many think - the most beautiful animals on Earth. Fish are the only other vertebrates that have a higher number of species than birds. South Africa is richly endowed with a diversity of over 890 different bird species. Birding Big Day is a competition open to everyone with the aim of seeing how many birds can be spotted on that day, within a radius of 50km.</p> <p>The annual BirdLife SA Birding Big Day is a fun, yet competitive day for South Africa’s birdwatchers, both beginners and competitive twitchers, while at the same time raising much needed funds for the organisation’s important bird conservation and bird species monitoring work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give thanks for the diversity of birdlife in our country • Enter a team in the “Big Birding Day” <p>Visit – www.birdlife.org.za/events/birding-big-day for more information</p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Walk Lightly</p> <p>Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person, sings your praises, Creator God. Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and great seas show your glory, Spirit of Love. And yet the hand of greed has patented and plundered your splendour, has taken and not shared your gift, has lived as owner of the earth, not guest. And so the ice is cracked the rivers dry, the valleys flooded and the snow-caps melt. God our Father, show us how to step gently, how to live simply, how to walk lightly with respect and love for all that you have made. Amen.</p> 

		<i>Adapted from a prayer written by Linda Jones/CAFOD.</i>
Monday	26	<p>SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p> <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries • Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning • Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning • Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
Tuesday	27	<p>“The most important prayer in the world is just two words long: ‘Thank you!’.”</p> <p><i>Meister Eckhart</i></p>
Wednesday	28	<p>Prayer of Stewardship</p> <p>God of all Creation, At the beginning of time You placed a single mandate on humankind To be stewards of Creation To replenish and nurture all generations What you have made We kneel today amid that same Creation- A world that is, in many ways, more splendid than ever But, in too many ways, scarred beyond recognition Turn us from our unmindfulness Help our tough be light Help us renew the worlds that supports us So we may once more know Creation As it was in the beginning Amen</p> 

		<p>Catholic Relief Services</p>
Thursday	29	<p>COP24 - The 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held between December 3rd to 14th in Katowice, Poland.</p> <p>One of the main tasks of the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC will be to adopt decisions ensuring the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in order to fight climate change</p> <p>Paris Agreement <i>Key elements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep global temperatures "well below" 2.0C (3.6F) above pre-industrial times and "endeavour to limit" them even more, to 1.5C • To limit the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by human activity to the same levels that trees, soil and oceans can absorb naturally, beginning at some point between 2050 and 2100 • To review each country's contribution to cutting emissions every five years so they scale up to the challenge • For rich countries to help poorer nations by providing "climate finance" to adapt to climate change and switch to renewable energy. <p>Pray earnestly for all involved to come to this important meeting with a serious commitment and determination to efficiently attend to implementing this important agreement to the benefit of all inhabitants of "Our Common Home".</p>  <p>COP24 · KATOWICE 2018 <small>UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE</small></p>
Friday	30	<p>Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh; shadows of the evening steal across the sky. Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose; with thy tenderest blessing may our eyelids close. ~ <i>Sabine Baring-Gould</i></p>  <p>THE <i>Episcopal</i> CHURCH </p>

www.jaei.org.za