

# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OFFICE FOR JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE

## COP27 & COP15 ACTION

**World leaders are gathering in Egypt now for the United Nations Conference of the Parties, COP 27, on climate change and in Canada in December for the Conference of the Parties, COP 15, on biodiversity.**

These two meetings present another opportunity for world leaders to agree on actions which will address the twin crises of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

They also present us with an opportunity as people of faith to join with others in calling for effective action to deal with these immense ecological crises.



### POPE FRANCIS CALLS FOR ACTION ON COP 27 & COP 15

In his Message for the 2022 World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation, Pope Francis urged world leaders to commit to ambitious plans at the COP 27 to achieve the goal of keeping global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

He also urged leaders gathering at the COP 15 to make new multilateral agreements to halt the alarming increases in destruction of ecosystems and extinction of species.

The Holy Father reminds us that the Gospel calls us to repentance, to a new relationship with God and a different relationship with others and with all of creation. This conversion of heart will lead us to take action personally, but also communally to care for our common home.





# PRAY FOR SUCCESS AT COP 27 & COP 15

One important action you can take is to pray daily for the success of negotiations at the COP 27 and COP 15. Your prayer and reflection could focus on short passages from the Pope's Message. You can find the full message at: [HERE](#)  
Here's a prayer you could pray daily and include in Masses during November and December:



*O Loving and merciful God,*

Thank You for the gift of our beautiful world.

Although we see so much wonder and beauty around us, we also hear the cries of anguish from mother earth, from so many threatened plants and animals, from the poorest and most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers, especially from Indigenous peoples across the planet, and from children who worry what the future holds for them.

We acknowledge that it is our abuse of earth and its resources, our neglect and greed which is causing this great pain.

We are deeply sorry for this.

We ask for your help to repent, to change how we think and act so that we can begin to repair the damage which has caused these voices of anguish to become so loud and worrying.

Please inspire world leaders to make the necessary agreements and commitments to urgently address the immense damage which is being done to our common home by dangerous climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

Help us to love this wondrous earth and all who live on it as You love it.

Give us the resolve to work together to make the difference that is so urgently needed.

We put our trust in You and ask all this through Jesus Christ who draws all of creation to the fullness of life which is only found in You. Amen.



# LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF FIRST PEOPLES

Many First Peoples from around the world are at COP 27 to ensure that their voices are heard. This will include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from Australia.

A number of First Peoples from Oceania gathered recently in North Queensland to prepare for COP 27. Let's ensure we listen to their voices here in Australia on how to heal country and let's pray that world leaders will hear their calls at COP 27 for effective action on climate.



Read about the gathering in North Queensland at:

<https://www.wwf.org.au/news/news/2022/listen-to-us-north-qld-forum-to-take-first-peoples-message-to-the-un-climate-change-cop#gs.i338sk>

## A MESSAGE ABOUT COP 27 AND COP 15

Bishop Tim Norton, Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane and a member of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service recently had a conversation with bird expert, Robert Bush, about the impact of climate change and other factors on critically endangered migratory birds. He ended with a call for us to get involved in action to promote strong commitments at COP 27 and COP 15:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkn1KRQYtIE>



# WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

**There are many organisations and groups in Australia, in our region and around the world who are encouraging us to take action to promote strong commitments by leaders at COP 27 and COP 15.**

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) has asked for e-mails to be sent to PM Albanese asking for the Government to support the Global Methane Pledge, increases to the finance given to developing countries to mitigate climate damage and to adapt to climate change impacts, and the Glasgow Statement on financing new coal and gas projects:

**<https://www.acf.org.au/labors-big-cop27-decisions>**

The Climate Council invites you to send a digital postcard to the Federal Government calling for it to support strong action to phase out fossil fuels and to provide financial support to developing countries:

**<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/actions/cop27-postcard-egypt/>**

The Vanuatu Government has requested a legal opinion from the International Court of Justice on the obligation to protect the human rights of current and future generations against the adverse effects of climate change. Amnesty International has more information and a petition you can sign:

**<https://action.amnesty.org.au/act-now/ICJAO-climate-justice>**

The Australian Government recently released its new Threatened Species Action Plan 2022 -2032. It has the ambitious goal of no more species extinctions:

**<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/action-plan>**

While this is a good initiative, the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) is calling for the Prime Minister and the Environment Minister to attend the COP 15 in Canada and support ambitious goals to protect nature:

**<https://www.acf.org.au/global-goals-nature-petition>**

**Let's listen to the voices of threatened plant and animal species, of damaged ecosystems, of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, of our Pacific sisters and brothers, and of our children. Let's take action to care for our common home!**

**This resource has been prepared by the ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology & Peace  
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