

PRAYER RESOURCES

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CALENDAR

CHILDREN BORN IN THE WORLD'S
POOREST PLACES DESERVE
A CHANCE TO LIVE A FULL LIFE



RESPONDING IN PRAYER

Pope Francis has spoken at length on our need to “develop antibodies against a culture that considers some lives first-class and others as second-class, to have the courage to give a voice to those who are discriminated against due to their disability.” (*Fratelli Tutti*)¹

Prayer is a crucial part of this radical transformation. It is at the core of our worship and 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 ideas for how to organise your own prayer service and help pupils to communicate with God through prayer.

We know how incredibly generous our school communities are when fundraising. Spending time in prayer is another way to put your faith into action this Lent and show solidarity with our sisters and brothers living in South Sudan. Take courage in knowing that this is exactly what we are called to do as Christians. As it says in Jeremiah 29:12-14,

“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.”



SCIAF DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 12 MARCH

Mass is our highest form of prayer where we can experience the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. However, there are many other ways of communicating with God such as Lectio Divina, the Rosary or bidding prayers just to name a few. No matter how you choose to pray, we hope that you will join us for our 2nd annual 'SCIAF Day of Prayer' on Friday 12 March. Join with thousands of pupils and staff throughout Scotland as we come together as one to offer our prayers for our sisters and brothers living in South Sudan.

Use whichever resources you wish to organise your own prayer service at lunch, during an assembly or as part of a classroom lesson. We understand that you might not be able to join in on 12 and encourage you to set another date and time for dedicated prayer.

Be sure to download our 'SCIAF Day of Prayer' social media pack from sciaf.org.uk/resources and join us on  Twitter @SCIAF using #SCIAFdayofprayer

¹ http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2019/documents/papafrancesco_20191203_messaggio-disabilita.html



There are a number of ways to organise your own prayer service for the people of South Sudan and the following prayers and reflections will help you get started.

We suggest you begin by using our WEE BOX assembly presentation. You can also show the WEE BOX film as a reminder of this year's appeal.

INTRODUCTION AND ADORATION

Invite a pupil to act as 'Leader' to read the welcome and WEE BOX prayer. You may choose to include or omit Adoration.

Leader: Every day we have the chance to be close to God, simply by looking around us and by showing our love for others. Let us use this Lent as a new beginning so that we become closer to God in our lives and act as members of one human family united with our sisters and brothers around the world.

WEE BOX Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the beauty of your creation and for all the good things you graciously give us. We pray for more understanding of the differences between peoples and a recognition that we are all one in

Christ. Thank you for making us all unique but all created in your image. Help us look to Jesus as an example of someone who broke down barriers that excluded. Give us the strength and wisdom to work together and bring about positive change for those who are suffering. God of compassion, hear our prayer. Amen

(If you have chosen to include Eucharistic Adoration)* As we begin our SCIAF Day of Prayer for the people living in South Sudan, we humbly bring ourselves before the presence of God in the Holy Eucharist and spend a few moments in Adoration.

*You may wish to include candles or soft music in order to enhance the prayerful environment

BIDDING PRAYERS

Invite any number of pupils to read aloud the bidding prayers that we have provided. Use the response "God of mercy, hear our prayer."

Leader: there is no cure for meanness, except generosity, and if the mean and selfish do not know how to be generous, then there is only one cure for that. There must be enough generous people around them to show them how to give.

Lent offers us the chance to help people close to us, but also those in other countries such as South Sudan. This Lent may God give us the strength to be generous in everything we do. May our actions inspire communities to unite to end inequalities experienced by disabled children and young people. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: to help someone, just for the sake of helping, helps us too. It gives us a chance to express our true purpose, and so makes us feel satisfied, not with ourselves but with life. We pray for the people of South Sudan who are suffering the effects of conflict, displacement, the changing climate, economic shocks or serious illness. May God provide them with the help that they need and give us the courage to speak their truth into the world. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Pope Francis tells us to have courage and speak up for people who are treated poorly because of their differences and disabilities (*Fratelli Tutti* #98).

We ask for God to forgive the times when we have failed to treat others with the kindness, respect and love that they deserve. Help us to embrace our differences and become more like Jesus who always welcomed the stranger, the outcast, the poor and the oppressed. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: we thank you Lord for the many blessings you have given us and the beautiful world that you have made. You create every single person in your image and likeness and no two of us are the same. Help us to create communities that love and value each of our unique contributions and ways of being in the world. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: St Therese of Lisieux once said: Christ has no body but ours, No hands but ours, No feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look on the world.

