

**MAKE
EVERY
DROP COUNT**
Religious Education
Resource for
**POST PRIMARY
SCHOOLS**

Enestina,
9 years old, Malawi

WATER CAN CHANGE HER FUTURE

WELCOME

Welcome to this Religious Education post primary resource focusing on the impact of the global water crisis. The aim of this pamphlet is to provide you, the teacher with an overview of the central issues relating to this theme. It provides suggestions for lesson starters and taster activities for use in the classroom. Go online now to trocaire.org/education for curricular links, more activities, interactive tools and further detailed information about our country of focus, Malawi. Discover an exciting wealth of classroom based materials on 'Water'.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- recognise how precious water is in their lives
- identify the effects of water scarcity on people living in the Global South
- assess the impact of their actions on the earth's resources so that they can make better informed decisions

Get Started!

Water is one of the earth's most precious resources. In Ireland we have instant access to a supply of safe drinkable water and therefore we often take it for granted. Before exploring the topic of water shortage in the Global South why not quiz your students on their existing knowledge of water:

- How much water does the human body need to survive?
- How many days can we live without water?
- How many glasses of water is it recommended we should drink each day to be healthy?

Go online and complete the water quiz at trocaire.org/education.

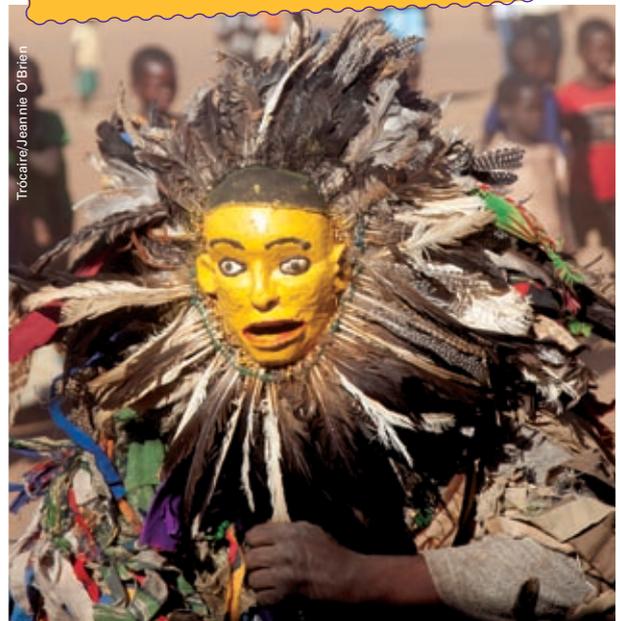
Connect and Learn Online

Go to www.trocaire.org/education to discover a range of exciting online resources exploring the impact of water in the Global South.

- Take part in our online water quiz
- Bring the topic to life for your students by downloading our classroom PowerPoint
- Download classroom resources and a prayer service entitled 'Living Water'
- Use our videos and animation to facilitate lively classroom debate
- Watch our video clip of students in Malawi asking questions of your students about life in Ireland. Can your class answer their questions?

NEW THIS YEAR

Download our eBook to classroom tablets and allow your students to explore the topic further!



Trocaire/Jeanne O'Brien

Gule Wamkule (pronounced "Goolay Wumkooloo") means "Great Dance" in Chicheŵa, the national language of Malawi. It is an important tradition of the Chewa people of Malawi. There are many different Gule Wamkule characters. Each is represented by its own unique mask and has its own message. These messages are expressed through dance and teach people how to live in a way that will benefit the community as a whole





Why focus on water?

