



First Friday Reflection

Mar 2024

12 FIRST FRIDAY STEPS

Awareness

Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use. The environmental repercussions could affect billions of people; it is also conceivable that the control of water by large multinational businesses may become a major source of conflict in this century. (LD, 31)

Prayer:

We pray to you, Lord, that the right to clean water will be fulfilled everywhere and that food systems will be transformed globally to organic and sustainable production. Amen.

Action:

Establishing rainwater reservoirs is one solution to increase the availability of clean water and also reduce the crisis on clean water availability.



Australian Reflection

Water is a gift of Creation needed to sustain life. As Catholics we use water as a key liturgical symbol in blessings and sacraments, such as Baptism, linking it back to Jesus and biblical traditions.

In Australia, First Nations peoples have long recognised the sacredness of water, practising sustainable water management and linking dreaming and community life around the natural water sources ([Indigenous Knowledge Institute](#)). Freshwater is scarce in Australia and yet needed to sustain communities with food production (three-quarters of Australian use), industry, environmental conservation, and household use ([DAFF](#)). Australia's freshwater supply is vulnerable to extreme weather events (such as floods, droughts and cyclones) and climate change, with reduced rainfalls and river flows, increased evaporation or algal/bacteria blooms from warmer air/water temperatures, increased salinity from sea level rise, and soil erosion leading to poor water quality or reduced water retention ([CSIRO](#), [Adapt NSW](#)).

At the International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family, the Australian delegates renewed our commitment to live simply and to use water efficiently. Consider taking shorter showers, fixing leaks quickly, or turning off taps when brushing teeth. What steps will you take?