

## Prayer points – April 2026



### About suffering ... and the miraculous

from W H Auden's [Musee des Beaux Arts](#)

*About suffering they were never wrong, /the Old Masters: how well they understood*

*Its human position; how it takes place/ While someone else is eating or opening a window or just walking dully along ...*

*How, when the aged are reverently, passionately waiting/ For the miraculous birth, there always must be Children who did not specially want it to happen, skating/ On a pond at the edge of the wood.*

Lord, as we experience in this month both Passiontide and Easter, help us be attentive to the sufferings of your world: those we feel directly and those that are in the background of our daily lives. And help us, too, not to be caught up in our own preoccupations, but to be always open to your revelations of yourself: in the Scriptures, in your creation, in our fellow humans, and in all that indicates your presence with us, now and always.

### Suffering from conflict

*"Modern conflicts," writes Tendal Mbanje, "are not only reshaping political landscapes but also unleashing ecological disasters that reverberate far beyond the battlefield."*

As we noted last month, the carbon costs of conflict alone are massive. A new [detailed study of emissions from the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza suggests](#) the equivalent of 1.3 million tonnes of emissions from the conflict itself and an estimated 31.4 million tonnes to come from reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.

But the carbon costs are only one part of the damage. In the current conflict between the US, Israel, and Iran, the fallout from attacks on energy infrastructure imperils life on land, sea, and in the air. The ['black rain' that fell on Tehran when Israel attacked oil facilities in and around the city created immediate health issues but also longer-term issues for soil and aquifers; Iran's attacks on shipping and US/Israeli attacks on Iranian naval vessels threaten marine ecosystems; and both sides' strikes on or near nuclear-related facilities](#) pose serious risks at every level.

Lord Jesus, who reconciled all things by your death on the cross, we pray for peace – your peace which brings wholeness of mind, body and spirit to people and healing to the earth. We pray, too, for all who amidst the tumult of war are working to offer loving protection.

### Suffering from extreme weather

The travails of Mozambique's people continue, with [hundreds of thousands still affected by flooding](#). In Australia, [Tropical Cyclone Narelle whipped up iron-rich dust to cause fiery red skies](#) in Western Australia: [fuelled by unusually hot ocean waters](#), it struck [two regions as a category four storm and one as a category three](#), causing [wind and flood damage](#) each time. [Parts of Hawaii got up to 30 inches of rain in a few days; dozens of people have been killed by floods in Kenya](#), as well as in [Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Pakistan](#). Parts of [Colombia, the UAE, Wales, and Dagestan](#) were also among those hit by storms and floods. Lord, we know that warm air holds more water, making extreme events more likely. We pray for all who are suffering because of such events – and continue to pray for action to reduce emissions, build resilience, and compensate people for loss and damage.

### From ['Jesus died to save the planet'](#) by Paul Kunert

*"By his blood shed on the cross, Jesus was not only paying the price for the sins of the whole world but also making peace with all things. And in rising, he was not only showing that death is defeated but also that new creation is begun. The one who in crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and outpoured Spirit has become King of all the earth has made peace with all things and is making the whole earth – in all its lush fruitfulness, its teeming, swarming, swooping, creeping splendour – new. Faithful discipleship, allegiance to this King, means living at peace with one another and with all things ...*

*Living and working for the flourishing of the whole earth is integral to our discipleship, then, to our walking in the way of the King. For all of us, in the whole of life ... As individuals, businesses, governments, and societies, we must ask what impact each action, commitment, and policy has on the flourishing of the living world and the good of our neighbour, not as an afterthought, but intrinsically, at the beginning."*

## Funding for Nature and Climate Justice

Lord Jesus, it is an upside down world. For every [dollar spent protecting nature, 30 are spent in ways that harm it](#). As climate risks increase, [countries cut their contributions to](#) help poorer countries reduce emissions and adapt. Aid vanishes, but billions are spent on wars. Turn the hearts of people and leaders, Lord, that we may order our priorities rightly and use the resources of the nations to protect the earth.

## Power for good

[Earth Day](#) this year will be celebrated from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, enabling a stronger call to action. The theme is 'Our Power, Our Planet', which focuses both on the need for a just transition to green power and on our agency – we are not powerless!

Immanuel Kiilu, from Kenya, eco-champion and Climate YES member writes: *"The idea behind 'Our Power, Our Planet' is not that responsibility lies in one place. It is shared. Governments are expected to set clear policies and follow through with them. The private sector has a role in investing in sustainable solutions and reducing environmental impact. Civil society continues to play a role in raising awareness and reducing environmental impact. Individuals also matter. Everyday choices, from how energy is used to how waste is handled, contribute to the bigger picture. This shared responsibility is where meaningful change begins."* Lord, may this Earth Day bring people together and develop that sense of shared responsibility that drives genuine change.

## Honesty that informs

Lord God, we pray and give thanks for all who provide honest information that cuts through the misunderstandings and misrepresentations that can block climate action. Thank you for the scientists whose data and visualisations remind us of the increase in atmospheric carbon and temperatures, [rising sea levels](#), and [decline in sea ice](#), those who are [saving data sets](#) from erasure, and those who released a [report on the state of nature in the US, even though their funding to prepare it was cut](#). Thank you for [environmental defenders who raise their voices courageously](#) to protest destruction. Thank you for [statisticians who propose new ways of measuring disaster risk](#) that go beyond GDP and more accurately help governments to see vulnerabilities and respond to them. All of these people tell us painful things – but unless we see accurately the consequences of our current trajectory, we will not change. Thank you, too, for the people who pursue knowledge in order to find solutions to current issues. We pray that you will guide them, for all our good.

## Forming a new fossil-free pathway

[From the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month, Colombia and the Netherlands will host "the First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels..., designed as a space for countries, subnational governments and other stakeholders that recognize the need to implement a transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner, in line with climate goals and the best available science."](#) We give thanks for this initiative, which sprang from the last UN climate summit. We pray that many committed to the goal will attend and that it will help to progress the green transition not only among those attending, but more broadly.

## Fashion Revolution Week

Each year, people around the world mark the anniversary of the Rana Plaza disaster (24<sup>th</sup> April) by celebrating [Fashion Revolution Week](#). The week has evolved to be not only a call for justice for garment workers, but a "global movement for a fashion industry that conserves and restores the environment and values people over growth and profit." Pray that many people will be inspired by its resources this year and will play their part in seeking transformation of the garment industry.

## From 'Hail thee, festival day' (Venantius Fortunatus, tr various)

*All the fair beauty of earth from the death of the winter arising!/Ev'ry good gift of the yea, now with its Master returns./Praise to the Giver of good! You Love who are author of concord,/ Pour out your balm on our souls, order our ways in your peace.*

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