Water scarcity is a major and fundamental human rights issue. Faith compels the Christian community to work in solidarity with brothers and sisters living in poverty; to improve their lives and ensure their basic rights are being upheld. Yet in today's world, 1.1 billion people do not have access to enough clean water. People need water to drink, grow food, farm livestock, cook food and for health and sanitation. Yet around the world people do not have access to clean water in adequate supply. Lives can be transformed through access to a nearby clean water source. Women and girls can reclaim hours a day otherwise spent fetching water. This gives them more time to gain an education and to grow food. People's health will dramatically improve. They are no longer exposed to water-borne disease. Farmers can produce more food because the supply and quality of water for irrigation is better. Families with more food can increase their income. This gives families greater security. Access to even the minimal amount of clean water has the ability to improve and radically change lives. Today people in Ireland consume about 150 litres of water. This amount of water (roughly about two filled bathtubs) is huge when compared to the average person in Malawi who consumes approximately 20 litres of water a day. This is a small amount when you consider we waste 13 litres of water every time we flush our toilet. Christians need to act and uphold this basic human right, "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." (Matthew 10:42)



Enestina,
Aged 9, Malawi

Key Words

Borehole:

A vertical pipe bored into the ground that can be used as a water well to extract water.

Water secure:

A position where every person has enough safe, affordable water to lead a clean, healthy and productive life.

Water stressed conditions:

Occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use.

Dry season:

A dry season is an annual period of low or no rainfall. In Malawi, the dry season is April-October.

Hunger period or "hungry months":

This is a period, usually during the dry season when people do not have enough food to eat as a result of poor harvest from low rainfall and are dependent on food aid to survive.

"Madzi":

"Water" in Chicheŵa. Along with English, it is an official language of Malawi.



Apply

Ask your students to imagine that their journey to and from school (let alone their kitchen tap) took four hours. What impact would this have on their day-to-day lives?

