REAL GIFTS

SCIAF
Uniting for a just world
Caritas Scotland

Real Gift Resources for Laudato Si' Schools

Use these resources with your class to learn more about how Real Gifts provide real support to people who need it the most.

SCIAF EDUCATION

Learn, pray and act for global justice

Primary (pages 4-6) • Real Gifts Prayer (page 7) • Secondary (pages 8-9)

THESE ACTIVITIES WILL MAKE REFERENCE TO THESE E'S & O'S

PRIMARY

P3 RERC 1-24
I know that my school is a Catholic school and that, with God's help, we can work together to show care for the world and the needs of all people.

P5 RERC 2-24
I am developing my understanding of my involvement in the community of the Catholic Church by exploring the role of the lay organisations in my diocese that work to show care for the world and the needs of all people.

I know that I am called to respond to the needs of others when I can. I have used this information to inspire and challenge me to respond to God's call to care for the poor.

P6 RERC 2-24
I know that SCIAF is a Catholic organisation that responds to the needs of the world.

P7 RERC 2-24
I know I am called to witness Jesus' love for the poor and marginalised.

Marilin, Colombia

SECONDARY

S1 RERC 3-21a
Having considered Christ's example, I am aware of how I can respond to the spiritual and material needs of others.

S3 RERC 3-24a / 4-24a
I have experienced opportunities to engage with issues of social injustice.

FOLLOW UP

- Download the Real Gifts PowerPoint for your class to share their learning with the whole school

- Invite a SCIAF speaker to your school and find out more about SCIAF's work.
- Support your class in writing letters to family members and the local community asking them to support SCIAF Real Gifts, and explaining to them why their support is important to the class.
- Find out about Real Gifts Sale or Return stalls and set one up in your school, staffroom or in the community.

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. 196 Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Email: sciaf@sciaf.org.uk
Registered Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327.
Photographs by James Cave (SCIAF), Angela Catlin, Stefanie Glinski, Colin Hattersley, Barnaby Skinner, Mark Swaroop.

MORE ONLINE RESOURCES

PRIMARY

Laudato Si' Schools – Primary

Water is Life

Bearing Fruit

Care for our Common Home

SECONDARY

Laudato Si' Schools – Secondary

Laudato Si' Schools Water Resources

Book a Care for Creation visit from SCIAF

Climate Justice: Called to care for Creation

TEACHERS

Tackling climate anxiety in the Catholic classroom

A new resource for teachers' personal learning that explores how we can use Laudato Si' to navigate and respond to climate anxiety.

sciaf.org.uk/resources

LAUDATO SI' REAL GIFTS

GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

VEGETABLE GARDEN

SCIAF EDUCATION – PRIMARY

In Scotland, many people use allotments – small plots of land to grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Around the world, especially in the poorest places, families rely on small vegetable gardens for most of their food. If they have any extra, they sell it at the market. These vegetable gardens often depend on rain for water, so extreme weather like droughts or floods can make it hard to grow enough food. And climate change is making extreme weather more common.

SCIAF's partners help families grow food to eat by teaching which plants grow best, how to look after them, and how to use eco-friendly methods like composting. Families also learn which seeds grow well with different amounts of rain and how to plant a mix of crops in case some don't grow. Families get gardening tools and watering cans, so they can use what they have learned to grow their own vegetables at home.

Jesus teaches us to love and care for everyone, especially those who are poor or left out. When we see someone in need, we are called to help, just like Jesus would. He showed us how to be kind, generous, and compassionate to everyone, no matter who they are. When we help our global neighbours, we are sharing Jesus' love and showing others that they are loved by God too.

PRAYER

Thank You for showing us how to care for others, especially those who are poor or feel left out.

You taught us to be kind and to help those in need.

Please help me to follow Your example, and share Your love with everyone, just as You did.

Guide me to see the needs of others around me and give me the courage to reach out and make a difference.

Thank You for being with me, and for teaching me how to show Your love in everything I do.

Amen

Martha, Rwanda

DID YOU KNOW?

