



CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, we are privileged to simply turn on the tap or pull the flush without a second thought, but there are many communities that still lack proper water and sanitation facilities. Forgive our selfish and unthinking actions that have stripped forests, polluted wells and caused toxic waste to enter the water systems. You call all who are thirsty to come to you and drink from the fresh and living water that flows from your heart, yet many live in dry and thirsty lands, drink from polluted streams and struggle for access to safe drinking water. We thank you, for the gift of water and the water of Baptism. May we continue to serve you, provide cups of cold and refreshing water for the people and creation entrusted to our care. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Baptized in Water

Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit.
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water,
Sealed by the spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
One with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water,
sealed by the spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King:
born of one Father,
we are his children,
joyfully now God's praise we sing

MARCH
2022

B&C Reflection

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION



INTRODUCTION:

The United Nations (UN) aims to raise the awareness for people who are living without access to safe water and being put at risk of contracting cholera, dysentery, typhoid and polio through contaminated drinking water. The yearly celebration of 29 years on World Water Day is intended to focus on the importance of freshwater for the 2.2 billion people deprived of clean drinking water for basic and universal human right essential to human survival. The theme for 2022 highlights that groundwater is invisible but its impact is visible everywhere and although this precious resource is a hidden treasure, it enriches our lives. Groundwater may be out of sight but it must not be out of mind.



OPENING PRAYER

(A Prayer for Sister Water):

We praise and thank You, Lord, for the gift of living water. Guide us to use it wisely, learn from its humility, consume it sparingly, and protect its purity, so that with St. Francis, we may truly enjoy water. Amen.

OPENING HYMN:

Come to the Water

Chorus:

*Come to the water,
you who are thirsty,
Though you have nothing,
I bid you come.
And be filled with the goodness I
have to offer,
Come, Listen, Live.*

Why spend your money on what
cannot fill,
The emptiness deep in your heart?
Listen to my word and you will enjoy.
(Chorus)

Just as the heavens are high above
earth,
My ways and thoughts beyond you,
Call me your Father and I know I am
near,
I will be Father to you.
(Chorus)

Just as the rain falls to water the
earth,
Just as a seed becomes bread,
My word upon you can never return
Until My longing is filled.
(Chorus)

DIALOGUE

- Reporter:** Pope Francis wants to hear the struggles and pain experienced by the marginalised and those neglected through the synodal process and a country like Malaysia is taking part actively in the synodal process. As a leader of your community do you think your group is being left behind on the margins?
- Orang Asli:** We are the indigenous people of Peninsular Malaysia referred as Orang Asli. We are from Gua Musang, Kelantan, known as Bateq community, were terribly miserable two years ago with the death of 13 of our people. I am sharing this sad news with so much of pain, as another 50 more people were also affected with breathing difficulties, something said to be pneumonia.
- Reporter:** Do you know why this had happened?
- Orang Asli:** Yes of course. This unknown illness was related to unclean water which was later revealed to come from water pollution. We found out that our water source was contaminated by the logging activities in the vicinity. It is because these greedy developers did not follow the proper procedures in relation to the environment. There was no strict enforcement and deterrent measures taken to punish the offenders.
- Reporter:** What was the outcome of this incident after almost two years now?
- Orang Asli:** Our concerns were raised to the Kelantan Orang Asli Development Department (JAKOA). Day by day we wait anxiously for an answer from the government, NGOs and authorities, but nothing has happened. We worked endlessly with various groups, day and night to create change, and to have access for clean water for us.
- Reporter:** Pope Francis said that the Church needs to hear God speaking through those who are hurting and do you think the people involved in the consultation process have reached out to you through the synodal process?
- Orang Asli:** Yes. There was a group, the Secretariat of Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur who gave us 8 questions in Bahasa called Appendix E- Questions for Orang Asli's Participation in the Synod. We shared our grievances and struggles through this synodal process and are hoping to get answers to our woes. We attempted all the 8 questions and contributed actively to be part of this great journey.
- Reporter:** Well, that is good. I am glad that you are all participating in the synodal process for your voices to be heard and the right action can be taken to help all of you. My final question, what do you know about World Water Day and its significance to you and your community?
- Orang Asli:** **World Water Day** falls on 22 March every year and its purpose is to highlight the importance of water and also to raise the awareness about the water crisis that the world faces. We are also hoping for change through the responsiveness of people around me to make a difference, a difference that will impact our lives where clean water is made readily available to us to improve our standards of living.

DISCERNMENT

Isaiah 49:10

Source: Jerusalem Bible

They will never hunger or thirst, scorching wind and sun shall never plague them; for he who pities them will lead them and guide them to springs of water.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- READ the text above aloud and LISTEN with openness.
- READ it silently by yourself until a word or phrase touches or strikes you.
- ASK: What is the Holy Spirit saying to me in my heart through the word or phrase?

SHARE:

- SHARE in small groups (3- 4 persons) the word or phrase that touched you and what do you think the Lord is saying to you personally.

DEEDS:

This month, let us examine our conscious on ways, we use water and ways we can prevent wastage. Let us together as a BEC try one of the following activities:

- Watch a Water Documentary with BEC members & children
- Create a Water Diary
- Organise a water campaign at BECCOT level
- Host a Clean Water Talk Show Activity online