



**JAEI**

**March 2018 Environmental Prayer Diary**


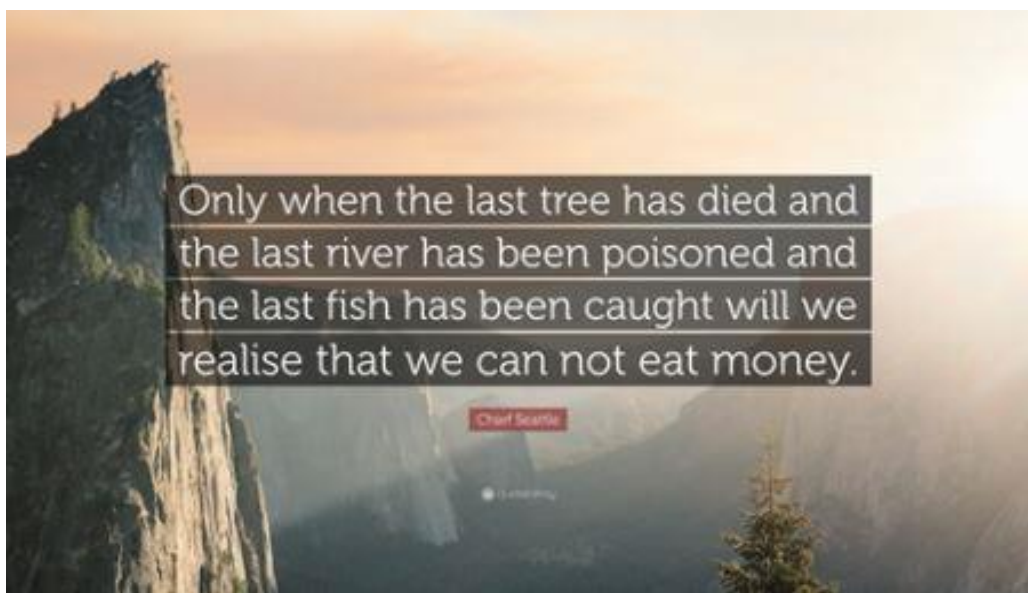


**March is Water Month**



*Water! Water doesn't come from a tap.*

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p>Gracious Father your Son is the source of living water; grant that the gift of his Spirit might inspire us all to value this gift that you have provided for our benefit, to learn to use it efficiently so that it might be shared by all, and to strive to ensure that it is available to all your people through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ <b>Amen.</b></p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p>“Our present ecological overshoot is indicated by the global degradation of forests, soil, water systems, fisheries and biological diversity.”  <b>Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."  <b>Revelation 21:6</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Our God, father and mother, from, through and to whom all lives flow, Your name is holy for you water every creature with life. May the ‘waters rolling in justice’ come down among us and dwell as in your presence. Give us water sufficient for our living, and help us to share water and other resources with those who are dying of thirst. Forgive us our insincerity, insensitivity and irresponsibility in saving and preserving water, and for our abuse of creation. And teach us to forgive one another. Lead us not into the temptation of accumulation, greed and power over water, and deliver us from avaricious life styles. For your word is like water cleansing us from evil, your reign is righteousness flowing like an ever-flowing stream dismantling the powers and principalities from generation to generation, from history to history, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>




<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>5</p>	<p><b>SDG Goal #6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all</b></p> <p>Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in. There is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. But due to bad economics or poor infrastructure, every year millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene.</p> <p>Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts some of the world's poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition.</p> <p>By 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of fresh water.</p> <p><b><i>Prayfully reflect on this.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p><b>Prayer for Rain</b></p> <p>May God open the heavens and let His mercy rain down upon the ur fields and mountains. Let us especially pray for those most impacted by water shortages and for the wisdom and charity to be good stewards of this precious gift. May our political leaders seek the common good as we learn to care and share God's gift of water for the good of all. In Jesus Name, AMEN</p> <p><b><i>Bishop Jaime Soto, Catholic Diocese of Sacramento</i></b>  <b><i>Pray</i></b> this prayer with the Western Cape, and specifically Cape Town, in mind.</p>	
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p>7</p>		

