



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water

EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

Living Water Flows **Contemplative Display** **Activity Guide**

Ezekiel 47:1-12.





“Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. [...] Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

(Ezekiel 47:9,12)



Water represents the Holy Spirit's ability to refresh us, quench our spiritual thirst, cleanse us, and bring forth life wherever He flows. He is the rain of Heaven, and He is the living river that flows from within. Water can be symbolic for the Holy Spirit.



Living Water Session for teens/ adults.

A tactile way to bridge the gap between environmental stewardship and spiritual reflection.

The flow for a **session** that balances the "doing" with the "being."

Prior to the session

The youth/ participants would have had an **outdoor experience**.

Eg. A Beach clean-up, a mangrove clean-up.

Since this would be a separate day, they might even be given a few questions to reflect on post the session so that they have their thoughts in place at the indoor session

They could also be instructed to bring back one small found object (plastic piece or wrapper) from the clean up experience.

Note : In the case of a group that is meeting as a Care for Creation Cell, they fall back on an experience they have had at a similar clean up



Session Flow:

- 1. Circle of experience**
- 2. The Prayer Craft**
- 3. The Closing Ritual**



1.Circle of experience:

After we have gathered, and the animator leading the session introduces the theme – Living water, we break up into smaller groups.

Questions to reflect on:

How did it feel to see the water body thrashed?

What were your thoughts about doing what you were doing.Did you feel you were actually making a difference?

Did you reflect on a time when you may have actually contributed to the problem?

What was the hardest part to pick up?

The Spiritual Bridge: Discuss how our hearts are like this river. Thoughts or actions can "clutter" our spirit, and how we have a responsibility to keep the "Living Water" in ourselves and the world flowing.

Music suggestions for session:

Taizé song "(Lord, You Are Living Source),
Spirit of God



2. The Prayer Craft

We have two suggestions:

1. Symbolic Poster Display
2. Baptismal Font Exhibit

The Living Water flowing

People of all ages, including children/ youth, can be provided with art materials to create their own interpretation of “Immersion in Living Water” to be placed at the foot of the baptismal font.



3. The Closing Ritual

Stick the "River Whispers" (papers with prayers)
on the **Symbolic Poster Display**

OR

Add the tea light jars with the "River Whispers" (prayer tied to the jar)
to the **Baptismal Font Exhibit**

OR

Place the "River Whispers" (coloured stones) around the Bank of the
plants **Baptismal Font Exhibit**

End with a moment of silence or a song about flowing water.

Eg. Peace is flowing like a river. Or Spirit of God

Once the display is set up in the third week of September, **invite the community** to add on their river whispers (prayers and/or intentions – either on paper to the poster or on stones / into the jars for the exhibit) and potted plants or soft toys representing biodiversity in the next two weeks.



Symbolic Poster Display

(In parishes that may not be able use the Baptismal font)



What will be displayed?

The Display: **Symbolic Poster Display** could be displayed in a designated area in church or a church notice board as per permissions acquired.

The **Explanation Poster**, explaining the display.



Symbolic Poster Display

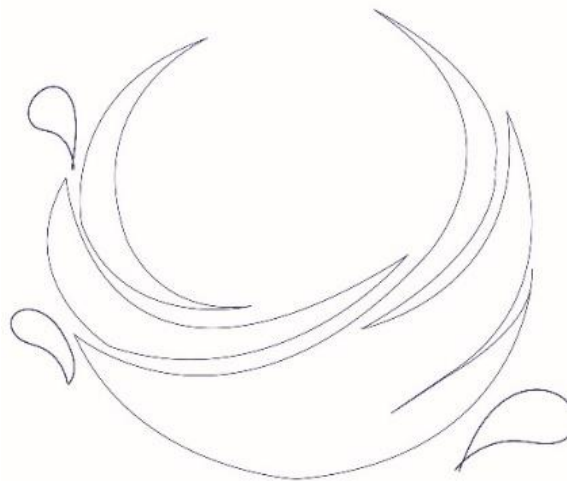
Prayer/ intentions/ pledges are displayed on an illustration, symbolic of 'Living Water'.

Prompt: "If the river could speak, what would it ask of us?" or "God, thank you for the water that..."

