



Current Issues in Prayer

September 2026

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.**



Getting started:

I take a few quiet moments to surrender myself to Our Lord in prayer. Let me consider how easy it is for me to have access to clean water – in the comfort of my home.



Short story:

Kofi, a thirteen-year-old lad, lives among dry hills and dusty roads in a remote village in Mozambique. Daily, before sunrise, even though his legs ache and his back is often bruised, he is obliged to go to fetch water. Water is life, and for Kofi it comes at a great sacrifice. Kofi ties a yellow jerrycan with a rough cord to his back and sets off to the only source of water: a muddy pool that is about seven kilometres from home. The roads are difficult to travel and soon the sun beats down on him, draining his energy. Thorns lodge themselves in his clothing and often he is blinded by dust that gets into his eyes. Animals also drink at this water source. On getting there and after drinking some water himself, Kofi would gently dip the open jerrycan into the water to fill it up. He would be careful not to agitate the water so as not to bring up the sediments.



Once home, Kofi's mother would boil the turbid water three times before using it for consumption in the hope of sterilizing it, yet illness resulting from the use of this water was not infrequent. In fact, Kofi's younger sister had recently missed several weeks of school due to persistent tummy problems. Kofi himself would quite often feel dizzy because of dehydration.

The common well of the village had long since dried up and no one had come to fix it. Rain was scarce in those parts and when it did come, the locals would try to store up some of it in ramshackle ways.

Kofi dreams of his family having running water at home, and of the day when he can enjoy going to school without the fear of scarcity or illness. But for now, he can only accept his lot, as he silently tracks the path to the water source daily, to bring back on slender shoulders what is survival for his family.



Time to reflect:

What would it mean to me, were I to spend say, two hours daily, to procure water for my home? How do I respond to this actual situation in the world where untold millions have enormous difficulty to access water?



Let us pray:

Lord, help us to be grateful for the many comforts that surround us.



Inspiration:

Access to a secure, safe and sufficient source of fresh water is a fundamental requirement for the survival, well-being and socio-economic development of all humanity. Yet, we continue to act as if fresh water were a perpetually abundant resource. It is not.

Kofi Anan



Hands on:

I could give my share in the many initiatives that are taking place to drill wells for communities who suffer from lack of water.