



Water and us:



a right? a resource? a relationship?



Goal 6:

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

What promises does it contain?

What does it ask of us?

What does it ask of our communities, our local area authorities, Governments?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

..water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems....
In many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences.....
(Laudato Si 28)

Goal 6 promises
to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

As a doe longs for running streams ... my soul thirsts for God, the God of my life. Ps 42

How might we deepen our appreciation for the gift of water?

Take a moment to reflect on how water is integral to our sacramental way of life?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

..access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights.
Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water....
(Laudato Si 30)

Goal 6 promises
to achieve universal
and equitable access
to safe and affordable
drinking water for all



How safe is your drinking water?

If anyone gives so much as a cup
of cold water to one of these little
ones because they are a disciple, then
I tell you solemnly they will most
certainly not lose their reward.

Mt 10:42

Is it free and readily available?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

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

(Laudato Si 30)

Goal 6 promises
to achieve access to
adequate and equitable
sanitation and hygiene for
all and end open defecation,
paying special attention to
the needs of women and
girls and in those
vulnerable situations

If anyone is thirsty, let them come
to me. Let anyone come and drink
who believes in me. As Scripture says;
from his breast shall flow fountains
of living water.

Jn7:37

In what ways might we unconsciously waste or pollute water or reward its commercialisation by our daily choices?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities.... Detergents and chemical products... continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas.

(Laudato Si 29)

Goal 6 promises
to improve water quality
by reducing pollution,
eliminating dumping and
minimizing release of hazardous
chemicals and materials, halving the
proportion of untreated wastewater and
substantially increasing recycling
and safe reuse globally



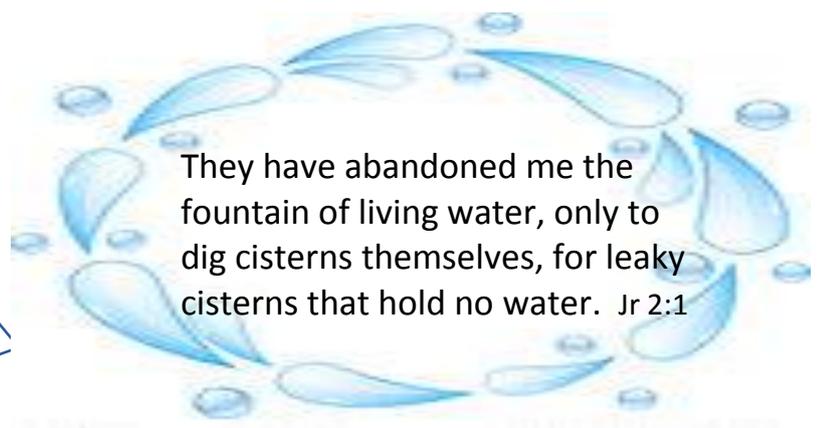
How are water shortages and pollution currently impacting humans and other species in your region of the world?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

Water continues to be wasted, not only in the developed world but also in developing countries, which possess it in abundance.... there is little awareness of the seriousness of such behaviour within a context of great inequality.

(Laudato Si 30)

Goal 6 promises
to substantially increase
water-use efficiency across
all sectors and ensure
sustainable withdrawals and
supply of freshwater to address
water scarcity and substantially
reduce the number of people
suffering from water
scarcity



What are the future prospects for universal access to clean, drinkable water in your reality?

LISTEN to POPE FRANCIS

Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency...to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. *(Laudato Si 3)*

Goal 6 promises to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Goal 6 promises to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

There was darkness over the deep and God's spirit hovered over the water

Gen 12:2

Come to the water all you who are thirsty.

Is 55:1



In what ways does water privatization and commercialisation impinge on access to fresh, drinkable water, especially the poor?

Goal 6 promises to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me. Let anyone come and drink who believes in me.

As Scripture says: from his breast shall flow fountains of living water

Jn7:37

What are the moral considerations of converting a resource that is a "basic and universal human right" into a commercial commodity with a price tag?

How could a deepened appreciation of water be expressed in our individual and communal lives?



As you considered the promises of SDG Goal 6, pondered the scripture passages, listened to the message of Pope Francis and reflected on the questions

What will you do next to ensure you avoid polluting and wasting water in your personal life, in the life of your community, your local area, your country?

How will you share this message with others?

Water Blessing:

May the ancient wisdom of this water well up within us and fill us with wisdom.

May its sacred mystery captivate our imagination and our whole being.

May its cleansing properties cleanse and renew us to be life giving for all of life.

May it's refreshing calm bring healing and peace to us and all who are living in painful situations.

May its energy and transparency inspire us and all humanity to live in harmony and peace. Amen

