



*How clearly the sky reveals God's glory!
How plainly it shows what he has done!*

Psalm 19, v1



From 1 September to 4 October (which is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi), the Church worldwide is celebrating the

Season of Creation – a time to thank God for the wonderful world He has given us and to think about how well we are caring for it.

This year's theme is Immersion in Living Water, inspired by the prophet Ezekiel's beautiful vision of a river flowing from God's sanctuary which [you can read here](#).

You'll notice that wherever the water flows, life flourishes. It reminds us that God is the source of life and that water is one of His most precious gifts.

Catholic Social Teaching tells us that caring for creation is part of caring for one another. The water we drink, the food we grow and the health of our rivers and seas connect us to people and communities across the world. Pope Francis called us to an "ecological conversion": to see our common home differently and allow that understanding to change how we live.

That can sound like a big challenge! But change often begins with something very small. Turning off a tap. Picking up litter beside a stream. Noticing the beauty of a raindrop. Thanking God for a glass of clean water. You might like to try out the ideas on the next page to explore God's gift of water and His love for us.



Dear Jesus, Thank you for the gift of water and for the life it brings. Help us to care for our rivers and seas, our plants, animals and one another. Teach us never to take your gifts for granted and show us the little things we can do to care for our common home. May your living water bring hope, healing and new life to our world. **Amen.**

Lord, be with us at the start of this new term and help us be a blessing to everyone around us!

Ch Blanch

Mrs Charlotte Blanch, CEO, Little Way Catholic Educational Trust



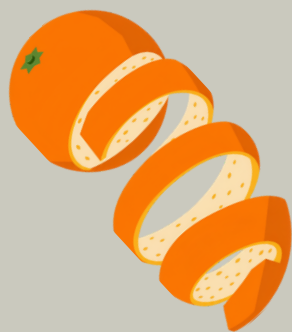


Go on a 'Living Water' nature walk

Ezekiel's vision describes a river that brings life wherever it flows. Turn an ordinary family walk into a reflection on how water sustains your local community.

Look for where water hides or flows in nature. Spot dew on leaves, puddles, or a nearby stream, and talk about how plants and animals use it to drink and grow.

Take a moment to pause by a water source or tree and say a quick prayer together: *'Thank you, God, for the gift of water that keeps your creation alive. Help us protect it.'*



The 'Hope Floats' Faith Experiment

Place an unpeeled orange in a bowl of water; notice how it floats. Peel the orange and place it back in—it will sink!

Discuss how the outer peel represents our covering of faith. When we trust God, He helps us float through hard situations, but when we let doubt take over, we sink like Peter on the waves ([Matthew 14: 29](#))

Take the Water Stewardship challenge

Pope Francis reminds us that changing our daily habits is a profound act of love for our global neighbours.

Host a family meeting to audit your home water use. For a week, challenge your children to turn off the tap while brushing their teeth, time their showers, or help wash vegetables in a basin rather than under a running tap (then use that basin of water to water the garden plants!). Every time someone turns on a water tap throughout the day, they must whisper a quick prayer: *'Thank you, God, for the gift of clean water.'*

Discuss how clean, easily accessible water is a beautiful blessing. Talk about the long distances that some families around the world have to walk to find safe water.

