

I WAS  
**THIRSTY**  
& YOU GAVE  
ME SOMETHING  
**TO DRINK**

Matthew 25:35  
2015 WORLD MISSION  
MONTH APPEAL

## 'ECOLE DE LA SAGESSE'

CATHOLIC SCHOOL, VATOMANDRY

You might know the country of Madagascar because of the fictional cartoon movies. But what you might not know about the reality of this small island country is that, tragically, access to clean water for washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking is extremely scarce, and really only available to the wealthy few. Distressingly, due to the urgent lack of clean water and proper sanitation, thousands of children across Madagascar die from easily preventable diseases like diarrhoea every year.\*

Nine year old Justin and eight year old Christelle, two of the students at the 'Ecole de la Sagesse' Catholic School in the city of Vatomandry on the east coast of Madagascar, have both been repeatedly ill because of the lack of water at the school.

The sad reality is that only a few years ago, there was no running water at Justin and Christelle's school, meaning that the children could not wash their hands after going to the bathroom or playing outside. With the area around the school constantly being dirty and smelly, the children were falling sick all the time.

As Justin says, **"The dirty water made me sick. I often had diarrhoea. It also made me vomit."** Christelle was also affected: **"I remember having worms; I had a belly ache and I was throwing up. Many of my friends got sick."**

Sister Rose Rasoavololona from the Daughters of Wisdom congregation has run the 'Ecole de la Sagesse' Catholic School for the past twelve years, and during this time she has seen many children fall desperately ill, with several students even passing away because of water-borne diseases and lack of proper sanitation.

SOCK it  
to poverty





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## ECOLE DE LA SAGESSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONTINUED...

Thankfully, with the help of Catholic Mission, Sister Rose was recently able to build eight toilets and six water pumps at the school, and provide essential training on hygiene and sanitation to the children and their families. Sister Rose has seen great changes in the children, including a vast reduction in illness, since installing the water pumps and building the toilets.

Christelle, Justin and their fellow students are all extremely thankful to Catholic Mission. As Christelle says, "I like school better now. I like to learn and I like that it is clean now." Justin adds: "The children don't get sick anymore. The toilets are not smelly and everything is nice and clean."

Despite this story of great success and hope, there are still countless children across Madagascar, and all around the world, who do not have access to clean running water and proper sanitation, especially at their school. The Catholic High School, also run by Sister Rose, is just one of the many schools which still need water and sanitation facilities.

To add to this, Sister Rose also needs your help to provide Catholic religious education materials for the children. Not only do the children need physical water, but also the Living Water gained through the many spiritual activities funded by Catholic Mission in Madagascar.

With your help, Justin and Christelle, and other children in similar situations all around the world, can receive the Living Water they so desperately need.

[catholicmission.org.au/wmm2015](http://catholicmission.org.au/wmm2015)

\*wateraid.com.au



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