

# Prayer for Rain.



## Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop

*(to be read in all Churches of the Diocese of Sydney on Sunday, 13th July, 1941).*

In view of the very serious situation both in the country and the city owing to the prolonged absence of rain, I appeal to all members of the Church to make our present need a matter of earnest and continual prayer to God both privately and in the Services of the Church.

I need hardly remind you that our Church recognises the duty of such supplication, having provided in the Book of Common Prayer a form suitable for this purpose. I ask that such prayer be offered at the Morning and Evening Services on Sunday next, July 13, and thereafter until it pleases God to send us an answer.

I also take the opportunity of asking for a more whole-hearted response to the appeals of the Metropolitan Water Board to use water sparingly and only for the most necessary purposes. Our prayers should go hand in hand with a conscientious discharge of what is obviously our duty in this time of necessity. If we neglect the duty of avoiding waste, especially in a matter of so vital importance as water, how can we expect God to honour our supplication to replenish the supply?

I understand that though the community has responded well to the appeal of the Water Board, the response could and ought to be even better if hardship and even danger are to be avoided.

As Christians, we should remember that while our Master fed the necessitous multitudes out of His divine bounty, He was careful to impress upon His followers the duty of avoiding waste. "Gather up the fragments," He said, "that nothing be lost." In this spirit let us pray, permitting no waste of that gift of God upon which so much depends.

Howard Sydney