

## Prayer Reflections and Actions for Climate Justice

### *Caring for Our Common Home*

**Today's SCRIPTURE** - All Saints "Happy the gentle, for they shall have the earth for their heritage" *Matthew 5: (1-12)* Seeing the value and contribution of each created thing



### REFLECTION

"Rivers do not drink their own water;  
trees do not eat their own fruit;  
the Sun does not shine on itself and  
flowers do not spread their  
fragrance for themselves.  
Living for others is a rule of nature.  
We are all born to help each other.  
No matter how difficult it is....  
Life is good when you are happy;  
but much better when others  
are happy because of you." Pope Francis.

### PRAYER

Creator God of justice, compassion and mercy  
You created a world of wonder  
Of possibility and potential  
And declare it to be good.  
In this time of Climate breakdown  
Wake us from our slumber  
Equip us afresh to our prophetic calling to act  
justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with  
you, our God.



**ACTION** *Our lives will not be measured by the big things we do but rather by the little steps we take to make a difference. Each day during COP26 take time to REFLECT - PRAY - ACT and together we can bring about change in the world. TODAY, thank God for all the saints whom you know who are now in heaven.*



**Today's SCRIPTURE** 2 Nov: All Souls "Now the will of the one who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me" *John 6:39* Care for all & for all creation – nothing is to be lost

**REFLECTION** - A Hymn of Remorse. Brian McLaren

We covered over your colourful earth with gray cement.

We cut down trees and stripped the soil wherever we went.

We scarred the hills for gold and coal,

Blind with greed inside our soul,

Our goal: to have complete control.

Can we be restored?

**Lord, have mercy.**

**PRAYER**

Generous God, you embrace all of creation, and bless us with gifts of life. As we break this bread, we praise you for your goodness, we give thanks to those who grew our food, and we remember those who are hungry. May we be moved by the Holy Spirit to share these gifts as one family, and so catch a glimpse of your Kingdom, of justice, peace and love. Amen.

**ACTION** *As you go about your daily work, give thanks for our colourful earth;  
Ask pardon for what we have done to destroy it.  
Speak to someone today of the beauty of Mother Earth*



**Today's SCRIPTURE** 3 Nov: St Martin de Porres "So in the same way, none of you can be my disciples unless you give up your possessions" *Luke 14: 33* Letting go of stuff, living simply

**REFLECTION** - A Hymn of Remorse.  
(continued) by Brian McLaren

What of the lands of tribes and nations who  
lived here first?  
Who took the best with broken treaties, and left  
the worst?  
By whom were slaves bought, used, sold?  
Who valued humans less than gold?  
Who told us racist lies until our hearts went  
cold?  
Can we be restored? **Lord, have mercy.**

**PRAYER-** I believe in God and in nature as an  
inheritance which humanity has in common.  
I enjoy the smell of the earth and the caress  
of the sun, the wind and the rain. I enjoy  
the song of the birds and the murmur of the  
breeze that rustles the trees. I like  
contemplating the crops, listening to the  
sigh of the corn fields, seeing the surge of  
the rice fields and waiting for the smell of  
ripe fruit. I believe in all God's creatures,  
large and small. *A creed for creation by Erasmo  
Valiente, Jesuit Development Service, El Salvador.*

**ACTION** *Find out where your nearest Zero Joe's is located and do some shopping there. Take time to  
tell someone what you have learned.*



**Today's SCRIPTURE** 4 Nov: St Charles Borromeo "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them" OR "Who among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till you found it?" *Luke 15:3, 4-5*

Persisting to the end

**REFLECTION** *A Hymn of Remorse (cont)* -  
Brian McLaren

The noise of traffic is drowning out the  
songbird's song.  
Your voice within us is telling us that we've  
gone wrong.  
You call us from our selfishness,  
To be blessed—and to bless  
To turn to you, to begin anew.  
Can we be restored?  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**PRAYER** We praise you God, for the diversity of your  
creation. With the psalmist we are amazed at the  
manifold diversity of your work. The Earth is full of your  
creatures and in your holy wisdom you have made them  
all. But in our self-centeredness, we have neglected to  
serve our fellow creatures. We have polluted the land and  
the waters, destroying delicate habitats and accelerating  
the loss of your precious species. We know that creation  
waits with eager longing in the hope of being set free  
from this bondage to our decay. And so we confess and  
we repent. God of mercy and justice, hear our prayer.

**ACTION** *Leave your car behind today. Walk instead  
and as you go, listen to the song of the birds.*



**Today's SCRIPTURE** 5 Nov: "The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light". *Luke 16:8* Maintaining integrity in this world

### REFLECTION

*"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.*

*"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs." Pope Francis LS1*

**PRAYER** Think of a world without any flowers,  
Think of a world without any trees,  
Think of a sky without any sunshine,  
Think of the air without any breeze.  
We thank You, Lord,  
for flowers and trees and sunshine,  
We thank You, Lord,  
and praise Your holy name. Amen

**ACTION** *Read today's Newspaper on the progress of COP26.  
Pray for the world leaders that they may be bold in their decisions and actions.*



## Day 6 - 6th Nov

**Today's SCRIPTURE** 6 Nov: (All the Saints of Ireland) "You cannot be the slave both of God and of money" ..... "For what is thought highly of by men is loathsome in the sight of God"  
*Luke 16:13b & 15* The problem of wealth



### REFLECTION

If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously.

