

Water

North

Summer

Love

LITANY OF GRIEF

“The word ‘water’ is cited forty-seven times in Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’*. This demonstrates the great value and concern Pope Francis places on water as a sacred and essential part of life.” Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

<https://maryknollogc.org/article/laudato-si-and-water>

Background: Pope Francis identifies five key problems related to water:

1. The lack of access to clean drinking water “indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems” [28];
2. The challenges for food production due to droughts and disparities in water availability and “water poverty” [28];
3. The continued prevalence of water-related diseases afflicting the poor [29];
4. The contamination of groundwater [29];
5. The trend toward privatization and commodification of a resource to which the pope describes access to as a “basic and universal human right” [30].

This ritual is a meditative reflection on a growing global concern, outlined by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si’*, which is the lack of appreciation for water as sacred.

Begin with three minutes of contemplative silence and Acknowledgement of Country.

Litany: I grieve today for the pollution in our oceans.

I am part of earth, air, fire and water; and earth air fire and water are part of me; I lament any forgetfulness on my part.

I grieve today for the contamination of ground water.

I am part of earth, air, fire and water; and earth air fire and water are part of me; I lament any forgetfulness on my part.

I grieve today for those without fresh water.

I am part of earth, air, fire and water; and earth air fire and water are part of me; I lament any forgetfulness on my part.

I grieve today for underwater species affected by plastic in the oceans.

I am part of earth, air, fire and water; and earth air fire and water are part of me; I lament any forgetfulness on my part.

As with all death and dying we grieve the loss, the presence and the relationship. Today we grieve.