Activity: The participants write their "**River Whispers**" prayers/ intentions/ pledges on strips of paper..(*shades of blue*)



The example provided is an illustration that draws inspiration from the Season of Creation 2026 Symbol



Materials we need:

Symbolic Poster Display

glue / chart paper / **(to cut the shapes to stick the prayers)**

A suggestion to stay green and use as much recycled or left over chart paper

Punches / pairs of scissors

Coloured paper.





Season of Creation

The Season's "Celebration" begins on September 1st and ends on October 4th, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who is beloved by many Christian denominations.

This year's theme, **"Living Water"**, with the symbol **"Immersion in Living Water"**, inspired by Ezekiel 47:9 and 12.

It explores a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing.

Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

The symbol depicts water flowing from the Temple of God – at first a tiny stream that grows deeper, and deeper and as it does so, it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems.

Through living water comes healing; but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation

Explanation of the display

River: Represented symbolically

Roots rise from the Sanctuary: Paper and painted flowers, fish, trees are symbolic of growth in the river and along the banks of the river.

Leaves: symbolic of hope and healing

River Whispers: The messages on the torn shades of blue are representative of short prayers of gratitude, pledges or intentions to protect our waterbodies



**Matter for
explanation of the
Symbolic Poster Display**



The Baptismal Font Exhibit

What will be displayed?

The flow of the **cloth** that signifies water, draped from the baptismal font or the created water body option.

Potted plants (the last couple can be brought in and added during the service – symbolically)

Stones with or without the messages
(Stones and pots will help keep the cloth in place)

Jars With Lights symbols of hope with the river whisper messages

The **Explanation Poster** on a stand explaining the display



*These interpretations can incorporate the font as the source of living water that restores our hearts and shows the places where life can be brought, through the grace of the Lord, starting from your neighborhood.
(reference pg 33 Season Of Creation celebration guide)*



Materials we need:

Baptismal Font Exhibit:

Shades of blue cloth / cloths

Glass jars and battery operated

reusable tea lights

Coloured Ribbons

Punches / pairs of scissors

Waste wrappers

Flat stones – and paints

to paint on them

Coloured paper.

Potted palms/ plants

Display board – talking about living water (season of creation theme)

lights – that look like running drops of water (*optional*)



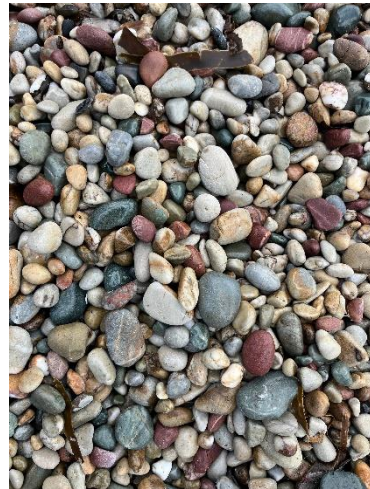


The "Filtered Light" Jar

Create a **Collective Exhibit** that can be displayed at the bottom of the baptismal font or chosen area for the display.

(Care for Creation members members/Youth work in Pairs/ teams) Each pair/team is given a small, clear glass jar.

Each pair/team is instructed to fill the bottom with a few colorful pebbles (*representing the solid foundation of Earth*).





Cut a creative shape out of the washed and dried piece of the "waste" and (punch) and add it to a bright ribbon or a "prayer tag." This can be tied around the rim of the jar.

This shows that we acknowledge the mess but choose to transform it.

Finally we can add either a plant sprig that grows in water or a tea light

The Display: Line the jars up on a long blue fabric "river", flowing from and at the bottom of the baptismal font

River Whispers, (The Messages): messages along with the prayers on the shapes will complete the display

And/OR – Care for Creation members/ youth could also paint stones with their messages and add them to the display.





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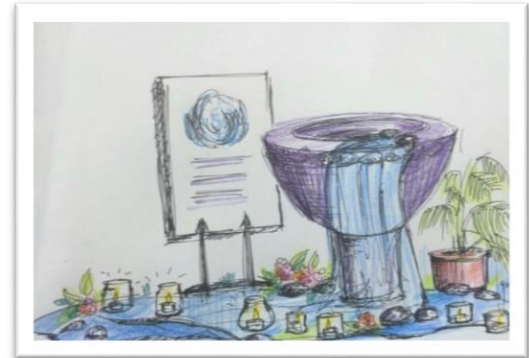
Explanation of the display

River: The flow of the cloth draped from and around the baptismal font signifies water.

