

AND ON THE THIRD DAY....

...God created the land and the sea. We have had use of this water for thousands of years. Recently we have had a lot of publicity in this country about the poor quality and availability of our water. This has concerned many people, especially those that like to swim in open water.

Water quality has improved over the last 100 years. My granddaughters take part in biathlon competitions (swimming and running). This year they have swum in Salford Quays and London Docklands. This would have been impossible when I was a child. Water companies should be made to ensure they do not pollute our inland and coastal water. We must continue moving in the right direction to improve our water quality.

Water is essential to life. No planet will be of any use to us unless it contains water. No one on Earth should be deprived of water.

The New Testament refers more to the water of life. In St John's Gospel we are told *"Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."* Water is the symbol of this at Baptism. We can drink more of this water of life by strengthening our faith. Jesus tried to explain this to the Samaritan woman at the well in St John's Gospel. She misunderstood his meaning, saying, *"Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."*

We are also lucky to have clean running water available in our homes. Recently parts of Sussex were without water for 3 days after a burst water pipe. Other people throughout the world are not as lucky. All should have access to clean running water and non-polluted coastal waters for fishing and bathing. The foreign aid budget should be used to fund projects like this. St Matthew says, *"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."*

Our water is continuously being refreshed by rainfall. Climate change is making some areas suffer from lack of water due to decreasing amounts. We all need to do more to protect this valuable resource. We should conserve our use of water as much as possible. Simple things like using our waste water to water the garden or saving our washing until we have a full load all help to preserve our valuable resource.