



You may have seen the news that Cape Town, a modern South African city of nearly 4 million people, could **run out of water** in May.

A severe drought has dried up the local reservoirs. Unfortunately, scientists are predicting this will be “the new normal” for cities affected by climate change. **The local government will soon stop the flow of water to homes and businesses—meaning no water at the taps for drinking or sanitation.** It’s called “Day Zero.”

When Day Zero arrives, municipal fountains will provide a daily ration of water to anyone who is able to collect it. **There are just 200 fountains planned for nearly 4 million people.** The ration is 25 liters, or one-fourth what the average American uses per day.

The picture is troubling. **But our friends at Catholic Welfare and Development are bringing light and a helping hand to their neighbors.**

As we approach Day Zero, Catholic Welfare and Development is running a full-scale education campaign to make sure the most vulnerable people in Cape Town know about safe alternatives to tap water. **After Day Zero, Catholic Welfare and Development will mobilize 2,500 volunteers to carry the daily water ration to those who can’t get water themselves.**

As we enter the season of Lent, the season of atonement and repentance, let’s take a moment to consider how our use of fossil fuels is affecting brothers and sisters around the world.

Please pray for our friends in Cape Town.

With thanks and prayers,
Christina on behalf of GCCM