Roots rise from the Sanctuary: Potted plants/ paper flowers are symbolic of the growth along the banks of the river.

Lights: symbolic of hope and healing

River Whispers: The messages on the stones / the notes placed within the bottles are representative of short prayers of gratitude, pledges or intentions to protect our waterbodies



Matter for explanation
of the
Baptismal Font Exhibit



What can we do with the display once we are done?

Brain storm with members - ways to stay green

Some suggestions:

Display the Symbolic Exhibit on a notice board or in a church room with a message.



Breakdown and re-recycle/ re-purpose / upcycle the art work.

Collage Materials: Cut or tear old paintings and paper pieces into small geometric shapes to use in future mixed-media projects.

Paper Pulp: Soak discarded paper art in water, blend it into a slurry, and press it through a screen to create fresh handmade paper.

Textile Scraps: Slice up worn fabric or old canvas fragments to use for small paint studies or decorative sewing patches.

Baptismal Font Display:

The beauty of the baptismal font display is the parts can all go back to their place and/or reused for another project.





About

This Activity Guide for the *Living Water Flows* Contemplative Display has been prepared by Ms. Gwyneth Rasquinha and Ms. Shawna Nemesia Rebello

for the **Archdiocesan Office for Environment** (AOE), Mumbai.

It takes inspiration from the **Season of Creation 2026 Celebration Guide** and is offered with the hope of equipping facilitators to set up a display in their respective parishes / institutions / groups.

The AOE recommends that preparation for the display takes place from September 1 so that the display is set up for the Mass for the Care of Creation (September 20), continuing till the end of the Season of Creation on October 4.





Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water

Ezekiel 47:9

Living Water Flows Contemplative Display

DEMO SESSION 23-Aug-2026

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*This presentation has been appended to the
Activity Guide for possible use in setting the
context for the Circle of Experience*





Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Opening Prayer

Shortened from the SoC2026 Prayer – Living Water

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace.

