

# Laudato Si' Excerpt Activity

| Year 7 & 8



“Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term.... 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.

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality. Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities, especially in countries lacking adequate regulation or controls. It is not only a question of industrial waste. Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas.”

- Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n.28-29

Read the excerpt (left) from Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'.  
Underline any terms you do not understand.  
Find the definitions of these words and write them here.

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Write down FIVE key messages from the excerpt.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Re-write the excerpt in YOUTH FRIENDLY language incorporating the five key messages you selected above. Think about the type of language you would use to emphasise the importance of the message of climate change to youth your age.