

Prayer points – May 2022



The depths of passion and answered prayer

In April we prayed for Angus Rose, maintaining a vigil and hunger strike outside parliament, with the simple demand that the scientific adviser should give a [public address](#) to MPs and ministers about the climate crisis. Angus maintained his hunger strike for 37 days. This raised real concerns over the damage to his health, but he was clearly determined to continue to the bitter end, even if he died. Thankfully the All Party Parliamentary Group [offered to host the address](#), and Sir Patrick Vallance, the government's chief scientific adviser, will give it in the new parliamentary session in May-June. The briefing will be recorded and sent to all MPs and will also be made available to the public. Angus spent a short while in hospital, after losing 2 ½ stone, but is happy and relieved at the outcome.

The sacrifice he was brave enough to take by putting his life on the line, purely to raise awareness of our perilous situation as a global community failing to take drastic action to limit global heating, is indeed humbling. We give thanks for his courage and pray that the briefing will be effective in convincing parliament and the public of the need for action. We pray too that we may be inspired to do what we can to draw attention to the urgent need for action.

IPCC report – we have the means, now let's have the will ... because we don't have time to waste

"Climate activists are sometimes depicted as dangerous radicals. But the truly dangerous radicals are the countries that are increasing the production of fossil fuels...[The most recent IPCC report] sets out viable, financially sound options [for cutting emissions] in every sector that can keep the possibility of limiting warming to 1.5C alive." [Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General](#)

What will it take to keep to the Paris Agreement goals? And how much time do we have to do it? That was the subject of the recently released [IPCC report on climate mitigation](#). The report was stark, but not despairing. It [set out clear choices](#): countries can choose to drastically reduce fossil fuel usage, reach peak emissions by 2025 and cut emissions to 48% below 2019 levels by 2030 – or they can run the risk that global heating not only rises above 1.5 degrees Celsius but breaches the 2 degree mark, imperilling people and ecosystems worldwide. The good news was that [we have the tools to do the job](#) – technologies are in place and becoming ever cheaper, demand-side reductions have huge potential, and the costs of action could be counterbalanced by potential gains. But will we use the tools we have? Emissions continue to rise; "incumbent fossil fuel interests" have polarised the response and block progress; there is a lack of political will in key contexts; and we are far from acknowledging climate injustice, let alone redressing it.

Will this be another missed warning? Or the blueprint that changes our trajectory? Pray that it is the latter. In addition to praying this month, can you make a pledge to choose one key step, learn more about it, and lobby your local or national government to take it?

Australian Church Leaders Speak Out

"Faith communities have worked tirelessly – alongside our neighbours – providing relief, comfort and practical support to those affected by climate driven disasters. But we cannot do this alone. The greater challenge of preventing such disasters in the future requires systemic transformation. We need our government leaders to heed the advice of climate experts to reduce carbon emissions to ensure a safe and sustainable future."

From Australian church leaders' [Easter Statement on the Environment](#)

Saving the world

The Financial Times have made available a brilliant new game. [Can you save the world from the impact of climate change?](#) What decisions would you make? Who would make the best advisors? What is bold action? What may not be effective? The game is well thought-through and gives a chance to test out your own ideas and see what results they might achieve. Do try it (it's free) and pray that many others do, too.

www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk

Psalm 146:5-7 (ESV)

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

Searing heat in India and Pakistan

Throughout April, India and Pakistan have been suffering from [record-breaking intense heat](#). Nawabshah in Pakistan recorded the highest temperature in the northern hemisphere this year - 47.5 degrees (117.5 F) . The [real issue](#), though, is not simply the severity of the heat but the length of time that it is continuing. Temperatures in New Delhi have been 4 degrees Celsius above the norm for *six weeks*: April's *average* high there was 40.2 degrees (104 F). There's no respite, either: the [temperature is often over 30 degrees \(86F\) at night](#).

Heat like this can kill people, especially [those](#) who are medically vulnerable or who have no way of staying cool. It's also [affecting India's wheat crop](#), a particular concern at a time of constricting food supplies globally. We pray for everyone affected, especially the most vulnerable. We pray for people working to [alleviate the impacts of the heat](#). And we pray that this glimpse of the kind of heat wave [predicted to become ever more frequent in an overheating world](#) inspires governments and people everywhere to take deeper, faster action on reducing emissions and reshaping patterns of development that trap heat.

Ukraine and moves toward FF to compensate in short term

If the past three years have shown us anything, it's that societies and governments will say it's impossible to make radical changes – until they have to do so, at which point the means are found. As countries seek to [replace Russian gas and oil, there will be shifts in energy strategies](#). But what shifts will occur? Will countries invest in renewables and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, [recognising that](#) “decarbonization is the answer to both energy and climate security”? Or will they double down on developing their own fossil fuel sources, in the name of energy security? At present, some of both is happening, despite the fact that fossil fuel development [runs counter to net zero goals](#), and its long timeframe means it won't alleviate current supply and price shocks.

There's been good news from [France](#), where recently re-elected President Macron campaigned on a [pledge to remove France from fossil fuels](#). Germany, [facing economic shock](#) because of its overreliance on Russian gas, is [accelerating its transition to renewable energy](#). But China is [doubling down](#), buying more Russian oil and coal and [upping its coal usage](#); the US is again [leasing federal land for drilling](#); and the UK is refusing to rule out new development and even raising the prospect of fracking. We give thanks for people who are pushing for clean investment. We pray that governments will follow their lead and not lock themselves into dangerous fossil fuel related projects.

St. Augustine: Prayer for God's Help

O God, from whom to be turned is to fall,
to whom to be turned is to rise,
and with whom to stand is to abide forever;
grant us in all our duties your help
in all our perplexities your guidance,
in all our dangers your protection,
and in all our sorrows your peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

St. Augustine of Hippo, 354-430, Soliloquies, 11.2-4