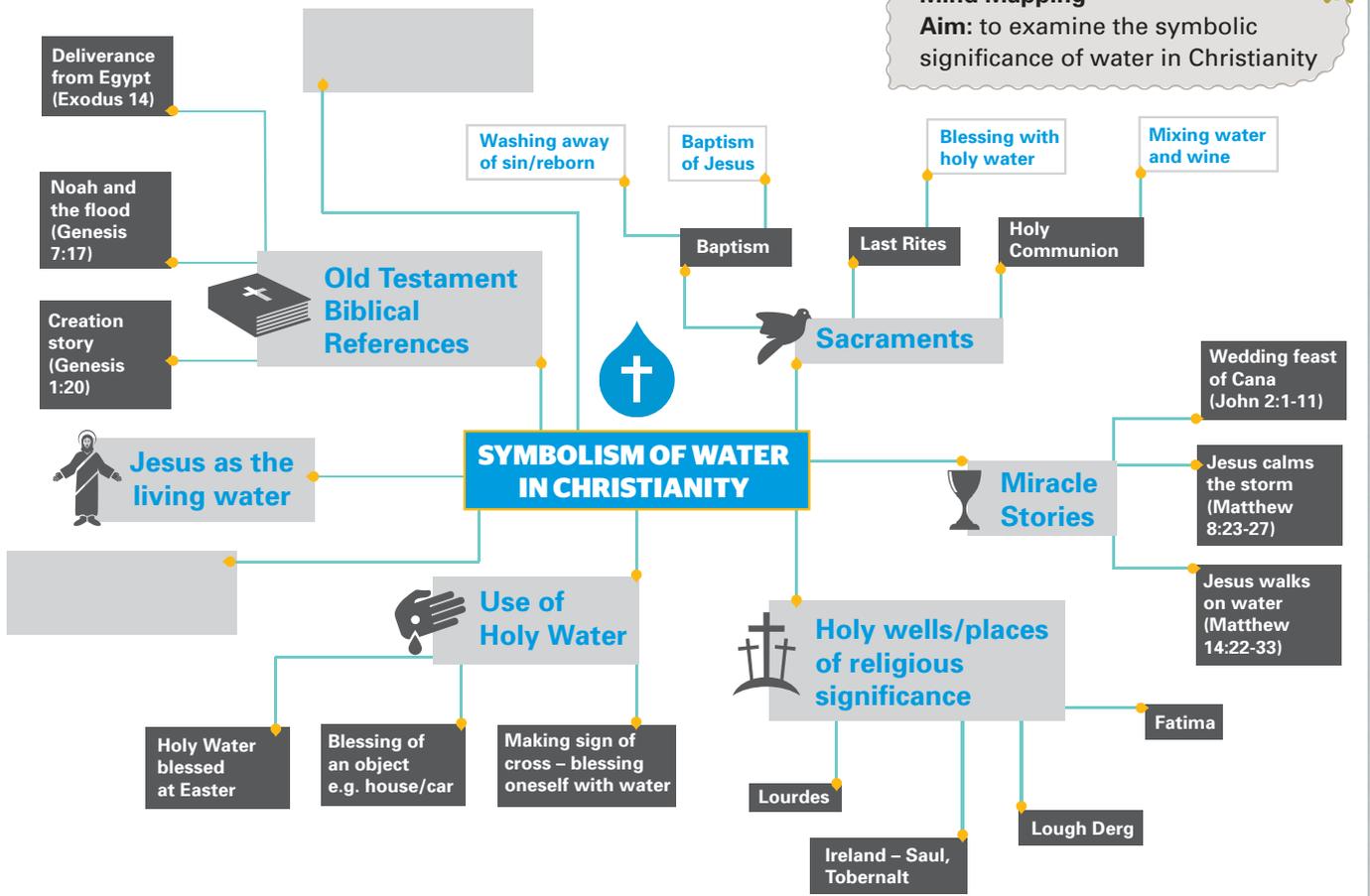
Significance of Water in Christianity

Water has a lot of significance for the Catholic Church. It cleanses and washes away impurities. When used at baptism it symbolises the washing away of original sin. Water fills everything it enters just as God fills those who are immersed in Him. It is an essential building block of life. Just as we need water to survive physically, we need God to survive spiritually, "Jesus said, '...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'" (John 4:14)

Try This

Mind Mapping

Aim: to examine the symbolic significance of water in Christianity



Water in Christianity Mind Map

The 'Water in Christianity Mind Map' provided above provides a starting point for your class to further explore the significance of water in Christianity. There are several ways you may wish to use this as a teaching aid:

- As a class, complete the remaining branches of the mind map on your smartboard or you could recreate it on your blackboard. Alternatively you could photocopy it as a template and get the class to produce their own mind map as a wall display for their classroom or school foyer.
- Divide students into groups and allocate a particular branch of the map to each group. Instruct them to expand upon the detail already provided in their branch i.e. 'Holy Wells' by researching the topic further. They could then present their findings to the rest of the class group.

Try This

A River of Grace

Aim: to reflect on the importance of water in our lives and give thanks for water as part of God's gift of creation.

Explain that we often take water for granted. We fail to acknowledge how essential it is in life. Why not create a display, a 'river of grace', that will serve as a sacred space during the Lenten period. Encourage students to contribute to the display. This could include: images of water usage, key facts, pledges your students make to live more sustainably, magazine clippings and scripture. Student's contributions will illustrate the tremendous properties of the God given gift of water. The collage will act as a physical prayer of thanksgiving over the Lenten period.





A Community in Dedza, Central Malawi

About 230 families live in this community. They keenly feel the lack of access to a reliable water source for drinking, household use or irrigation. People take their water from the nearby Kamboni River. Women and girls are responsible for collecting water. They do so up to six times a day. They each carry 15-20 litres at a time on their head. It is a 1 kilometre return trip. There is usually a queue to get water from the riverbed. People wait and take turns, sometimes for up to two hours. The water is dirty. It is used by animals and causes health problems including dysentery, diarrhoea and scabies.

The dry season begins in April when the river dries up. At this time, the entire community of over 1,000 people rely on one patch of the river to get water. The waiting time for water is then incredibly long and the queue of people span down the entire riverbank. People have to dig and scramble at the riverbed to find moisture. Farmers rely on the river to water their crops. They do not have an irrigation system. They have to water their crops by hand and can only produce one harvest a year. The success of the harvest depends on the amount of rainfall.



Trócaire/Jeanmie O'Brien

Women at the river. Dedza, Malawi

Try This

Think, Pair, Share: Access to Water.