We thank God for the generous SCIAF supporters and their partners at Sudan Evangelical Mission, who enable them to respond and help alleviate the impact of the poverty pandemic in South Sudan. May God continue to bless their work and keep safe staff and their families as they face challenging situations of instability. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: we pray for continued peace in South Sudan where it is still instability that demands a call to prayer. May leaders do the right thing to bring a true and lasting peace in the country.

We also pray for our church leaders who are doing what they can locally to bring people together. We pray that God will work through them to help turn people from the hatred and destruction that has already destroyed so many lives. God of mercy, hear our prayer.



Charity and her son Gift, age 4

SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION

Ask a pupil to share Mark 2:1-12 along with the provided reflection and to introduce a moment of silence.

Scripture: when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a person carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the disabled person was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the person, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, “Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?” Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, “Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, pick up your mat and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth”— he said to the paralytic, “I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home.” He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”

Leader: Jesus performed many miraculous healings, and this healing of a paralytic man is truly one of the most remarkable stories. Not only does he physically heal this man, Jesus chooses him to reveal his authority and power to forgive sins. Jesus shows us that everyone is fit for God’s purpose no matter your disabilities.

Pope Francis tells us in *Fratelli Tutti* that “When the dignity of the human person is respected, and his or her rights recognized and guaranteed, creativity and interdependence thrive, and the creativity of the human personality is released through actions that further the common good” (#22).

As we reflect upon how we can support the dignity of children with disabilities and young people in South Sudan, we can begin by looking at the four friends of the disabled man from this story. These four friends not only stood by him in word, they stood by him in action too.

Their faith, fellowship and love were so strong that they simply wouldn’t be turned away by any number of obstacles in their path. Working together for the common good of their disabled friend, these incredible friends overcome every challenge in order to encounter Jesus.

We can also act in friendship as one human family to promote the dignity that every person deserves, regardless of their disabilities. By doing so we can reimagine a world built upon authentic relationships where everyone belongs.

Jesus performed many miraculous healings that we simply can’t do. However, we can be in solidarity with others and show true love and friendship to every person that we meet. We can uphold the dignity of all human life through our prayers, our words and our actions. In doing so we can build a better world that celebrates the unique contributions that each of us bring.

Introduce a moment of silence for personal prayer.

WEE BOX REFLECTION VIDEO

We recommend that you end your 'SCIAF Day of Prayer' by showing the WEE BOX Reflection video and praying together an 'Our Father,' 'Hail Mary' and 'Glory Be'.

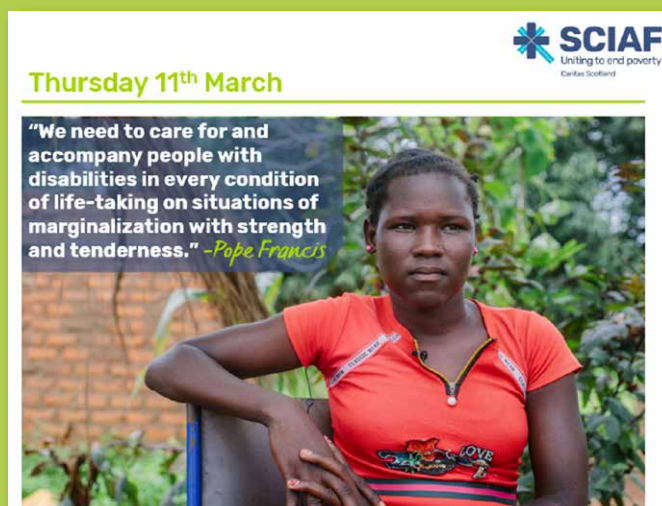


STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross is a traditional spiritual pilgrimage in which we meditate on the 14 scenes of Jesus' painful journey to his crucifixion. We've provided a PowerPoint presentation and pdf file to guide your pupils in prayer and meditation through the Stations. Also available is a video of the presentation led by Father Stephen Reilly and students from The St Andrew's Foundation Catholic Teacher Education.

