



Teleza, Malawi

# WEE BOX

## Prayer Resources 2022

Includes

- Prayer resources for a SCIAF Day of Prayer
- Stations of the Cross
- Daily reflections
- Prayer walk
- Plus much more!

# Responding in prayer



Prayer is crucial and at the core of our worship. It is our primary way of communicating with God. There are many different ways of praying, all of which add to the rich and beautiful traditions of our faith.

This resource provides prayers and reflections to organise your own prayer service. But if you would like to come together with the wider SCIAF community, please join in with the SCIAF Day of Prayer on the 18th March. In addition, this resource will help pupils communicate with God through creative prayer, short daily reflections, and the Stations of the Cross.

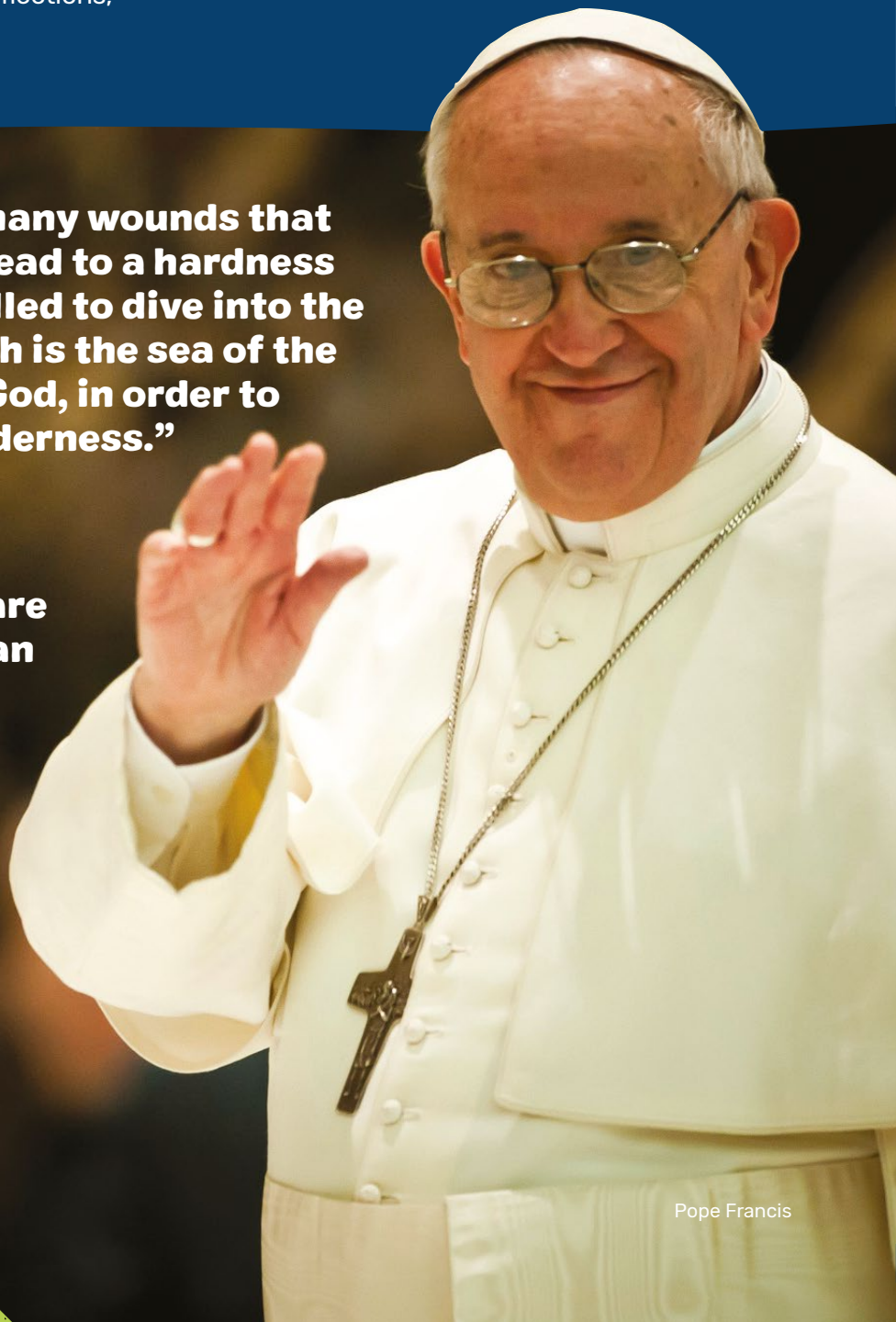
Spending time in prayer is another way to put your faith into action this Lent and show solidarity with our sisters and brothers impacted most by climate change.

