

WATER AND OCEAN REFLECTION SERIES

FROM MARCH 22ND-JUNE 9TH

MERCY GLOBAL ACTION AT THE UN
WWW.MERCYWORLD.ORG



This year the United Nations, New York, will host **'The Ocean Conference'** from the **5th to the 9th June 2017**. The focus will be the **implementation and achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.**

Our planet is primarily a water planet and water is what sustains life on Earth. At least 71% of the Earth is covered in water, and of that 96.5% of all water is held in the oceans. In order, for humanity to be healthy, we need our planet to be healthy and this means the nations of the world need to seriously consider the current state of our oceans and begin urgent action to improve them.

Mercy Global Action at the UN has developed a **12-week reflective resource** to highlight the issues surrounding our planet's seas and oceans. This includes all the fresh and saltwater waterways our planet holds. This 12-week reflection **begins on UN World Water Day (22nd March) and ends on UN World Ocean Day (8th June).**

Each week's reflection will include:

1. Excerpts from **Pope Francis** (primarily using the encyclical **Laudato Si**)
2. A **video clip** that you can watch (just hover your cursor and click the link to watch)
3. An opportunity of **action** and **prayer reflection**

The series primarily involves **walking and reflecting in the same area**. It requires walking along a water source; this can include a **drain, stream, river, estuary or beach**. During that time, you are invited to **notice and pick up any rubbish you find on your journey**. There are opportunities throughout the series to further investigate the impact on this water source. As a way of deepening your reflection, you are invited to record creatively through **photography, drawing, poetry, a short story or journal entry**.

May these 12 weeks be a time of rich discovery, for you a 'planetary pilgrim' on your journey with water and ocean.



"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, #14

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MUCH OF THIS RESOURCE IS BASED ON THE ENCYCLICAL 'LAUDATO SI' WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT:
[HTTP://W2.VATICAN.VA/CONTENT/FRANCESCO/EN/ENCYCLICALS/DOCUMENTS/PAPA-FRANCESCO_20150524_ENCICLICA-LAUDATO-SI.HTML](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)