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Read John 4:1-15</b>  Jesus the Living Water</p> <p>On a recent family trip to the Eastern Cape, we stopped at Beaufort West. The discovery of a well in Beaufort West by the Gift of the Givers was big news. The Samaritan woman at the well also received big news that day. She discovered the importance of the source of water and the life-giving gift of Jesus.</p> <p>As we journey through Lent we are continually asked, 'What is the source of our water? What sustains us and keeps us alive?' And in our penitential giving, where we have no buckets and the wells are still deep, do we know that it is Jesus who says, 'Give Me a drink'? Jesus, the gift of God, invites us during Lent to meet Him at the well over and over again. To discover like Beaufort West and the Samaritan woman, the font as a source of our faith, the gift of living water.</p> <p><b>Kieran Meredith Groepe</b>  <i>(Taken from Lenten Water Meditations – ACSAEN)</i></p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p>"Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans."</p> <p><b>Jacques Yves Cousteau</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<div data-bbox="625 1039 1312 1833" data-label="Image"> <p>Thank you, Lord, for puddles and friends!</p> </div>

<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Lord of all the earth  Your words gave life to the plants in the field  and the creatures of land and sea:  As we reflect on our need of water for life and health  Make us mindful of all living things,  And their dependence on the same water  Through Jesus Christ our Lord  Who lives and reigns with you  One God now and forever.</p> <p><b>Amen</b></p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>"Then God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear'; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good." - <b>Genesis 1:9-10</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p>13</p>	 <p>A graphic with a blue background. In the center, a large blue water splash contains the text "SLOW the FLOW SAVE H<sub>2</sub>O" in bold black letters. To the right, a white faucet is shown dripping water. The background features stylized blue waves and water splashes.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>“The real wealth of the Nation lies in the resources of the earth soil, water, forests, minerals, and wildlife. To utilize them for present needs while insuring their preservation for future generations requires a delicately balanced and continuing program, based on the most extensive research. Their administration is not properly, and cannot be, a matter of politics. “</p> <p><b>Rachel Carson</b></p>  <p>A black and white photograph of Rachel Carson. She is shown from the chest up, wearing a light-colored, textured jacket. She has dark, wavy hair and is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a window or a wall.</p>

<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p>People in wealthier countries often are unaware of life-threatening issues surrounding water in developing nations. Through the efforts of organizations such as World Vision, many more people are becoming aware of the hundreds of millions of people who face serious illness because they have no access to clean drinking water. Ask God to create compassion in hearts and connect people in developed nations with organizations that can help them make a difference and save lives.</p> <p><i>Heavenly Father, remind us of Your command to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Don't let us rest until we know we have done everything we can to meet this necessity for others.</i></p> <p>“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” —Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)</p> <p><b>Pray</b> for a global will to ensure everyone has safe drinking water.</p>
<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Reflection:</b></p> <p><b><i>Pope Francis - Laudato Si</i></b></p> <p>“29. One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality. Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities, especially in countries lacking adequate regulation or controls. It is not only a question of industrial waste. Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas.”</p> <p><b>Prayerfully</b> reflect on this</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>SDG Goal #6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.6 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water sources since 1990, but 663 million people are still without</li> <li>• At least 1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is faecally contaminated</li> <li>• Between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of the global population using an improved drinking water source has increased from 76 per cent to 91 per cent</li> <li>• But water scarcity affects more than 40 per cent of the global population and is projected to rise. Over 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water use exceeds recharge</li> </ul> <p><b>Pray that water injustices may be addressed</b></p>




<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p>Thanks be for water  That sustains the life of animals, fish, and plants,  That cleans our bodies and blesses our souls.  For the water of tears that wash away our grief,  For the water of slides, lakes, pools, and oceans  where we can play and have fun.  Thanks be for water.  Your water gives us new life.  May we treasure that gift and share it with others.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p>Heavenly Father, Almighty God, Lord God, Most High.  As I am using water to wash myself, to drink and to live; I want to thank you for this most precious gift.  Water is indispensable to life, it has a great similarity to Your Spirit. In You we live, we move and have our being. We would die without you. In the same way in water we live, we move and have our being. Without water we would die. Your spirit cleanses our souls of our sins just as water cleanses our bodies.  Thanks to water we have food that comes from the earth that has been irrigated in order to be fertile. Water brings life to creation.</p>  <p>I bless the rivers in your holy name; I bless the lakes, the oceans, the ice deposits, the mountains and all the sources of water including those deposits under the surface of the earth. I bless the water in the atmosphere.  It is said that 80% of our bodies is water. I bless the water in my body too. Lord my God, please bless water once more.  I look around and I see that water is becoming very scarce. The good water that we need so much is disappearing. Too much water caused by storms and heavy rains is becoming a great problem. The floods are causing destruction to crops, property, animals and human life. Many poor people are becoming homeless and unemployed because of the calamities caused by water.  By contrast lack of water is causing a lot of human suffering and many areas of the earth are having draughts which are causing many losses. We are losing our crops, animals are dying, the earth is becoming useless and many human beings are losing their lives too.  The weather is becoming a great problem, sometimes we are having either too much rain other times too little. Sometimes it is becoming too hot other times it is too cold. The weather is out of control.  Bless the water of the earth, bless mother nature once more, so that we have more moderate weather throughout the world. Lord God, You are a God of control, please bless the work of Your hands, bless us and bless the water that we need so much. Bless the earth and bless us your creatures the temples of Your Holy Spirit.  Amen.  <a href="http://www.theworkofgod.org/Library/catholic/water_prayer.htm">http://www.theworkofgod.org/Library/catholic/water_prayer.htm</a></p>


