

Teleza with her
daughter Martha,
Malawi



WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE 2022

Prayer Resources for Parishes

Pray in Hope

“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



This Lent, we're asking you to act and pray in hope, to fight the Climate Emergency and help build God's Kingdom here on Earth. If you're taking part in our Acts of Hope challenge this year, you can use these prayers and reflections as part of your Lenten worship.

In the book of Acts we read the story of the early Church. It tells us that the early Church were very close, in fact they shared everything (money, food, possessions). They gave to those that were in need, they ate together, praised God together and learned together. As part of the Church, and with your help and support, SCIAF are responding to the needs of our sisters and brothers in Malawi.

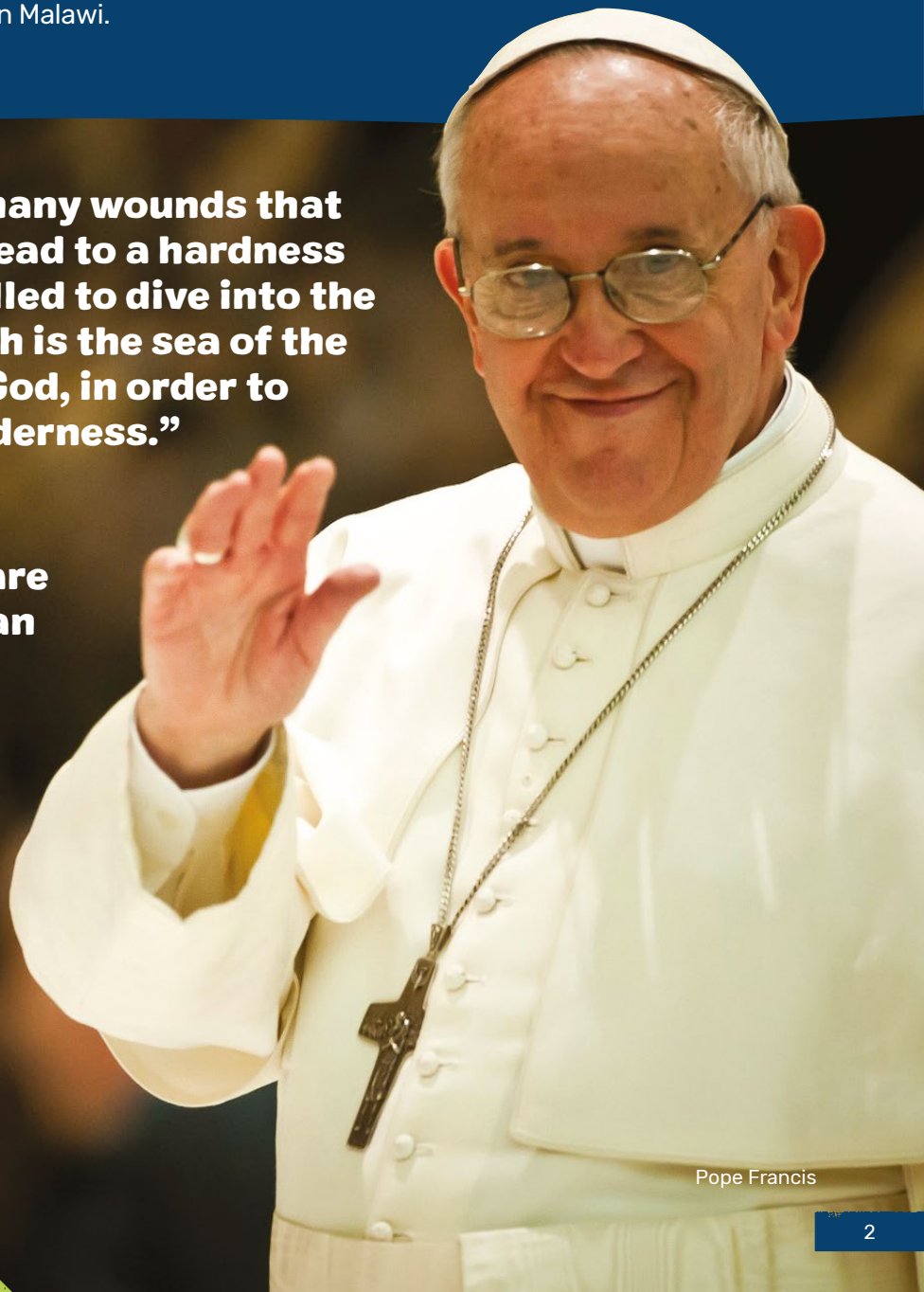
It is only by coming together in compassion that we can build God's Kingdom here on Earth.

This resource provides prayers and reflections to use in your parish throughout Lent including SCIAF Stations of the Cross, a reflection video and prayers of intercession.