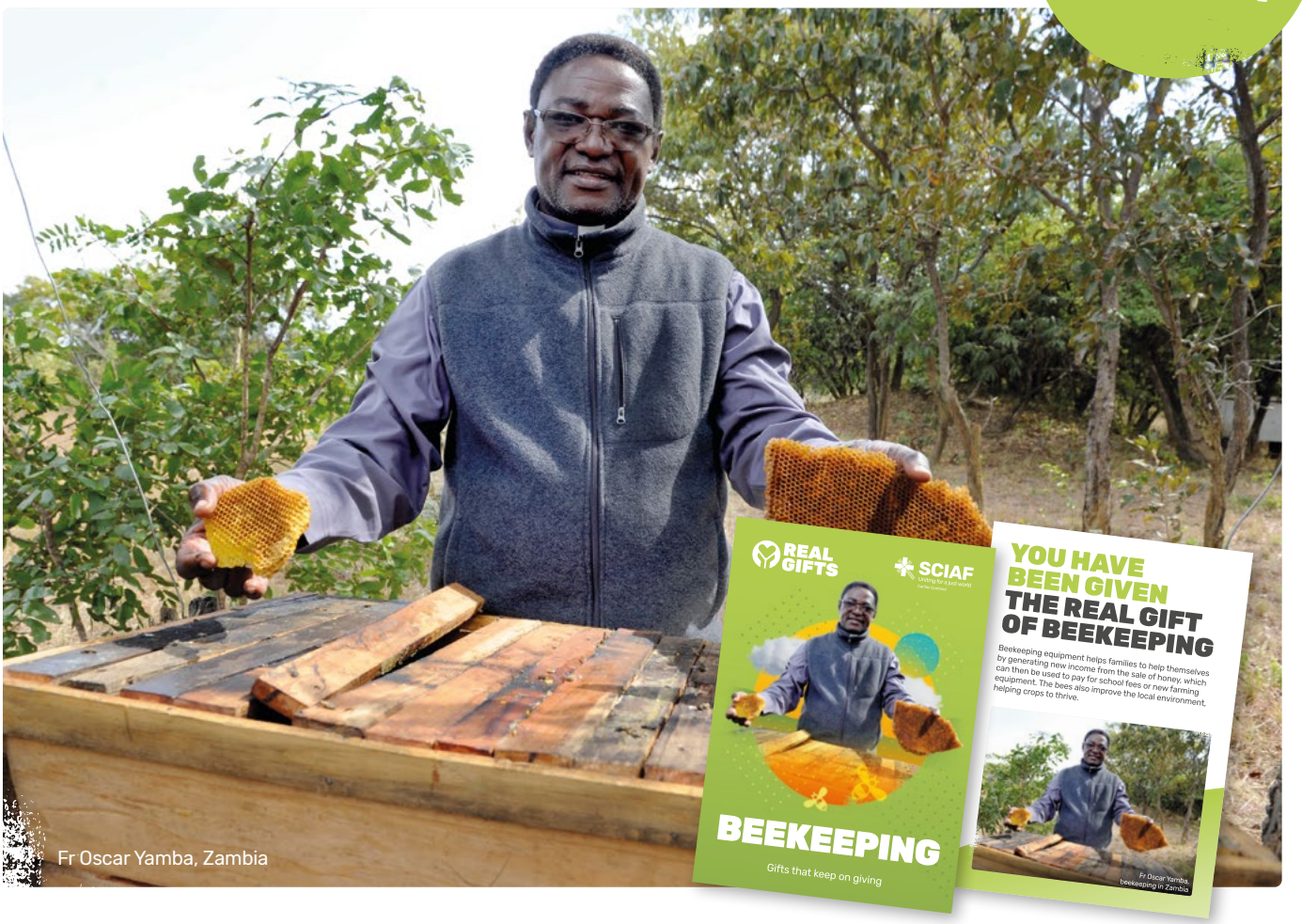
- 811 million people are facing hunger around the world – that's 150 times the number of people who live in Scotland.
- 60% of people around the world going hungry are women and girls.