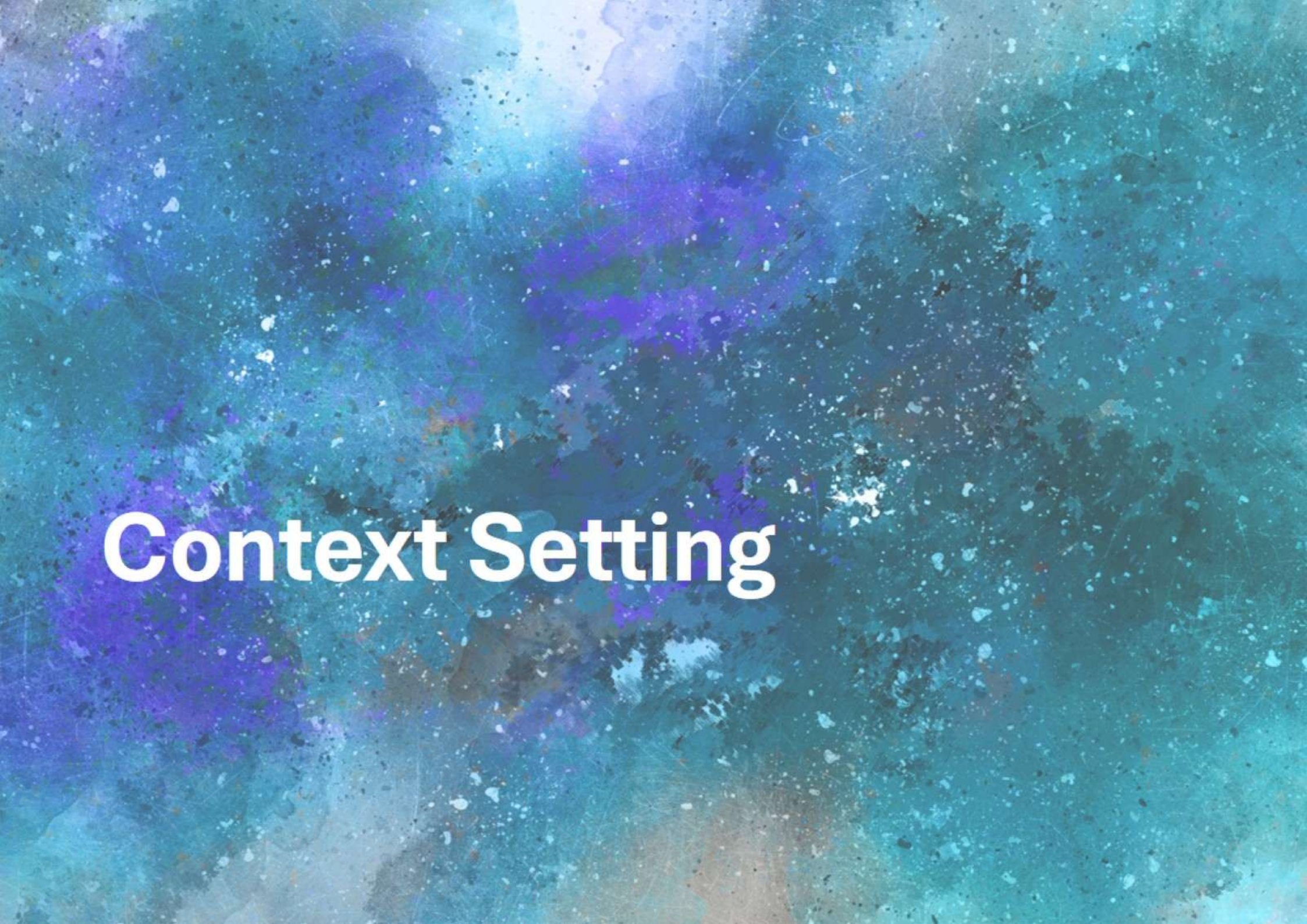
We give thanks for the gift of water – every drop is a sacred testament to your love.

Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity.

Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow.

Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honour the dignity of the thirsty.

And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.



Context Setting

Season of Creation – September 1 to October 4 – THEME & SYMBOL

Precedent in the Archdiocese of Bombay – Don Bosco, Matunga



Season of Creation – September 1 to October 4 – THEME & SYMBOL



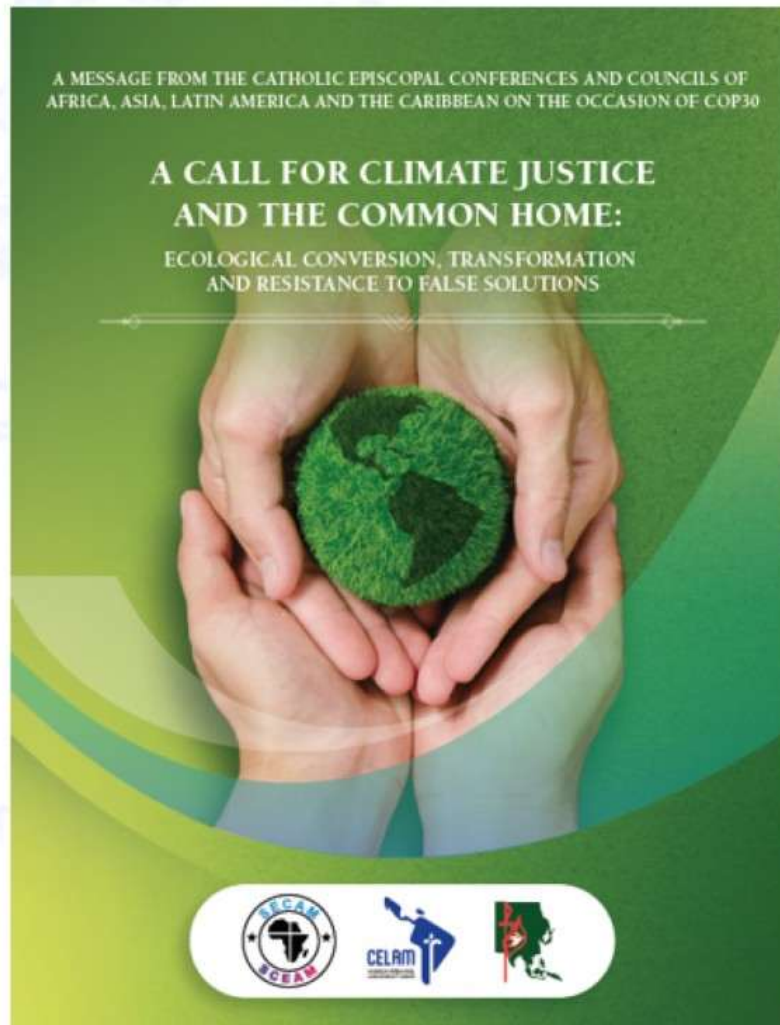
Precedent in the Archdiocese of Bombay – Vinayalaya, Andheri