Also included are materials to assist you to take part in our SCIAF Day of Prayer on Friday 18th March 2022. On this day, we ask school and parish communities across Scotland to dedicate time to pray for the people of Malawi and those feeling the effects of climate change around the world.

“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

A Prayer for Our Earth

by Pope Francis

All powerful God,
 you are present in the universe
 and in the smallest of your creatures.
 You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
 Pour out upon us the power of your love,
 that we may protect life and beauty.
 Fill us with your peace, that we may live
 as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
 help us to rescue the abandoned
 and forgotten of this earth,
 so precious in your eyes.
 Bring healing to our lives,
 that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
 that we may sow beauty,
 not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts
 of those who look only for gain
 at the expense of the poor and the earth.
 Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
 to be filled with awe and contemplation,
 to recognize that we are profoundly united
 with every creature
 as we journey towards your infinite light.
 We thank you for being with us each day.
 Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
 for justice, love and peace.

Amen.



Tamala and her family, Malawi

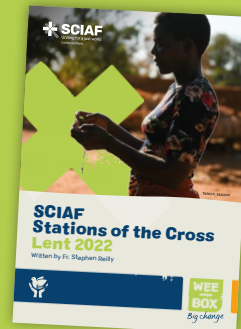
In this folder you will find a short video based on this prayer. Please watch and share with your parish.



More prayer and reflection materials within this folder:

SCIAF Stations of the Cross Booklet and PowerPoint

Use these materials throughout Lent to guide your parish reflections on the people of Malawi – on those who are feeling the extreme effects of climate change and the hunger this is causing. There is reflection on each station, written by Fr Stephen Reilly, Co-ordinator of Spiritual and Pastoral Formation at The University of Glasgow.



Daily Reflections PowerPoint

These reflections feature quotes from Pope Francis, verses from Scripture, prayers for the earth and for the people of Malawi.



Bidding Prayers for Lent

The response is *'Hear our prayer.'*

We pray for our sisters and brothers in Malawi. Help us Lord, so that more people in Scotland will reach out with love, generosity and prayers to those living in the poorest parts of the world. We pray for those who are hungry, thirsty and in need of shelter, may they feel the warmth of God's love.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for Pope Francis and all Church leaders here and around the world, who are inspiring others to tackle the climate crisis. We pray that God will work through them, to lead us in building His Kingdom here on Earth.

Lord, in your mercy...

Let us pray for the staff, volunteers and generous supporters of SCIAF. May their work continue to be a real expression of God's compassion in the world today.

Lord, in your mercy...

We thank God for SCIAF's partner in Malawi, CADECOM (cad-e-com), who are supporting communities already feeling the devastating effects of climate change. May God continue to bless their work and shelter them from harm.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders and decision makers. Lord open their hearts so they may care more deeply for all that you have made. Help us all to protect our Common Home and create the just world we all are striving for.

Lord, in your mercy...

We thank you Lord for the many blessings you have given us and the beautiful world that you have made. Help us to become stewards of this earth and make the changes in our daily lives that have a positive impact on people and planet.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the spiritual strength of the communities we work with in Malawi and around the world, as they continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish community. Help us to show love and compassion to one another in both our words and deeds. Lead us to act as neighbours to others and cherish the community around us.

Lord, in your mercy...





A reflection from SCIAF God's creation is crying

Read aloud this reflection as part of a prayer service this Lent.

“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 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 one of many experiencing similar problems.

**Can you hear their cry?
How will you respond?**

A reflection from SCIAF

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

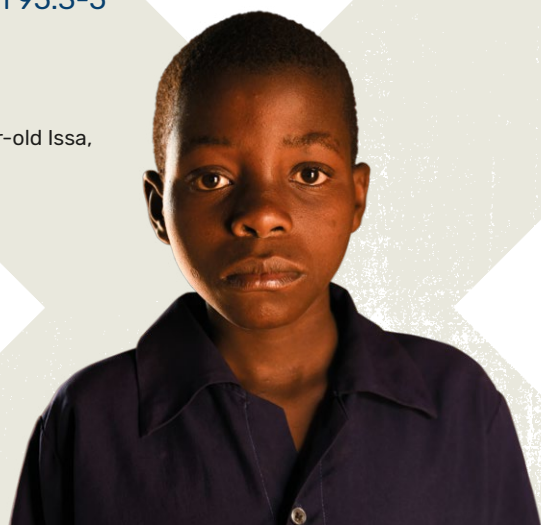
"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters."

Psalm 24:1-2

"For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it; for his hands formed the dry land."

Psalm 95:3-5

13-year-old Issa,
Malawi



It was Pope Paul VI that said God destined the earth and all it contains for all people and nations so that all created things would be shared fairly by all humankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity.

Sadly, we have not followed what God intended.

As Pope Francis said:

"We have severely harmed the Earth, our Common Home.

"Yet we have reasons for hope. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now."