LAUDATO SI' REAL GIFTS

GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

BEEKEEPING

SCIAF EDUCATION – PRIMARY



Fr Oscar Yamba, Zambia

Bees are really important minibeasts because they help plants grow by spreading pollen, which makes fruits, vegetables, and flowers. They also collect nectar from plants to make honey, which beekeepers can sell at local markets.

By learning to care for bees, people in some of the poorest countries are helping protect these vital bee populations and earning money to pay for essentials. Farmers learn how to set up beehives, take care of the bees, and safely collect honey.

Let's remember to be thankful for the wonderful gift of Creation, and to pray for the work of SCIAF.

PRAYER

Loving God, Creator of all,
We thank You for the gift of bees and the fruits of their work.

Bless those who learn to care for them, helping families to thrive and our Earth to flourish.

Guide us to be faithful stewards of Your creation, and to share Your love through our support of SCIAF.

Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Bees sip nectar from plants and use it to make honey. Each beehive can create enough honey to fill 60 jam jars each year!
- Bees can fly up to 15 miles per hour and can visit up to 100 flowers during one trip to collect nectar.

REAL GIFTS PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
We lift up our hearts in gratitude,
for the blessings we've received from You.

We offer these Real Gifts,
as a sign of love for our global family.

May they be a beacon of hope,
for those who need it most.

May they bring nourishment,
joy, and brighter futures.

May our fundraising efforts echo
Your call to love and serve.

And may we always work to create
a more just and kinder world for all.

Amen

GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

SCIAF EDUCATION - SECONDARY

Real Gifts make a world of difference. When you buy a Real Gift for a friend it brings them joy, and also provides real support for our sisters and brothers living in some of the world's poorest places. **But, don't just take our word for it!**

REAL GIFTS Q&A

Let's explore some important questions about how Real Gifts work. We encourage you to think critically and create your own set of questions as a class.

Question:

Why would some people choose Real Gifts over a traditional present?

In Laudato Si', Pope Francis reminds us that *"Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act."* What we choose to spend our money on reflects our own values and beliefs. When we respond to the needs of others by buying Real Gifts, we are living out our faith.

Question:

How does SCIAF ensure that the Real Gifts are appropriate for the communities who receive them, and can these gifts potentially affect the local economies?

All Real Gifts support work that is already happening through SCIAF's partners worldwide. Our projects are led by the communities we serve, and our partners (usually the local Catholic Church). Before a project begins, we work with the community to identify their specific needs, such as growing more food or getting clean water.

We don't buy items like farming tools, watering cans, school books, or soap in Scotland to send abroad. Instead, our partners source them locally (except in emergencies) which boosts the local economy, reduces travel emissions, and ensures that the items are culturally appropriate and suitable for the community.

Question:

What are the benefits or drawbacks to this approach?

Real Gifts let communities decide what they need instead of us assuming what might help them. For example, well-meaning projects that send backpacks to children worldwide are often not sustainable, and can actually increase global inequality. These backpacks might be made cheaply in factories by poorly paid workers and filled with items that are not useful for the children receiving them. This shows why it's important to think about how we can help others in a way that respects human dignity and is sustainable.

Question:

What about the transparency of Real Gifts?

People in Scotland love Real Gifts because they provide a way to put faith into action while respecting the dignity of people living in poverty. We aim to be as transparent as possible with all donations, but it wouldn't be ethical to share the exact details of which communities received specific types of help, like farming tools or beekeeping projects.

Question:

Are Real Gifts truly ethical and sustainable?

Yes, Real Gifts are designed to be both ethical and sustainable, having a positive lasting impact on people in some of the world's poorest places. Do you agree?

DISCUSS

SCIAF EDUCATION - SECONDARY

THE LAUDATO SI' REAL GIFTS ARE THE REAL GIFTS OF VEGETABLE GARDENS AND BEEKEEPING.

We've chosen to highlight these gifts because they represent key areas of our work – poverty, hunger and long-term development projects. In Laudato Si', Pope Francis tells us that: **"There are not two crises, one environmental and one social, but one complex crisis. The solution means we have to combat poverty, restore dignity to the excluded, and protect nature."**

How do you think Real Gifts **combat poverty?**

How do Real Gifts **restore dignity to the excluded?**

How do Real Gifts **protect nature?**