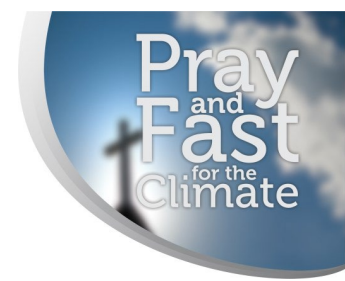


Prayer points – October 2023



Thomas of Celano on St Francis

“He discerned the hidden things of Creation with the eye of the heart, as one who had already been released into ‘the glorious liberty of the children of God.’”
May God give us all ‘the eye of the heart’ and release us into such liberty.

Calling for ambition

On 20 September, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres convened a ‘Climate Ambition Summit’. This was not an occasion for words without deeds: rather, it [had a limited speaker list designed](#) to “showcase ‘first mover and doer’ leaders from government, business, finance, local authorities, and civil society who came with credible actions, policies and plans – and not just pledges - to accelerate the decarbonization of the global economy and deliver climate justice.” By highlighting these leaders’ work, it aimed to show that decarbonization and climate justice are feasible – and to inspire others.

Government attendees [were expected to bring with them](#) updated 2030 plans and net-zero targets; “energy transition plans with commitments to no new coal, oil and gas; fossil fuel phase-out plans; more ambitious renewable-energy targets; Green Climate Fund pledges; and economy-wide plans on adaptation and resilience.” Several countries announced new plans, and the summit seems to have created momentum for a strong agreement at COP 28. At this urgent time, we give thanks for the Secretary-General’s leadership on climate issues. We pray for him, his team, and all working to make climate ambition a reality.

Deadly impacts of Storm Daniel

We lift up to God the people suffering because of Storm Daniel’s impacts. In Greece, Daniel dumped up to 18 months worth of rain: the resultant flooding led to several deaths and 2 billion Euros of damage. It is estimated that [agriculture will take five years to recover](#). The storm then moved across the Mediterranean: [high sea-surface temperatures gave it energy](#), and it hit Libya with record rains and high winds. These overwhelmed two aging dams, leading to catastrophic flooding which killed thousands of people and left [almost 900,000 individuals in need of assistance](#).

While there were many factors in the Derna disaster, [scientists estimate](#) that an extreme rain event like this for Libya has become “up to 50 times more likely and up to 50% more intense” than it would have been in a world without global heating. We pray for everyone who has suffered loss, damage, and [trauma](#). We pray, too, that all countries will get the help they need to adapt to extreme weather and to give residents early warning of threats.

Evidence all around us

The maximum extent of Antarctic sea ice this year wasn’t just low – it was lower than the previous record [by 398,000 square miles](#), roughly four times the area of the UK. The decline of ice coverage [concerns scientists because it could be linked to the general warming of the seas](#), rather than to any particular incident. Temperature records continue to be smashed from [Australia](#) to [France](#) to the [American Midwest](#). Cape Town has suffered [extreme rains that led to widespread flooding](#); the [Amazon is facing a major drought](#). Increases in extreme events are all around us: pray for all affected, and that the links between climate and extreme weather inspire people to demand climate action.

Pope Francis on protecting creation

To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope! (Homily at His Inauguration) Let us be renewed by God’s mercy ... and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish. (Easter Message, 2013)

Isaiah 61:11

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.