<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Clouds, oceans, seas, rivers, lakes and waterfalls are your sacred gifts of life and beauty to us, O God;  teach us how to use and preserve the waters of our planet.  Creator God, hear us we pray,  <b><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></b></p> <p>Rain down your Spirit upon the waters of our earth;  and upon those responsible for decisions concerning their purity and availability.  Creator God, hear us we pray,  <b><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></b></p> <p>Nourishing God, may all the peoples and creatures of this earth  have the water they need to live their lives fully.  Help us to solve the problems of drought, flooding, sanitation and disease  so that all may share in the banquet and none be in want.  Creator God, hear us we pray,  <b><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></b></p> <p>Creator God, you are the source of living water.  We confess our inadequate ways of dealing with the world's water.  Free us from our misuse and waste of this precious gift, and forgive us.  Creator God, hear us we pray,  <b><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></b></p> <p>God of life-giving waters, God of all those who carry water for miles,  God of those whose only supply is contaminated,  God of those lacking good sanitation,  may water, clean and life-giving, be available to every living creature.  Creator God, hear us we pray,  <b><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></b></p> <p>Compassionate God, forgive your people for their wasting, pollution,  commodification and privatization of water.  Creator God, hear us we pray,  <b><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></b></p> <p>Compassionate God, we pray for perseverance and courage  for individuals, communities, agencies and organizations throughout the world working for  water justice.  May we be generous in supporting them,  Creator God, hear us we pray,  <b><i>Give us your love for the whole of Creation.</i></b></p> <p>Lord we pray for your Church throughout the world especially in its mission to promote justice,  peace and the integrity of Creation. May we work to transform unjust structures in the  provision of clean water and good sanitation. Bring churches together to work in unity so that  clean water will be available to people and all creatures for today and for future generations.  <b>Amen.</b></p> <p><b><i>(Source: <a href="http://www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime">www.ctbi.org.uk/creationtime</a>)</i></b></p>
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<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>Read Matthew 3: 13-17</b></p> <p><b><i>The Baptism of Jesus</i></b></p> <p>As I reflected on the Gospel reading with the theme, I remembered all the Bible stories about water one heard as a child, like Noah and the Ark, Moses and the Red Sea and so many others.</p> <p>Jesus makes it so clear how sacred water is, we need to be reborn of water and the Spirit. Here we see Jesus being blessed by water and the Spirit – in his baptism we the see the Holy Trinity in full display ,as Jesus set the way for us to live.</p> <p>So as we are going through a drought it becomes so much clearer why Jesus refers to himself as the Living Water.</p> <p>Just as the Earth needs water to produce food and life we as followers of Jesus need him to bring salvation and eternal life.</p> <p><b>Avron Flowers</b> <i>(Taken from Lenten Water Meditations – ACSAEN)</i></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>World Day for Water</b></p> <p><b>2018 Theme: “Water, Ecosystems and Human Development”</b></p> <p>We all need safe drinking water to survive. Almost every business needs reliable water too. South Africa is already a water scarce country, the 30th driest in the world. Combined with having uneven rainfall, this makes water a hot commodity. We need to realise that water does not come from a dam, a pipe or a tap.</p> <p><b>Why does it matter?</b></p> <p>In previous decades in South Africa, we have invested heavily in engineered water infrastructure. But we can no longer solve our water issues by building more dams or canals. We need to rehabilitate and maintain the natural areas which are the sources of water for our cities and farms, and we need to rethink how we use water.</p> <p>We have drained, dammed and polluted vast numbers of critical wetlands, rivers and aquifers – nature’s water storage and filtering powerhouses – thus diminishing the function of these natural systems to provide us with clean water.</p> <p>We urgently need to act on the fact that half of our country’s river flow is provided by a tiny 8% of land area. Yet, most of this land is not protected. These strategic water source areas – the mountain catchments that yield our major rivers – are also critical for food production and the sustenance of many people downstream.</p> <p><b>Prayerfully consider what part you can play in this crucial issue</b></p>

