



Prayer points – June 2026

Extraordinary in ordinary – the ‘Ecological Examen’

As the Church moves from the events of the Passion and Resurrection into ‘ordinary’ time, we reflect on God’s presence in the ‘ordinary’. The ‘ecological examen’ – <https://www.ecologicalexamen.org> - was designed as a tool for prayer to help us reflect on our relationships with creation in our day-to-day life, to acknowledge and amend where we have fallen short of God’s call, and to reflect on where we are called to promote ecological justice. Abbreviated versions of its questions are placed throughout this time of prayer, starting with: “I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. Where did I feel God’s presence in creation today? “

Extraordinary signals and consequences

The theme for World Environment Day (Friday, 5 June) is “*The signals are clear. What comes next is up to us.*” Signals don’t get much clearer than the heat this past month. Europe [smashed prior records by several degrees Celsius](#). In [India and Pakistan](#), where temperatures were 5 to 8 degrees above the norm, people suffered under highs of up to 46 degrees. In Japan, where the country [has voted on a new word – kokushobi, or ‘cruelly hot’](#) - for days that reach 40C or more, [temperatures went over 35C unusually](#) early, with more heat forecast to come. As people sweltered, the World Meteorological Organization issued [a report](#) saying that it was likely that one of the next five years would beat 2024 as the hottest year on record, with [the predicted El Nino](#) threatening particularly intense heat in 2027. Strikingly, the report not only suggested that it was very likely (91% chance) that the warming threshold of 1.5 degrees above the baseline would be exceeded for at least one year, but also likely (75% chance) that it would be exceeded in the 2026-2030 five-year mean. While this does not yet breach the Paris goals - they depend on a twenty-year mean - the signals, again, are very clear. For people who are medically vulnerable, who labour outside, or who live in housing that is not easily cooled, these temperatures create huge risks: [one estimate suggests that in India a single day of extreme heat causes 3,400 excess deaths](#). Such deaths are largely invisible to the world at large – as [are the many more indirect impacts of climate on people’s health](#) – but each is devastating to family, friends, and colleagues. Lord, your beloved earth is crying out. We thank you for the work of scientists, whose research helps people prepare for climate impacts – and, in light of the [increasing warnings about a severe El Nino](#), we pray for preparations in regions most affected by that. We pray for people already being harmed by climate impacts. We ask that you will give us and all people “*the grace to see the creation as [you do] in all its splendour and suffering.*” And [we reflect for ourselves](#): “*Where do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor?*”

Action in the ordinary

During the second week of June, people across the UK will be engaging in [The Great Big Green Week](#) and [Churches Count on Nature](#) – two opportunities to celebrate the wonders of God’s creation and to take action to protect and restore it. The map of Great Big Green Week events shows an inspiring range of talks, screenings of the People’s Emergency Briefing, eco-fairs, wildlife surveys, repair cafes and more. These have practical impacts – they also help to build community and grow political will for climate action. And we reflect: what more can we do as individuals and in our communities, both to make our own lives more sustainable and [to use each of the roles we may hold – such as citizen, investor, professional, role model, consumer](#) - to “*shape institutions, norms and networks ... to unlock broader social and structural changes*”? We pray for the success of the June events and “*ask for the grace [for everyone in our society] to ... to see our [our] choices impact creation and the poor and the vulnerable ... [to] turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor*”

Romans 12: 1-2 – ‘The Message’ translation

“*Take your ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering ... Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you and quickly respond to it ... God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.*”

Oceans – Imagining and Reimagining

[World Oceans Day](#) (8 June) this year has the theme of ‘reimagine’, calling us all to see oceans not as something separate but as something to which we are closely linked, so that we can “*move from passive inheritors of the ocean’s generosity to active guardians of its future.*” The people of Oceania have long led the way in recognising our interdependence with the oceans – so it’s not surprising that they’re leading the way in protecting them, as well. Last year, French Polynesia [announced the establishment of the world’s largest marine protected area](#) – 4.5 million square km. Now [Papua New Guinea \(PNG\) has announced a new marine protected area of 200,000 square km](#). The area PNG chose is especially important for biodiversity: its boundaries were determined with the help of scientists. That PNG took this step is particularly impressive given its dependence on fishing for income – but again, the government was helped by research, which showed that marine protected areas often increase fish stocks in areas around them. Lord, we thank you for the steps that the countries of Oceania are taking, for their creative use of research, and for their showing how environmental and economic sustainability can complement each other. We pray that they will inspire others, so that the target of protecting 30% of the earth’s waters by 2030 will be met.

Praying for positive action in Bonn

While the eyes of the world focus on the UN Conference of Parties, the annual meetings of the UNFCCC’s subsidiary bodies in Bonn, [held this year from 8 to 18 June](#), are where many key negotiations take place. Delegates this month will look at an array of mitigation and adaptation issues. One key question is whether the [Mitigation Work Programme, the only formal UNFCCC agenda item dedicated to mitigation](#), will be renewed when it expires this year and, if so, what its scope and form will be. Adaptation and finance discussions will include terms of reference for reviewing the Global Goal on Adaptation Framework and membership of the Adaptation Fund board. Lord, these negotiations help set the context for national climate action. We pray that each delegate and their governments will genuinely seek to [answer the question](#): “*How can [we] repair our relationship with creation?*”

Climate refugees

World Refugee Day is 20 June. At present, [the technical definition of ‘refugee’ doesn’t recognise people displaced by environmental issues](#), which means they have no right, in most instances, to claim asylum or refugee status. But the increasing numbers of people displaced because of disasters – [264.8 million between 2015 and 2024](#) – mean that working out a system of rights and assistance for environmentally displaced people is a matter of urgency. Pope Leo recently [said](#): “*A litmus test for social justice today is the treatment of migrants, refugees and those forced to move due to poverty, violence, climate change and environmental disasters. The way a society treats them reveals whether its sense of justice is driven by fear or by the spirit of fraternity.*” Lord, we pray for all displaced by climate impacts. We pray they encounter love, not fear – and pray for frameworks that recognise and support their needs.

Magnifica Humanitas

In his [new encyclical](#), Pope Leo explores the need to place technology in the service of humanity and the common good – and challenges paradigms that see people and our common home simply as means to an end. “*To disarm [AI] does not mean rejecting technology but preventing it from dominating humanity. It means freeing technology from monopolistic control and opening it to discussion and debate, therefore making it human-friendly and restoring it to the plurality of human cultures and ways of life. Our task today is not only ethical or technical. It is ecological in the deepest sense, for it concerns a new dimension of our common home.*” Lord, may his words make a difference.

Prayer for the Earth (from 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... Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk