

A SCIAF Prayer Service for Ethiopia

Opening statement

We come together at this time to remember in prayer the work of SCIAF, the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland, and in particular, their work in Ethiopia. Bishop Brian McGee, the Bishop President of SCIAF recently visited Ethiopia and his experience has formed an emergency appeal letter that some of you may have received at home. We have an opportunity now to pray for this work.

Opening Prayer

God of heaven and earth, we bring you our praise and we lift up your name.
We come before you in confidence, not based on our own ability, but on your love.
Many things we see in this world bring us concern and despair.
Help us to rest in you, bringing our cares before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The earth is the Lord's

Psalm 24:1 says, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'. The response is '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...and everything in it.

You created humankind in your image. 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...and everything in it.

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...and everything in it.

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

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

Suggested Hymn

Here I am Lord (Laudate 865)

Readings

Matthew 25:35-45

'for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked, and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

James 2:15-16

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

Read

SCIAF has been working in Ethiopia for almost four decades, working in partnership with our local partners and the Ethiopian Catholic Church. As an important part of the local community, the Church is well placed to provide both long-term support to families, and emergency humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter and other essentials.

Let's pray...

Loving Father, we thank you that the Church here in Scotland has a long history of partnership in Ethiopia, providing long-term support to millions of families. Thank you that in times of emergency, SCIAF are also well placed to respond to humanitarian assistance. We pray that SCIAF partners in Ethiopia will continue their life-giving support, and that with our help, they will continue to help the millions of people without access to sufficient food and water. We pray for their safety. We ask you for your peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Suggested hymn

Make me a channel of your peace (Laudate 898)

Read

We give you thanks that our Church in Scotland has a long history in Ethiopia empowering our sisters and brothers to respond to the difficulties they find themselves in. We give you thanks, O Lord, for the work of SCIAF and may we, as the Church, continue to support our global neighbours.

Lord, hear us

Lord, hear us... Lord, graciously hear us

We pray for the Dioceses in Ethiopia, for the Clergy and many project workers supporting millions of people. We pray for wisdom, safety and for peace.

Lord, hear us... Lord, graciously hear us

For the millions of people in Ethiopia who are without access to food and clean water. We pray that the Church can continue to provide emergency assistance and that justice will prevail. We pray that lives will be saved and that the impact of unpredictable weather patterns will reduce.

Lord, hear us... Lord, graciously hear us

Help us to keep praying for the people of Ethiopia. To help where we can and to play our role here in Scotland to look after your creation oh God.

Lord, hear us... Lord, graciously hear us

Closing Prayer

Our Father

Please continue to pray for the people of Ethiopia.

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: SC19732zS7