

# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

'I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."'

(Psalm 116:10)

## Newsletter Insert

Travelling so far for water each day affects other parts of the lives of Malita and her children, Margaret, Patrick and Patricia. Carrying 20 litres of water leaves the children tired and some days they are not able to go to school. Farming is an important part of how the family support themselves, but a lack of water makes farming difficult. Trócaire and our partners in Malawi are working to create solutions to the water shortages, such as digging bore holes close to villages. To learn more, go to: <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/>



'Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity.'

(*Laudato Si'*, 28)



Malita on her farm.

Photo credit: Muiru Mbuthia, Trócaire

## Sacred Space

Add some plants to your sacred space this week. These will help us to reflect on Malita and the importance of her family farm, and remind us to give thanks for the food we can grow at home.



## Prayer of the Faithful

- 1) Loving Father, we pray that individuals, communities and policymakers can work together to build a just world where all people have access to their basic needs, such as food, water and education.
- 2) Loving Father, we pray for those parts of the world where war, conflict and climate change make access to safe, clean water difficult. Give us the courage and strength to stand up against injustice wherever we see it.



## Music

'Come to the Water' by John B. Foley SJ

'Eye Has Not Seen' by Marty Haugen

'Come Back to Me' by Ian Callanan



## This Week

Check your home or parish for water leaks and dripping taps.



# GOSPEL REFLECTIONS BY FR PAUL THORNTON

## Mark 9:2-10

At the end of July there is the annual pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick. The struggle up the bare mountain with shale collapsing under your feet is worth it on a clear day when you arrive at the summit, and you can see all 365 islands in Clew Bay. It is a moment to be quiet and to savour all that is beautiful. When we begin to become aware of the beauty we have experienced, our sense of the sacred in nature grows deeper. As we grow in this spiritual awakening, we also see the great wound that has been caused to our beautiful earth.

How much greater must the experience have been for Peter, James and John when after their climb up the mountain with him, Jesus is transfigured before them. His clothes and his face become dazzling white, and the voice of the Father is heard. The natural reaction is to want to hold onto this moment forever, to set up the three tents, for this is holy ground. To have that connection with this place and this event will mean so much to these and the other disciples when they face the events of Holy Week in Jerusalem.

Malawi's natural environment is becoming more unpredictable and unstable. Families like Malita's, pictured on our Trócaire box, live with the uncertainty of what the weather will bring; yet they don't give up. They continue to rebuild, replant and use the skills that are being provided by Trócaire and its partners.

Pope Francis reminds us that our ecological awareness depends on our ability to see the interconnectedness of the people and communities of the world with the planet itself. The more we lose this awareness the less chance there is of finding the holy ground on which the transfiguration takes place. We have to open again the book of nature alongside the scriptures so that we will be engaged in what Archbishop Dermot Farrell calls 'a quest for insight, inspiration and strength so as to live in a new way on this earth, our common home'.\* How might you reconnect with nature this Lent? You could look up Trócaire's family resource to help you to reconnect with nature. Read more about Malita's story and find homily notes at: <https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/>

\*Archbishop Dermot Farrell, *The Cry of the Earth – The Cry of the Poor*, Dublin: Veritas, 2021, p. 9.

## Take Action Day of Celebration – World Water Day

World Water Day occurs every year on 22 March. In 2024 this falls on a Friday just before the Easter break. Use this day to celebrate all things water in your parish. The following are just some suggestions for integrating water issues into your parish for the day. We would encourage you to join with your local school, youth club and community groups for these activities.

- A Pledge Waterfall: Create a waterfall of pledges in a public area. Each water droplet coming down the waterfall can be an individual pledge.
- Organise a river or beach ritual using this Trócaire resource: <https://www.trocaire.org/documents/trocaire-river-ritual-season-of-creation/>

- Do a water liturgy review. How many times during our Catholic celebrations do we use water? One example is during baptism; can you find more, especially as we enter Holy Week?
- Join the Trócaire volunteer programme: <https://www.trocaire.org/join-us/volunteer/>
- Fundraise for Trócaire: <https://www.trocaire.org/ways-to-help/fundraise/community-fundraising/>



Patrick uses the water pump at Puteya Primary School.  
Photo credit: Muiru Mbuthia, Trócaire