Aim: to identify why there is not equal access to clean water in the world

Ask a big question, such as "Why do you think there is not equal access to clean water in the world?" Students have two minutes to think of answers for themselves, then two minutes to share their answers with a partner, then they feedback their ideas to the class.



Let anyone who is thirsty come to me! Let anyone who believes in me come and drink! As scripture says, From his heart shall flow streams of living water. (John 7:37b-38)



Apply

Ask your students to imagine they are Eliyeta and Enestina. What do they think mother and daughter could do with the four free hours they would have available if they didn't need to collect water?

What is Trócaire doing?

Trócaire is working to address the global water crisis by:

- Supporting poor farmers who are dependent on rain-fed agriculture to irrigate their crops
- Bringing water supplies closer to homes
- Building the ability of communities to put pressure on local governments so that they can demand supply and maintenance of clean, viable water resources
- Advocating on global responsibilities around climate justice and the rights of vulnerable communities for support and protection

Meet the Muyeye Family

This is the Muyeye family from Malawi. There are four children in the family ranging in age from two to 11 years old (one of the boys is absent from the

photo as he was in school at the time). Steven, the father, is a farmer who owns half an acre of land. It doesn't benefit from an irrigation system. The entire family endure an annual 'hunger period' of about five months. During these hungry months the family often have only one meal per day. This is because they are unable to grow enough food for the year. The family lives about a ten minute walk from the river. The mother, Eliyeta, fetches water up to four times a day. She starts at around 5am and carries a 15 litre bucket (imagine 15 cartons of Irish milk!) each time. Their nine year old daughter, Enestina fetches water twice a day. She also carries a 15 litre bucket on each journey. They can spend up to four hours daily fetching water and even longer in the dry season. This water inevitably makes them sick because it is contaminated.



Trócaire/Jeanmie O'Brien

Muyeye Family, Malawi

THINK



The Ripple Effect

Aim: to recognise the impact of water shortages globally and to examine how our actions can make a difference

Read out a statement. Your students have to stand on the continuum from 'agree' to disagree'. Have students explain why they positioned themselves at a specific point on the continuum.

Examples:

- Everyone should have the right to have access to clean water worldwide
- It is a Christian responsibility to share our resources and speak out against injustice towards the most vulnerable

Then go online to trocaire.org/education and download the case studies of Chikondi and Mercy.

Trócaire has been working with communities in Malawi and Ethiopia to drill boreholes (wells) and build latrines (toilets). People have been given water butts to collect rainwater, and shown ways to keep healthy and increase the amount of food they grow. Ask the group to share ways in which they think Chikondi's and Mercy's lives would be changed if they had water and sanitation nearby.



“ **Let justice flow like a river, and uprightness like a never-failing stream!** ”
(Amos 5:24)

Make Every Drop Count! Take Action

Trócaire gets to the root causes of water scarcity. But to do this, we need your help. Change starts with you. This Lent we are looking for you to be the change you want to see in the world. You can do this by taking a pledge to live more sustainably. Water consumption is just one of many ways through which you can choose to live more sustainably. You can take action now by addressing your water consumption, or choose from one of 11 other ways you can live more sustainably at trocaire.org/uptous.

Please fill out the enclosed droplet, including how many of your class have pledged to take action. Send this to the Development Education team in Trócaire. We will include your class's support as part of the overall pledge total from the Irish public. Remember change starts with you. By making every drop count you make the difference towards a more just world.



“ **Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment... To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope.** ”

