

BIDDING PRAYERS

LENT 2021

- 1. Leader:** We pray for our sisters and brothers in South Sudan. Though they may be strangers, we love them. This Lent, Lord help more people in Scotland to look beyond borders and to reach out with love to the poorest people in the world wherever they are.

May our love, generosity and prayers find them. Help us Lord to unite to end the poverty pandemic and the inequalities faced by so many in South Sudan, particularly children with disabilities.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

- 2. Leader:** We thank you Lord for Pope Francis, who teaches us to have courage and speak up for people with disabilities and all of those who are marginalised. May we always speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and defend the rights of people with disabilities.

Forgive the times when we have failed to treat others with kindness, respect and love. Help us embrace our differences and live more like Jesus who always welcomed the stranger, the outcast, the poor and the oppressed.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

- 3. 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.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

- 4. 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 (SEM), who enable them to respond and help change the lives of children with disabilities in South Sudan. May God continue to bless their work and keep safe staff and their families as they face challenging situations of instability.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

- 5. Leader:** We pray for continued peace in South Sudan, may they avoid conflict and further war. May their leaders work towards a true and lasting peace.

We pray for our church leaders who work locally to bring people together. May God grant their safety and work through them to help turn people from the hatred that has already destroyed so many lives.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

- 6. Leader:** We pray for the children with disabilities of South Sudan. Who in their short lives have borne witness to unimaginable poverty. For whom every challenge is made greater. May we remember them and hear their cry.

We pray for SCIAF as they reach out with love to protect the lives and the dignity of these children.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

7. Leader: We thank you Lord for the blessings you have bestowed upon us. As we seek to live like Jesus, who teaches us to remember the poorest among us, may we always hear the cry of the poor.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

8. Leader: We pray for all people in South Sudan who have been affected by violence. May our generosity help them to rebuild their lives. May our prayers move the hearts. May they find it within themselves to move forwards in peace and forgiveness.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

9. Leader: We pray for the poorest people in South Sudan. We know that in any crisis, be it related to conflict, famine, discrimination or coronavirus, it is the poorest who will die first. Lord grant us the strength to never ignore their plight and to answer your call to serve our brothers and sisters.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

10. Leader: We pray particularly for the thousands of young people with disabilities in South Sudan who have struggled to access education and equality. May they find the practical help they need and may they find peace in you.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

11. Leader: We pray for the work of SCIAF in South Sudan and around the world, helping the poorest people in the world, who may lose their lives to the poverty pandemic. We pray for wisdom in decision making so that SCIAF and the partners they work with can help many more people for the long-term.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

12. Leader: We pray for our parish community. Help us to show love and compassion to one another in both our words and deeds. Help us Lord to be like the Good Samaritan, and offer help to our sisters and brothers around the world.

Response: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

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.