



First Friday Reflection

Mar 2023



12 FIRST FRIDAY STEPS towards the LAUDATO SI GOALS



AWARENESS

The cry of the earth is also the cry of the **poor** since the poor themselves are the most vulnerable from the effects of the environmental crisis.

PRAYER

Lord, Father, when I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? (Ps 8:3-4). May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, give us a merciful heart towards the poor. Amen.

ACTION

Assure access to clean water for everybody; address issues of digital poverty ("the inability to interact with the online world fully, when where and how an individual needs to"); join movements or networks to address the root causes of poverty.

MARCH 2023

image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/sichuan-liangshan-yi-yi-butuo-1908312>

Australian Reflection

Australia is not exempt from the Cry of the Poor, and it's considered a wealthy nation. We experience digital poverty (mobile-only users, those over 75 years, people who didn't complete secondary school, public housing authority renters, or the lowest income quintile are being left behind; 14% of Australians would need to pay more than 10% of their household income to gain quality, reliable connectivity - [Digital Inclusion Index](#)). We experience water poverty and limited access to clean water in some areas of Australia (at least 627,736 people in 408 locations [40% remote Indigenous communities] didn't have adequate water - [Nature \(2022\)](#)). We experience homelessness (on census night 2016, 110,000 people were estimated to be homeless - [AIHW](#)). We experience poverty ([Vinnies](#) helps around 1.8 million Australians annually). Imagine what poorer countries and peoples experience!

Consider supporting charities that assist the poor, provide clean water initiatives, and improve digital literacy/reduce digital poverty in Australia and internationally. The support could be in many forms, including prayer, learning more about the issues and initiatives, raising awareness, or donating time or money. Some examples are listed here: [MSC Mission Office Australia](#) (Clean Water), [MSC Hope Academy](#) (PNG Digital Poverty), [Be Connected](#) (Senior Australian Digital Literacy), or [Vinnies](#) (poverty).