Season of Creation – September 1 to October 4 – THEME & SYMBOL



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

Why a Contemplative Display?



Impetus from the Bishops of the Global South

- Foster spiritual experiences of contemplation and love for all creation
- Cultivate spirituality in the arts

**2026
THEME
&
SYMBOL**

THE RIVER OF EZEKIEL'S VISION

EZEKIEL 47:1-12

THE RIVER



Flowing East

Ankle-Deep

Knee-Deep

Waist-Deep

Dead
Sea

WATERS
BECOME
FRESH

MANY
FISH

TREES WITH
FRUIT YEAR-ROUND

ITS MEANING



THE WATER FROM
THE TEMPLE:
SYMBOLIZES GOD'S
PRESENCE & LIFE



THE INCREASING
DEPTHS
REFLECT SPIRITUAL
GROWTH



HEALING &
RESTORATION
BRINGS LIFE TO DEAD
& BARREN PLACES



FRUITFULNESS
& HEALING
THE SPIRIT-FILED LIFE

Dead Sea

FRUITFULNESS
& HEALING
THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

*Image Source:
Renewal Church*



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:1-12

Why a Thematic Contemplative Display in the Worship Space?

- In the 2026 theme text, contemplation, hope and healing begins in the Temple
- The Temple = Today's Church and its community of believers (cf. *Ephesians* 2:19-22)
- Facilitate a spiritual immersion, reminiscent of early baptism
- Let God transform us into channels of living water for the healing of others and creation

How is it Contemplative?

For the animating group, the session a tactile way to bridge stewardship and contemplation -

