

National Holy Wells Day Ritual

Introduction

As you stand beside this Holy Well we invite you to take a moment to become fully present to where you are. Become aware of the energy of prayer that is in this Holy Place because many have prayed here before you. Notice your surroundings: stones, water, trees, grass, birds, insects, sunlight and shadow, sounds, wind, sky, clouds. Allow yourself to share in the peace of this beautiful place. As Pope Francis says; *'The universe speaks of God's love, God's boundless affection for us. Everything is a caress of God'*.

[Gentle music may be played]

Ritual

- Stand still and breathe gently, listening to the sound of your breath.

Give thanks to God for the gift of life that is your breath.

Now notice your body and feel the ground under your feet.

Give thanks to the earth for supporting you.

Hold the stillness for a moment and allow it to hold you.

Now take a handful of the water from this Holy Well (if it is safe to do so) and hold it in your cupped hands. Be aware of its life-giving qualities. Let the water trickle through your fingers like rain falling onto the earth.

Prayer

God, we thank you for the gift of water in its many forms. Let the rain fall on all areas of the planet suffering from drought. Comfort your parched dry land and your suffering people, plants and animals and give them the fresh water they so desperately need.

Response

Lord, renew the face of the earth.

- Walk around the well as if circling the world with your prayer. Think of the oceans and seas and how they are being polluted by plastic and toxic waste. Reflect on how you contribute to this problem by how you live, since plastic is part of everyone's life today.

Prayer

God of creation, we ask your forgiveness for the ways we pollute your oceans and seas. Help us to find ways to stop this poisoning and destruction of your creation. Bring healing to your seas and restore the beauty of the coral reefs.

Response

Lord, renew the face of the earth.

- Fresh drinking water is vital for the survival of all living things. Take some time to reflect on families, livestock, vegetation, where this need is denied.

Prayer

God of all creation, you have freely given water to sustain the lives of all the living things that you have made. Please help us to ensure that no living thing is denied access to fresh drinking water.

We pray that corporate interests may be prevented from marketing the water which is your free gift for all.

Response

Lord, renew the face of the earth

- Global warming is bringing flooding to many regions of the world. In Ireland also we have endured disastrous flooding over the past few years. Homes are being destroyed, farmers are put at risk, and coastal erosion is increasing.

Prayer

God of all creation, help us to combat global warming. Calm your rivers and seas that they might rest in their boundaries and not flood our land again. Protect the peoples of impoverished lands who suffer the most in this way.

Response

Lord, renew the face of the earth

Conclusion

Prayer for the Protection of Water

*O God of All Creation
Teach us how to protect Water
On which all living things depend,
plants, animals, fish, birds, humans.
Help us to ensure that Water may always flow
feely and purely for all of your Creation.
May Your Spirit soften our hearts and enlighten us
So that we may act responsibly to protect Water,
The vital source of life
in Our Common Home.*

[You might have a little picnic at this point, and chat with others about what action you can take to protect and conserve water and ensure its fair distribution].