Pope Francis, Saint Peter's Square, 19 March 2013





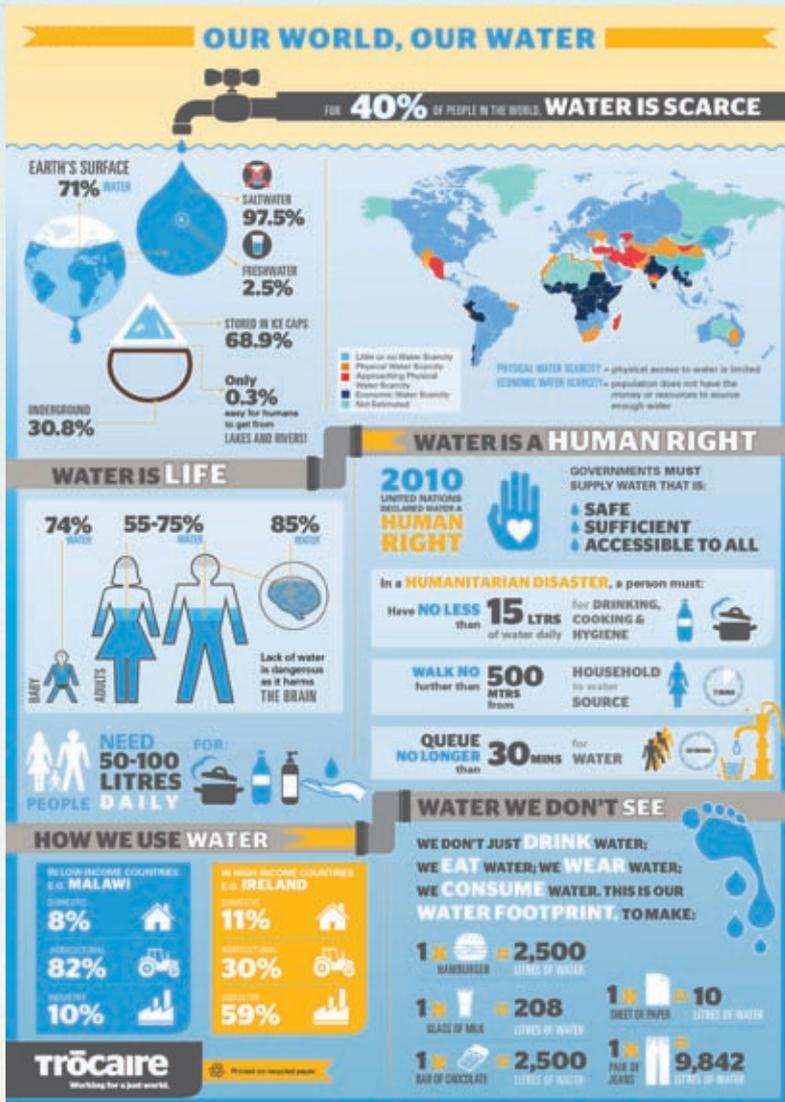
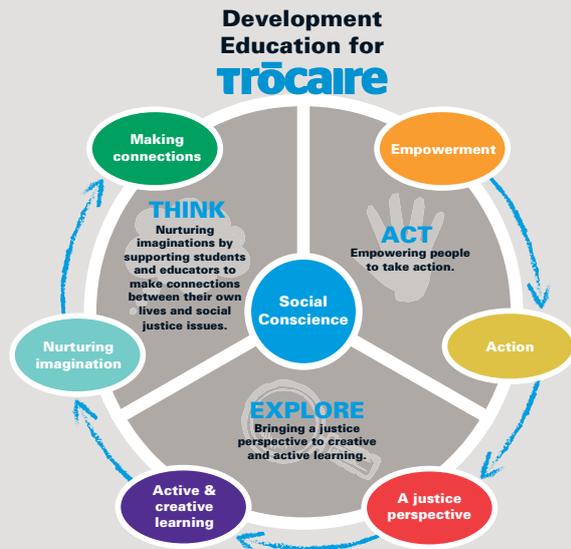
Development Education

This Development Education resource encourages you to:

EXPLORE: Water as a justice issue through active and creative learning

THINK: Nurture imaginations by supporting students to make connections between water in their own lives and water globally

ACT: Empower your students to take action to live sustainably



Take Action using this enclosed postcard!

Trócaire would like to say a special Thank You to Enestina, her family and her community in Dedza, central Malawi for working with us for Lent 2014.

Use this infographic to think about our human relationship with water

ACT

trócaire

Working for a just world.



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trocaire.org/education

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**Trócaire is the overseas
development agency of the
Catholic Church in Ireland.**