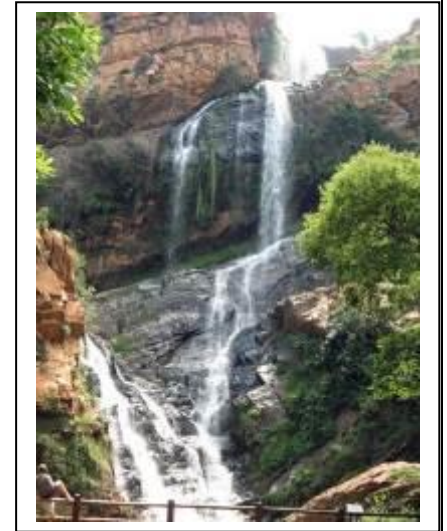




<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p>“Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.”</p> <p><b>Ban Ki-moon</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p>God who brought water out of the rock,          God who quenched the thirst of those dying in the wilderness,          God who in Jesus gave the living waters          so that those who taste them would never thirst,          God who in Jesus died on the Cross thirsty,          for there was none to quench his thirst,          listen to all those who truly confess their sin,          and grant us forgiveness so that we act responsibly in our use of water,          become sensitive to the desperate needs of those without water,          and gain wisdom in conserving and preserving water so that rivers roll out in justice          among all nations and all peoples.          Amen.</p>
<p><b>Monday</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>Read Isaiah 12:1-3</b></p> <p><b><i>Drink from the wells of salvation</i></b></p> <p>In this passage Isaiah is praising God because although God was angry with him, the Lord is still his strength and his song – providing and comforting him. Allowing Isaiah to joyfully drink from the fountain or well of salvation. How often do we do things that anger or upset God? Yet God still allows us to drink freely and joyfully from his wells of salvation. Although the water supply can dwindle in Cape Town – God’s wells of salvation will not run out. His life-giving water is freely available to anyone who wants it Think about all the times God has comforted and provided for you even when you have been disobedient to him. Write it down and thank God for all these times.</p> <p><b>Youth of St Luke’s, Diepriver</b>  <i>(Taken from Lenten Water Meditations – ACSAEN)</i></p>

<p><b>Tuesday</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p>“I, the fiery life of divine essence, am aflame beyond the beauty of the meadows. I gleam in the waters. I burn in the sun, moon, and stars. With every breeze, as with invisible life that contains everything, I awaken everything to life. I am the breeze that nurtures all things green. I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits. I am the rain coming from the dew that causes the grasses to laugh with the joy of life.”</p> <p><b>Hildegard of Bingen</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p>Be praised, My Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.</p> <p><b>St Francis of Assisi</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>John 13:1-17</b></p> <p><b>Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”</p> <p><sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”</p> <p><sup>8</sup> “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”</p> <p>Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”</p> <p><sup>9</sup> “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. <sup>13</sup> “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.</p> 

<p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>John 19: 32-37</b></p> <p><sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup> The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," <sup>37</sup> and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>Springs of Living Water</b></p> <p>I thirsted in the barren land of sin and shame  And nothing satisfying there I found  But to the blessed cross of Christ one day I came  Where springs of living water did abound</p> <p><i>Chorus:</i>  <i>Drinking at the springs of living water</i>  <i>Happy now am I, my soul is satisfied</i>  <i>Drinking at the springs of living water</i>  <i>O wonderful and bountiful supply</i></p> <p>How sweet the living water from the hills of God  It makes me glad and happy all the way  Now glory, grace and blessing mark the path I've trod  I'm shouting "Hallelujah" every day</p> <p>O sinner, won't you come today to Calvary  A fountain there is flowing deep and wide  The Saviour now invites you to the water free  Where thirsting spirits can be satisfied</p> <p><b>John Peterson</b></p>



❖ Much of the content of this month's Prayer Diary has been taken from *Lenten 2018 Water Meditations* and *Lent 2018 Water (In)Justice Liturgical Resource* published by ACSAEN. For copies of these Resources, visit [www.jaei.org.za](http://www.jaei.org.za)

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