*Pope Francis LS11*

**PRAYER** Think of a world without any animals,  
Think of a field without any herd,  
Think of a stream without any fishes,  
Think of a dawn without any bird.  
We thank You, Lord,  
for all Your living creatures,  
We thank You, Lord and praise Your holy name. Amen

**ACTION** *Include some FAIR TRADE items in your shopping this week. Be aware of all the items you can Recycle, Repair or Reuse*

**Today's SCRIPTURE** 7 Nov: 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time "this poor widow has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on."

*Mark 12: 44* Generosity of the poor

**REFLECTION** - It is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values. When they remain on their land, they themselves care for it best.

*Pope Francis LS146*

### **PRAYER**

Think of a world without any people,  
Think of a street with no-one living there,  
Think of a town without any houses,  
No-one to love and nobody to care.  
We thank You, Lord for families and friendships,

We thank You, Lord, and praise Your holy name. Amen

**ACTION** *Support charities like CAFOD, Christian Aid, Aid to the Church in Need, The Homeless Project to give the poorest people a helping hand to improve their lives.*



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021



**Today's SCRIPTURE** 8 Nov: Blessed John Duns Scotus "Obstacles are sure to come, but alas for the one who provides them. .... Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you". *Luke 17: 1, 6* Trust /faith at a time of challenge

**REFLECTION** - This sister earth now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor.

*Pope Francis LS2*

### **PRAYER**

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You created a world of wonder  
Of possibility and potential  
And declare it to be good.  
In this time of Climate breakdown  
Wake us from our slumber  
Equip us afresh to our prophetic calling to act  
justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with  
you, our God.

**ACTION** *Turn off lights and unplug appliances not in use. Appliances on standby can use up to 20% of the electricity used when they are turned on.*





**Today's SCRIPTURE** 9 Nov: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica "Zeal for your house will devour me" *John 2:18* ZEAL

**REFLECTION** - Ecology studies the relationship between living organisms and the environment in which they develop. This necessarily entails reflection and debate about the conditions required for the life and survival of society, and the honesty needed to question certain models of development, production and consumption. It cannot be emphasised enough how everything is interconnected.  
*Pope Francis LS138*

**PRAYER** - Living God, have mercy on us, for the times we forget that we belong to each other. You call us to be still, to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind, to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun, to be nourished by our Mother Earth.  
Renew us in your healing love.  
Inspire us to water the earth, and nurture one another, so all may flourish.  
Together, as one family, may we always sing your praise.  
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.  
*Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD*

**ACTION** *Only fill the electric kettle with the amount of water you need. The energy wasted in boiling a full kettle of water when it is not required is enough to run an energy saving bulb for 9 hours.*

**Today's SCRIPTURE** 10 Nov: St Leo the Great "Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan". *Luke 17:15-16* Thanks be to God



**REFLECTION** - In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. *Pope Francis LS158*

**PRAYER**

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Equip us afresh to our prophetic calling to act  
justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with  
you, our God.

**ACTION** *Read today's Newspaper on the progress of COP26.  
Pray that world leaders won't leave Glasgow without  
the courage to make bold decisions and take decisive actions.*



**Today's SCRIPTURE** 11 Nov: Remembrance Day / St Martin of Tours "For, you must know, the kingdom of God is among you" *Luke 17: 21* We are the builders of the kingdom of God, here & now

**REFLECTION** - As Christians, we are called "to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours on a global scale."

*Pope Francis LS9*

We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalisation of indifference.  
LS52

**PRAYER**

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the earth and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

*Extract from 'A prayer for our earth' Laudato Si'*

**ACTION** *Seek out a Charity and give a donation today to one caring for the poorest, or our common home.*



**Today's SCRIPTURE** 12 Nov: St Josaphat "People were eating and drinking..... right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and the Flood came and destroyed them all". *Luke 17: 27-28* Will they listen, will they repent?

**REFLECTION** - What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? The issue is one which dramatically affects us, for it has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn. *Pope Francis LS160*

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.

*Pope Francis LS231*

### **PRAYER**

Loving God,  
Creator of beauty  
Truth and justice, let us give thanks  
always.

Let us sing as we go. May our struggles  
and our concern for this planet never  
take away the joy of our hope.  
May we walk humbly on our sacred  
Mother Earth as we care for our  
Common Home. Amen

### **ACTION**

*Go out into a nearby park or garden, and bring back a symbol which speaks to you of the beauty of nature. Reflect with another person on what this means.*

***Are there ways in which you can act to care for our common home?***