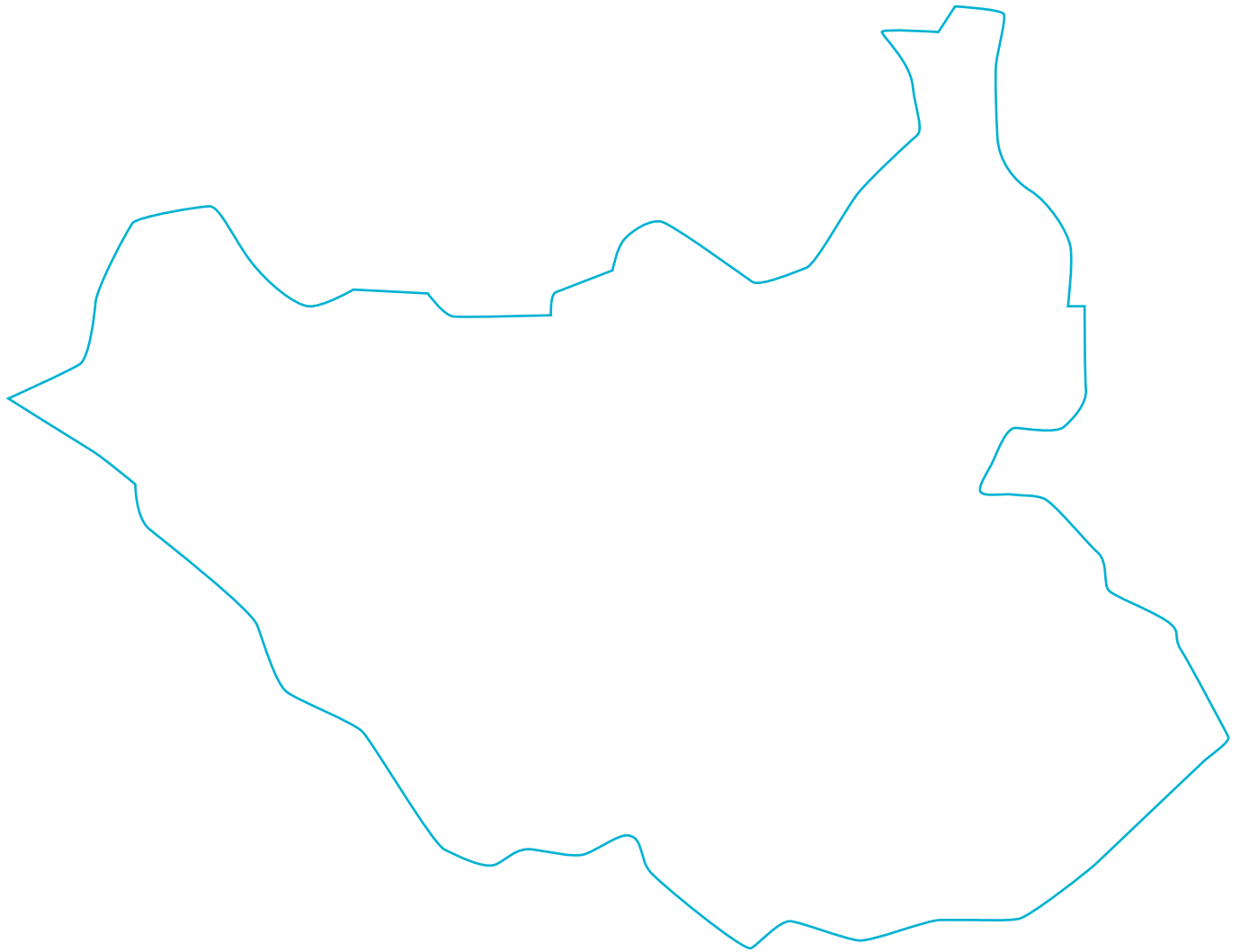
DAILY LENT REFLECTIONS CALENDAR

Use our interactive calendar to start each day with a piece of Scripture, quote or reflection. This interactive PowerPoint is perfect for using in assemblies or the classroom. Download it today at www.sciaf.org.uk/resources in Schools WEE BOX 2021 resources in the prayer folder.



DISPLAY YOUR PRAYERS

In a very simple but visual and powerful way, create a large outline of the country of South Sudan on a display board somewhere prominent in your school. Add a suitable title ('Our WEE BOX Prayers') and add a poster from the appeal. Ask pupils to write short prayers for the people of South Sudan and stick them onto the display. As you go through Lent you will see more and more prayers added to the country outline and you will be able to physically see your prayers for your sisters and brothers in South Sudan grow. Share your prayer wall on Twitter and include @sciaf and #WEEBOX.



Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official overseas aid and development charity 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: Achuoth Deng.

Special thanks to SCIAF volunteer Frank Turbet and our partners at the Sudan Evangelical Mission for providing reflections and prayers included in this resource.