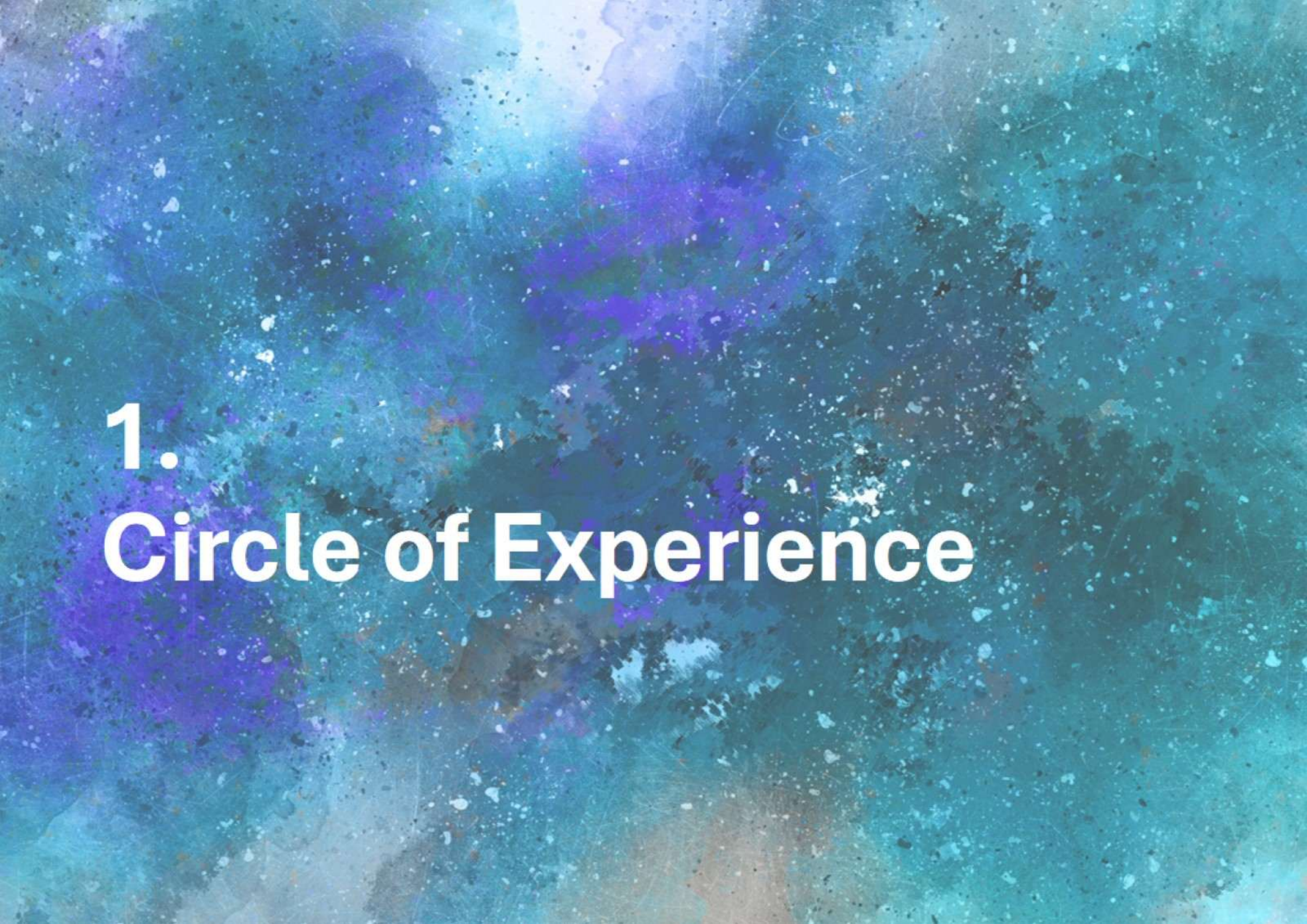
- 1. Circle of Experience**
- 2. Prayer Craft**
- 3. Closing Ritual**

But what about all the material?

Towards the end of the session, let's brainstorm additional ways to minimise the impact of the display

When?

- **Right away – begin collecting material, involve community, brainstorm** *Plan activity and outdoor experience, minimise purchases*
- **3rd Saturday of September (19-Sep-2026) – International Coastal Cleanup Day** *Set up display after outdoor experience / listen to cry of those closest to water*
- **3rd Sunday of September (20-Sep-2026) – Mass for the Care of Creation** *Use display for formation on creation care being rooted in the Bible*
- **4th Sunday of September (27-Sep-2026) – World Rivers Day, World Day of Migrants and Refugees** *Invite community to add on to the display, pray for climate refugees*
- **October 4 – Feast of St Francis of Assisi** *Reflect on the Franciscan theme – Oneness with Creation*
Ensure to minimise impact of display when dismantling



1. Circle of Experience

Reflect and Share

*If no specific outdoor experience, use these or similar questions – ensure time for silence and listening;
hymn after groups complete sharing*

- 1. Recall a specific polluted / dirty water body**
- 2. How did you feel when you encountered it?**
- 3. Was any action possible?**



2. Prayer Craft

- Chart
- Exhibit



River Whispers

These or similar prompts could be used when whole community is later invited to add to the display

- If the river could speak, what would it ask of us?
- God, thank you for the water that...



3. Closing Ritual

- Open Forum as well

Complete the Display

Conclude with prayer / Mass – also reflect on the long-term renewal of our relationship with Sister Water

- Set it up
- Open to the whole community
- Contemplate

Outcome of the 23-Aug-2026 Demo Session



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Living Water

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Immersion in Living Water
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Living Water Flows **Contemplative Display**

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Thank You - We hope you're inspired!

FACILITATORS

Gwyneth Rasquinha
Shawna Nemesia Rebello



Inspired by the Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2026