



# CAN YOU HELP PROVIDE THE REAL GIFT OF WATER FOR A VILLAGE?

It was a real honour to visit the beautiful country of Ethiopia and to see and learn from project participants how their lives had been transformed with the help of SCIAF supporters.

I was in a remote village in the Tigray region - a region with stunning views and kind and hospitable people. Sadly, also a country suffering the impacts of climate change.

Families shared their concerns over their children spending 4-6 hours each day searching for water and their inability as farmers to water their crops.

Families then shared how their lives had been transformed with the installation of a water point in their village. Access to clean water to drink, cook with, and to clean with was now available. I could see areas of green in the distance as farmers pointed to their crops. Able now to water their crops, they produced food to eat and to sell, and their children now went to school as they didn't need to spend hours each day searching for water.

The whole village had worked hard to get to this point and their lives were truly transformed because of something I had long taken for granted... water.



**Mark Booker,**  
Senior Development Education Officer

## WHAT A PRIVILEGE IT IS TO BE ABLE TO PLAY A PART IN PROVIDING WATER FOR A VILLAGE.

If you decide as a Parish to respond to the global water crisis and help provide Water for a Village, you may find the following activities and prayers helpful.



# WATER IS LIFE SCRIPTURE

It is no accident that Jesus uses an analogy of water – and how precious and life-giving it is – to help us understand the 'Living Water' that he offered the Samaritan woman in the Gospel of St John chapter 4, and that He offers to all of us.

Take time to read and think about John 4:5-41 and consider the physical and spiritual thirst of the Samaritan woman. Consider Jesus' approach, showing dignity and compassion. What can we learn from Jesus?

Facts about water – include a couple of the following facts each week in your Parish bulletin as a reminder of why you are fundraising for the Real Gift of Water for a Village.

- 1 in 10 people around the world don't have access to clean drinking water - that's around 785 million people
- 31% of schools around the world don't have access to clean water
- 1 million people die every year from diarrhoea because of unsafe drinking water - around 297,000 are under 5 years old
- In the UK, even the water used to flush our toilets has been treated to the same level as our tap water
- It is estimated that by 2025, half of the world's population will be living in an area where water is scarce
- 4.5 billion people globally don't have a toilet in their home; 2 billion don't even share a toilet within their community
- Scientists estimate that the energy required to produce bottled water is roughly 2,000 times the energy required to produce tap water
- Women and children around the world spend over 200 million hours collecting water every day

## PRAYERS

*Copy and paste the following prayers for your weekly bulletin and/or use them during Mass.*

**Loving God, we thank you and praise you for the precious gift of water.  
Throughout Scripture, we see the power and destructive nature of water in floods and storms,  
but we also see the life-giving, gentle and cleansing nature of water too.  
As you refreshed the Samaritan woman with Living Water, bring refreshment and healing to the  
millions of people who suffer with little or no clean water.  
Help us as your Church to use water wisely and to be better stewards of your creation.  
Amen**

**Creator God, help us to appreciate the gift of water. Remind us how precious it is as we drink it,  
wash with it, use it to water crops and more. Lord hear us...**

**We pray for people living without access to clean water and for those that travel long distances  
to find it. Bless SCIAF's work in this area of need. Lord hear us...**

**For those who have suffered illness because of unclean water, bring healing. Lord hear us...**

**We pray, as a Catholic community, that we will take care of your creation and respond to the  
needs of others. Lord hear us...**

## BE DRAMATIC!

Use the short drama in this document to inform Parishioners of the water crisis in a visual and engaging way.

**For all questions regarding Real Gifts**

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