

This collection of intercessions for COP26 are prepared for personal or corporate prayer, in the Cathedral and around the Diocese of Lichfield. They can be used flexibly, and adapted in response to developments at the conference. Sources are listed at the end.

Sunday 31st October

All Saints

We pray for church leaders visiting COP26 that their call for the care for our common home may illuminate the hearts and minds of all those participating, and that God may grant them wisdom to make decisions which respect the earth and all that live in it. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the Church: may we speak and act together as we urgently work towards good stewardship of your creation and your presence in all living things. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the world; the interdependence of all living things; the beauty and flourishing of the planet plundered and misused for generations by human activity; may we all, through our actions, help repair the harm we have caused. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the peoples already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may examine our environmental impact and make choices for the common good. *Lord, in your mercy...*

O God, who calls all people to justice and care for the earth, hear and grant these prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen ⁱ

Monday 1st November

All Saints Day

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now:ⁱⁱ

Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful.

Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change.

In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth.

May we follow your leading in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made and love.

We pray for world leaders meeting in Glasgow to agree radical actions that will help protect our world from the impact of global heating for future generations.

Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours.

Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven.

Amenⁱⁱⁱ

Tuesday 2nd November

All Souls Day

The first goal for COP 26 is to secure global net zero by 2050 and keep 1.5 degrees within reach. All countries are asked to put forward ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century. In order to deliver these challenging targets, countries will need to phase out the use of fossil fuels, encourage investment in renewables and electric vehicles and drastically reduce deforestation.

We pray urgently for an increase of ambition from every country that has not yet made an adequate commitment – especially the major emitters. We know this is going to require a huge change of heart – and potentially quite a bit of negotiation. We pray that all leaders will appreciate the vital importance of this goal and make genuine and tangible commitments that result in action now.^{iv}

Wednesday 3rd November

The second goal for COP 26 is to adapt to protect communities and natural habitats. The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects.

We pray that nations can work effectively together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to protect and restore their ecosystems and build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid future loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.^v

Thursday 4th November

The third goal is needed to deliver on the first two goals. Developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year. International financial institutions must play their part and we need work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero.

We pray for a massive breakthrough to emerge during COP26 from richer countries, to make the necessary finances available for poorer countries so they can mobilise adaptation and mitigation programmes. Such a breakthrough is even tougher when Covid-19 has caused huge economic impact – and yet without it, all our futures, and in particular the futures of all those living in poorer countries, are precarious.^{vi}

Friday 5th November

The fourth goal recognises the imperative of effective collaboration. Countries can only rise to the challenges of the climate crisis by working together to deliver the pledges made. At COP26 countries must finalise the Paris Rulebook in order to provide an agreed process of accountability for pledges made. They must also agree how to accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society.

We pray for the building of trust and relationships that must be forged in order to enable this massive and essential goal to be achieved in Glasgow.^{vii}

Saturday 6th November

Global Day of Action

A poem by Chris Polhill, priest in this diocese

Forgive us Lord for our thoughtless wasting

For heat blasting in open doorways - for lights burning in empty rooms, for homes basking in T-shirt warmth forgive our thoughtless wasting.

For leaving windows draughty, for lagging left undone, for lofts un-insulated forgive our thoughtless wasting.

For cars that guzzle petrol - for driving little journeys, for cheaper fares on planes forgive our thoughtless wasting.

God grant us clear thinking, right action, and a gentle life-style. Amen

Sunday 7th November

We pray for world leaders: that they may all work together, through the decisions taken, to protect the planet and all life within it. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the Church: may we discern our roles and tasks arising from the decisions taken at COP26 and take action to achieve them. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the world; that our collective actions will begin the long process of repair to the damage we have caused and that God will help us become better stewards. *Lord, in your mercy*

We pray for our parishes and local community: that decisions taken in our parish life will help us live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the earth and all life within it. *Lord, in your mercy...*

O God, who calls all people to justice and care for the earth, hear and grant these prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen^{viii}

Monday 8th November

Theme - limiting global emissions to 1.5 degrees

- 70% of the world's economies have committed to this on paper; pray their plans and actions will make this a reality.
- Pray that richer nations and financial institutions will help finance poorer nations to develop the technologies to provide cleaner energy.
- Pray for Green jobs to be created across our world, bringing hope to millions of lives.
- Pray for end to investment in all forms of fossil fuels^{ix}

Tuesday 9th November

Theme - stewardship of nature as God intended

- Pray for the protection of threatened habitats across our world, in particular the rain forests.
- Pray for the rewilding and restoring of habitats so that we allow nature to restore eco systems and create sustainable agriculture across the world.
- Pray for Christian organisations engaged in encouraging our stewardship of God's creation, including A Rocha Uk, Tear Fund, Operation Noah, and many others.
- Pray for our farmers as they will have to change practices in the coming decades. ^x

Wednesday 10th November

Theme - extreme weather events

- Pray for National and local Government leaders as they plan for more extreme weather events.
- Pray for those who determine planning decisions for new developments, that they will plan for extreme weather events.
- Pray for those affected across the world by flooding and forest fires.
- Pray for those parts of the world for whom rising sea levels could be catastrophic. ^{xi}

Thursday 11th November

Theme - Climate and Environmental Scientists

- Give thanks for the gift of science that has allowed us to see how our use of fossil fuels is affecting people and nature around the globe in the present and the future.
- Prayer for scientists working of new IPCC reports on the impact of Global Warming and ways to mitigate against its worst effects due to be released next year.
- Pray for scientists and engineers who are using their creativity to develop ideas and technology that will help reduce the intensity of Climate Change and moderate its impact.
- Pray for a new generation of scientists who have an appreciation of the wonder of creation and are motivated to find ways to protect both people and the whole community of creation. ^{xii}

Friday 12th November

Theme - role of the Christian community

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to awaken the hearts of all Christians to our complicity in harming God's creation and then to see ourselves as those who should lead by example.
- Pray for our church communities to invest in green solutions within our buildings and land, and a willingness to share best practice.
- Pray for Christian voices to speak up against the injustice of climate change as it effects the poorer nations disproportionately, and for richer nations to financially support green solutions across the world. ^{xiii}

Saturday 13th November

Prayer for the COP26 climate summit

Loving God,

We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they
seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.

Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions
for the poorest and most vulnerable,

and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.

Amen^{xiv}

ⁱ Adapted from [COP26 prayers of intercession | CAFOD](#)

ⁱⁱ [Christian Climate Action's](#) prayer for climate grief

ⁱⁱⁱ [Resources – Pray and Fast for the Climate](#)

^{iv} [Day of Prayer - sample content \(prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk\)](#)

^v [Day of Prayer - sample content \(prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk\)](#)

^{vi} [Day of Prayer - sample content \(prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk\)](#)

^{vii} [Day of Prayer - sample content \(prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk\)](#)

^{viii} Adapted from [COP26 prayers of intercession | CAFOD](#)

^{ix} https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/617657/COP26_A_BUEN.aspx

^x https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/617657/COP26_A_BUEN.aspx

^{xi} https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/617657/COP26_A_BUEN.aspx

^{xii} https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/617657/COP26_A_BUEN.aspx

^{xiii} https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/617657/COP26_A_BUEN.aspx

^{xiv} [\(COP26-Prayer-Card-v3.1-no-crops.pdf \(cbcew.org.uk\)\)](#)