**"When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me."**

Jeremiah 29:12-14

**"In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could lead to a hardness of heart, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of the boundless love of God, in order to experience his tenderness."**

**"Prayer, humility, and charity toward all are essential in the Christian life: they are the way to holiness."**



Pope Francis





Teleza and her daughter Martha, Malawi

# SCIAF Day of Prayer

Friday  
18th March  
2022

Today, we dedicate time to pray for the people of Malawi – those suffering the impacts of climate change and the hunger this causes.

Use these materials to organise your own prayer service at lunch, during an assembly, or as part of a classroom lesson. We understand that the specific date of 18th March may not suit but we encourage you to set another date for dedicated prayer.

It would be both amazing and inspiring to see thousands of young people and teaching staff joined in prayer for our sisters and brothers facing the extreme effects of climate change. Show your participation in this day by sharing photos on social media using **#SCIAFDayofPrayer**

 [sciaf](#)  [@sciaf](#)  [@sciaf\\_insta](#)

You can use the following prayer material in any order you wish – and you can get pupils and teachers to lead different sections. But we suggest you begin the prayer service with the WEE BOX video to introduce or remind pupils of the SCIAF Lenten focus and then conclude the service with the WEE BOX Reflection video to end on a contemplative finish.



[Watch WEE BOX video here](#)



[Watch Reflection video here](#)

# Prayers

Psalm 24:1 says, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'.  
Use these prayers with the response **'and everything in it'**.

Creator God, help us to appreciate the wonder of this world. Teach us to look for you in creation and recognise you daily.

**'The earth is the Lord's...  
and everything in it.'**

We thank you for every living creature, lovingly designed with purpose and meaning.

**'The earth is the Lord's...**

You have made humankind in your image, yet also unique. Help us to celebrate our differences as one global family, caring for one another as you care for us.

**'The earth is the Lord's...**

Forgive us for the times we have failed to look after your gift of creation and those in it. Bring healing to our lives so that we might protect others.

**'The earth is the Lord's...**

Encourage us to take action against injustice. To speak out for those oppressed. To share what we have with our sisters and brothers in order to bring about a just and green world.

**'The earth is the Lord's...**



## WEE BOX prayer

Read aloud or put on a screen for all to say together.

Loving God, You have given us your gift of creation;  
To enjoy it, make use of its resources, but not  
forgetting to also take care of it.

Forgive us for the times that we have taken for granted  
and mistreated your work of art.

Help us to delight in all the good things that you  
graciously give us, but equally stand up against the  
injustice that drives people into poverty and keeps  
them there.

Creator God, help us to put our faith into action as we  
strive for a just and green world. Amen.

## Suggested Hymns

O Lord, my God, when I in  
awesome wonder  
(Laudate 721)

Seek ye first the Kingdom  
of God  
(Laudate 820)

Here I am, Lord  
(Laudate 865)

Be thou my vision  
(Laudate 970)





# A reflection

Read this reflection slowly, with appropriate use of pauses for impact.

## **“Listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”**

Words from Pope Francis that should move us to action.

When you hear a baby cry, it is because there is a need. You can normally solve that need by showing comfort, feeding, changing a nappy, getting them to sleep. And if after trying all these things, you still have a crying baby, you may seek advice from others to offer their help.

If a friend comes to you crying, it is not supposed to make you feel comfortable. Crying is a natural way for us to show our feelings of hurt and discomfort.

We want to help our friends when they are hurting, we want to do our best to comfort, to listen, and to find solutions to help.

Our earth, God’s creation is crying. The truth is that the earth has been crying for a long time, showing signs of distress and mistreatment. It is broken.

What will you do in response to the cry of the earth?

Our broken world and the consequences of climate change are affecting the poorest communities first, most and worst.

Julius from Malawi says “Climate change has caused a lot of problems in my life, compared to the past. Our main problem is hunger.”

Unfortunately, Julius is just one of many experiencing such devastating climate impacts.