With hope, prayer and action we can begin to build a just world, free of poverty, where we can all flourish and live in harmony with each other and all creation.

"Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies, aimed at implementing a culture of care and an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature."

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...

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

A reflection from SCIAF

Seeing God in Creation

“The earth was here before us and it has been given to us.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

Pope Francis reminds us that we are called to experience God through nature. In *Laudato Si'* he points us to the Canadian Bishops who say that: “From panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form, nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine.”

Scripture also speaks of encountering God in creation. ‘For since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.’ Romans 1:20

Creation sings of God’s qualities and magnitudes. We need only look around.

Psalm 19:1-6

How clearly the sky reveals God’s glory!
How plainly it shows what he has done!
Each day announces it to the following day;
each night repeats it to the next.
No speech or words are used,
no sound is heard;
yet their message goes out to all the world
and is heard to the ends of the earth.
God made a home in the sky for the sun;
it comes out in the morning like a happy bridegroom,
like an athlete eager to run a race.
It starts at one end of the sky
and goes across to the other.
Nothing can hide from its heat.

Left to right:
Julius, Issa (aged 13),
Collings (aged 2),
Mary and Yohane (aged 14),
Malawi



SCIAF Day of Prayer

Friday 18th March 2022

Today we ask our parish and school communities to dedicate time to pray for the people of Malawi – those who are hungry and feeling the effects of global climate change. Use any of the materials in this resource and the WEE BOX prayer, today and at all Masses this weekend.

WEE BOX Prayer

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.

Tamala
and her family,
Malawi

Show your participation in the SCIAF Day of Prayer on Friday 18th March by sharing photos on your Parish social media pages using #SCIAFDayofPrayer



Bulletin entries

Lent 2022

27th February (Sunday before Lent begins) **SCIAF WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE**

SCIAF's Lenten appeal focuses on the Climate Emergency and the devastating hunger this causes for families in the world's poorest places, including countries such as Malawi. Donations will help families to grow more food, heal their local environment, and provide access to money to afford essentials such as school fees and healthcare. For more information on the SCIAF WEE BOX appeal please visit sciaf.org.uk/weebox or call 0141 354 5555.

6th March (1st Sunday of Lent) **Act in Hope**

This Lent, SCIAF are asking you to offer up as many Acts of Hope as you can as part of your Lenten practice. By Acting in Hope and putting money in your WEE BOX this Lent, you can provide a lifeline for families on the front line of the Climate Emergency, lifting them from their hunger. For more information about the Acts of Hope challenge and SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal, please visit sciaf.org.uk/weebox or call 0141 354 5555.

13th March (2nd Sunday of Lent) **Build God's Kingdom here on Earth**

Each of us has a role to play in tackling the climate crisis, but it is only by coming together that we can build God's Kingdom here on Earth. Your support of SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal not only changes lives today but sets families up to survive the worst impacts of a changing climate tomorrow. How will you help build God's Kingdom here on Earth? For more information on the SCIAF WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal please visit sciaf.org.uk/resources or call 0141 354 5555.

20th March (3rd Sunday of Lent) **Care for our Common Home**

This Lent, SCIAF are asking you to get involved with their Acts of Hope challenge, encouraging you to change what you eat, how you travel, or how much you waste during Lent for the good of our climate and our Common Home.

By doing so, this helps you stand in solidarity with those living on the front line of the Climate Emergency, in places such as Malawi. By getting involved – and remembering to donate to the SCIAF WEE BOX appeal this Lent – you will help us change lives in some of the poorest countries in the world. For more information visit sciaf.org.uk/weebox or call 0141 354 5555.

27th March (4th Sunday of Lent) **SCIAF Sunday**

On this SCIAF Sunday, we pray for all Mothers around the world – that they may realise how special they are to us, their children. We thank you Lord for giving us this precious gift and we thank Mothers for the love, care and understanding they have given to us. We especially give thanks for Mothers in Malawi who, despite living in poverty, are providing their children with the love and support they need to survive.

By getting involved with the SCIAF WEE BOX appeal, by Acting in Hope, and by putting money in your WEE BOX this Lent, you're providing a lifeline to families living on the front line of the Climate Emergency who are facing extreme hunger and life on the edge of survival. Please give what you can in today's collection.

3rd April (5th Sunday of Lent) **Pray in Hope**

This Lent, SCIAF are asking you to act and pray in hope, to fight the Climate Emergency, and help build God's Kingdom here on Earth. To help you prepare for Easter they have a number of prayers and reflections for you to use as part of your Lenten worship. Please visit sciaf.org.uk/resources to download the prayer resources today.

10th April (Palm Sunday) **WEE BOX, BIG THANKS!**

Thank you all so much for your support of the SCIAF WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE Lenten appeal. Please return your WEE BOXES as soon as you can. Thank you once again for your great generosity. Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Easter!



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.

