



Prayer points – October 2025

God creator, liberator, saviour (From *Laudato Si'* II.1.73)

The writings of the prophets invite us to find renewed strength in times of trial by contemplating the all-powerful God who created the universe. Yet God's infinite power does not lead us to flee his fatherly tenderness, because in him affection and strength are joined ... In the Bible, the God who liberates and saves is the same God who created the universe, and these two divine ways of acting are intimately and inseparably connected: "Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you... You brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders" (Jer 32:17, 21). "The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless" (Is 40:28b-29).

A call for climate justice and the common home

This is the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. Pope Francis' encyclical was a critical influence on the Paris climate negotiations in 2015. As we move towards this year's talks, African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean Catholic bishops have jointly released *A call for climate justice and the common home*. In it, they urge decision-makers to:

- *Fulfil the Paris Agreement and implement [national climate plans] commensurate with the urgency of the climate crisis.*
- *Put the common good above profit.*
- *Transform the economic system towards a restorative model that prioritises people's well-being and ensures conditions for sustainable life on the planet.*
- *Promote climate and nature policies anchored in human rights.*
- *Share and implement ethical, decentralised and appropriate technological solutions.*
- *Achieve zero deforestation by 2030 and restore vital aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.*
- *Join forces to strengthen democratic multilateral processes, such as the Paris Agreement, and rebuild trust in cooperation and dialogue, uniting us as humanity, North and South, for the well-being of the planet.*

Pope Leo [has also convened a climate conference](#) and is due to give a major statement on climate as we pray on the 1st of October. We give thanks for all these statements and all leadership shown by senior church figures – and pray that they will have an impact on countries' creation of climate policies.

Climate pledges

The key to the Paris Agreement is its combination of a shared long-term goal – [keeping global average temperature rises well below 2 degrees, with an aim of 1.5](#) – and the mechanism to reach it. That mechanism is countries' Nationally Determined Contributions [NDCs] – climate plans decided by each country – which are designed to be revised upwards at five-year intervals. This year, the next set of NDCs is due, and by or at the recent UN climate summit, sixty-three countries, about one third of the Agreement's signatories, had made theirs. This is [lower than hoped, though it will cover about 50% of emissions](#) and will be increased by other countries in coming weeks.

The headlines were taken by China, the world's largest emitter, which [pledged a 7 to 10% cut by 2035](#): progress, but [generally felt not to be enough to meet the long-term goal](#). Among other major emitters, the [UK, Norway, Nigeria, Chile, and Australia](#) have submitted relatively ambitious plans; [Russia and Japan have weak plans; Canada and Brazil moderate ones](#); India, the EU, and Mexico are still deciding theirs. The US, because it has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement is no longer part of the process. Lord, we give thanks for all plans that show leadership and pray that countries still formulating their plans will be inspired to be ambitious.

Floods and fires

The importance of action is emphasised by the toll of extreme weather: floods [in India](#) and [Pakistan](#) have displaced millions; Europe [saw an area the size of Sicily destroyed by wildfires](#); [Typhoon Bualoi](#) and [Super Typhoon Ragasa](#) have killed dozens in East Asia; China [has seen record rains and floods](#). We pray for all who have lost loved ones, homes, or livelihoods to extreme weather. May they find God's comfort and the help they need.

Four major powers

China, the US, India, and the EU are both the world's recognised superpowers and the four largest emitters of greenhouse gases, [responsible for over 55% of global emissions](#). Each has a profound impact not only through its own citizens' emissions, but because of the impact on other countries of its consumption, its technologies and its policy decisions. This month, we pray specifically for their dealings with other countries. We lift up concerns about the environmental impact of China's [Belt and Road programme](#), and about [US attempts to pressure countries into increasing fossil fuel use](#), and we pray for the EU and India as they work on their national climate plans for 2035.

How can banks and investors make transition mineral mining more just?

Transition metals are an essential part of the move to clean energy – but current methods of obtaining them rely *“on overconsumption, corporate concentration, and the exploitation of marginalised people and the environment,”* says [a new report from the Forests and Finance Coalition](#). The report notes that since 2010 there have been 835 allegations of abuse associated with transition minerals. One major cause? Companies, with a history of contamination, land grabs, and poor practice with mining residues get funding, which is approved because financial institutions lack strong ethical policies for the mineral mining sector. Most financial institutions, the report says, have no *“meaningful safeguards on deforestation, Indigenous rights, tailings waste management, emissions reduction, access to remedy, or mine closure.”*

Such safeguards are essential – especially because of the sensitivity of the areas where transition minerals are found: *“70% of transition mineral mines overlap with Indigenous or peasant lands and up to 71% of these mines are in high-biodiversity regions.”*

Financial institutions could drive change by putting in place policies that require companies to respect human rights and to protect indigenous people and the environment - or lose their funding. Pray that they do so.

The power of small choices

In the UK, people are celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight. Fairtrade is important environmentally as well as socially and economically. Its [global producer standards](#) require farmers to reduce chemical inputs, protect soil and water, promote biodiversity, prevent deforestation, and lessen their climate impact; its programmes [can help farmers adapt to climate impacts](#). But Fairtrade is also important as a reminder that many people making small changes can have a large impact. Over the years, individual's choices to buy Fairtrade products have allowed the system to grow [so that it now includes about 2 million workers, and Fairtrade workers and producers have received over 1.5 billion euros in Fairtrade premium](#) (on top of price) for community development over the past ten years.

We know we [need to make lifestyle changes to reduce carbon emissions](#), but wonder if they will make a difference. In fact, if many people decided to act [by, for example, moving to a plant-based diet, the difference would be significant](#). Give thanks for the benefits of Fairtrade – and for the way it remind us that our choices do matter.

Positive developments ...

- When Morocco became the 60th country to ratify the 'High Seas Treaty' [they enabled it to become international law](#). It takes effect in January – and will allow nations to work together to manage marine conservation in areas beyond national boundaries.
- *“Now in Oslo, there's so many EVs that you notice the noise and the smell from individual ICE [Internal Combustion Engine] cars, and you realise how much we've been normalising it for ever,”* [Ben Sanderson](#) says. In Norway almost 100% of new car sales are EVs. Pray for the switch to cleaner cars in all countries.

Closing Prayer (from 'A Prayer for our earth', found at the end of *Laudato Si'*)

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

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