**Can you hear the cry of the poor?  
How will you respond?**



# Stations of the Cross

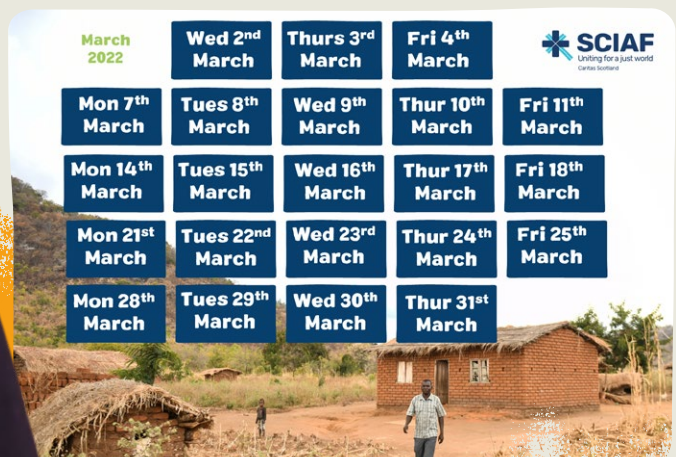
The Stations of the Cross have long been a feature of the Church's devotional life, especially during the season of Lent. Use our Stations of the Cross PowerPoint during the Day of Prayer, and weekly in Lent. In the 'Notes' section of the PowerPoint there is a reflection on each station, written by Fr Stephen Reilly, Co-ordinator of Spiritual and Pastoral Formation at The University of Glasgow.



13-year-old Issa, Malawi

## Daily Reflections

Use our Daily Reflections PowerPoint throughout Lent. This presentation features quotes from Pope Francis, verses from Scripture, and prayers for the earth and the people of Malawi. It can be used in class or as part an assembly, or during the Day of Prayer service.



# Prayer walk



A prayer walk is a simple way to lift up prayers for people and planet. Wherever your school is located, you can go for a walk admiring the beauty of God's creation. When doing this, you can pray for the world beyond your school walls, give thanks to God for His creation, and ask forgiveness for the times we have neglected to look after the earth.

Plan your walk so that you will find as many items as you can. Add to the list below with items local to you, such as shells from the beach.

When you find each item, stop and take a few moments to look at it, and then read out the prayer collectively or individually. You could also start or end your prayer walk with your school prayer.

## Opening prayer

*Lord, we recognise your glory in creation, and thank you for it,  
in the name of your Son Jesus, Amen.*

*Can you find...*

### Flowers



Lord our God, thank you that each one of us is beautiful and precious. Lead us to act as neighbours to others, and cherish the community around us.

### Seeds



Lord our God, open our eyes to the wonders of your creation. We offer our hearts in hope that all things may flourish and show the true beauty of your creation.

### Twigs



Lord our God, open our hearts so that together we may care for all that you have made, and with all creation sing your praise.

### Grass



Lord our God, how great you are, you make the grass grow and you make the flowers bloom. Thank you for Spring, the hope of brighter days, and the coming of growth and life in farms and fields around the world.

### Birds



Lord our God, thank you for the endless varieties of birds that sing in the trees. Open our hearts to your grace, so we can cherish the goodness which surrounds us.

### Water



Lord our God, help us to appreciate your gift of water. As we drink, wash, cleanse and grow, remind us how brilliant water is and how precious it is too.

### Cats/Dogs



Lord our God, allow our eyes to see the beauty of creation in forests and cities alike. We ask you, Lord, maker of all living creatures, to bless our pets, and open our hearts to become a true friend to all animals.

### Minibeasts



Lord our God, Creator of everything, from the rising sun to the smallest of creatures, help us to make the small changes that collectively make a positive impact on people and planet.

### Litter



Lord our God, I am sorry for the times I have not looked after your creation. Help us to make changes in our lives to care more deeply for the earth.

**Can you put the litter in a bin when you are finished?**

## Closing prayer

*Lord, we pray that this school community can show that we care for our sisters and brothers around the world by looking after your creation and responding when we can to help people in need. Amen.*



# Creative prayer

## Creation Frames

Creative prayer can make it easier for pupils to talk to God in an open way. The intention of this activity is to create a photograph, a Creation Frame, which shows God's creation and displays prayers for the earth.

All of us are called to see how Christ is present throughout creation. We can show our commitment to caring for God's creation by acting in solidarity with our global neighbours and by speaking out for justice. SCIAF is working with communities on the front line of the climate crisis. Use the Creation Frames to show solidarity with the people of Malawi who are facing the extreme effects of climate change, to pray for all of God's creation, and to speak out for climate justice.

To make the Creation Frames, use scrap paper or cardboard, cut out space in the middle to create the frame for your photograph.

Ask pupils to take a walk in nature to find a moment of creation to frame. Create a digital display with the photographs.

Share your photographs on social media

 [sciaf](#)  [@sciaf](#)  [@sciaf\\_insta](#)

#SCIAF #GodinCreation #CreationFrames  
#MomentsOfCreation







Teleza and her family,  
Malawi

**Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund**

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photos: Thoko Chikondi.

