



Stations of the Cross

with Prayer of the Faithful for Sundays in Lent
Children's liturgy for the fourth Sunday in Lent

SCIAF
Scotland's aid agency

A billion people in the world live on less than 60 pence a day, denied the right to food, clean water, education and healthcare. Despite international agreement to deliver eight Millennium Development Goals, which would halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, progress is painfully slow. Unfair trade and unpayable debt mean that many of the poorest countries are excluded from economic development. A new threat, climate change, is making their situation worse, washing away much of the progress made in poverty eradication. Those who have done least to cause climate change face an increase in hurricanes, drought and floods, which bring hunger and disease in their wake. SCIAF helps poor communities adapt to the impact of climate change and, with Catholic aid agencies around the world, is calling on industrialised countries to reduce the harmful carbon emissions which cause it.

Please feel free to copy these prayers, download them from our website at www.sciaf.org.uk or contact us for more copies of this booklet on 0141 354 555.

A powerpoint presentation with images for Stations of the Cross is also available on the website.

Lent 2009

All photos : Gonzalo Bell

Front cover: Isadora's family in El Salvador learned how to adapt to climate change with help from SCIAF.

Stations of the Cross

contents

Stations of the Cross	page 2
Prayer of the Faithful for Sundays in Lent	page 11
Children's liturgy for the fourth Sunday in Lent	page 13

Stations of the Cross

Introduction

In this way of the cross, we meet people from developing countries who work hard to overcome poverty and provide for their families. Like Jesus, they suffer many injustices along the way. They invite us to reflect on how our lives are linked with theirs, and how we can show solidarity with them in their struggle to live with dignity.

1st Station

Jesus is condemned to death.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Over a billion people in the world are condemned by unfair political and economic structures to live on less than 60 pence a day. Today they face a new threat. The poorest people in the world, those who have done least to cause it, are being hit hardest by climate change. Increased drought and floods are sweeping away land and destroying crops, bringing hunger and disease in their wake. Raina in El Salvador has learned how to cope with the new weather patterns, but she is often afraid to sleep at night in case the hurricane returns to bury her house in mud.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as we set out with you on your journey to Calvary, may we open our hearts to all those who walk that journey today. Give us the grace to understand how our lives are linked with theirs.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

2nd Station

Jesus takes up his cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In many developing countries, people have to start all over again each time floods and drought destroy their livelihoods. Valeriano calls on rich countries to cut back on the harmful carbon emissions which cause climate change. He says: "Very often the river floods, our animals drown, our crops are destroyed and we need to start all over again. All life is drowned when the land is flooded."

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, you accepted your cross upon your back. Help us accept our responsibility to care for the environment God has given us, and support SCIAF and Catholic aid agencies around the world which are campaigning to create a new climate for justice.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

3rd Station

Jesus falls for the first time.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ
and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy
cross, you have redeemed
the world.

Reader:

In Brazil many poor communities have been forced off their land so that sugar can be grown to make biofuels for petrol. Maria's community worked hard with support from SCIAF to reclaim their land. She said: "It has been a long hard struggle, but by working together and keeping up our courage, we have managed to change our lives and give our children a future."

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, you fell under the weight of the cross and rose again to continue your journey. We remember parishes around Scotland who help people in communities like Maria's to rise up and claim their right to live in dignity.

All: Suffering for us, you set
us free, rising you gave
us life; you are the Saviour
of the world.

4th Station

Jesus meets his mother.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ
and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy
cross, you have redeemed
the world.

Reader:

Poor mothers in developing countries often have to watch helplessly as their children die from hunger and preventable diseases. 30,000 children will die because of poverty today.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, Mary's pain leads us to a deeper understanding of your humanity. May the cries of hungry children and the grief of their mothers open our hearts to respond with generosity and compassion. Whatever we do to the least of these, we do to you.

All: Suffering for us, you set
us free, rising you gave
us life; you are the Saviour
of the world.

5th Station

Simon helps carry his cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ
and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy
cross, you have redeemed
the world.

Reader:

The weight of unfair trade weighs heavily on many poor countries, denying them the opportunity to sell their goods fairly. Pope Paul VI said that when we give aid to poor countries while we deny them opportunities to trade, we are giving with one hand and taking with the other.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, when the weight of your cross became too heavy to bear, Simon came to your help. May the church continue to speak out about the structures of injustice which create and sustain poverty.

All: Suffering for us, you set
us free, rising you gave
us life; you are the Saviour
of the world.

6th Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ
and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy
cross, you have redeemed
the world.

Reader:

Small acts of love can touch the lives of many people. In Nicaragua, mothers of disabled children, who were once isolated in their homes, got together to create a Special Families project which enables them to get out and take their place in society. People in Scotland, through SCIAF, helped them to help themselves.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, Veronica reached out in love to ease your suffering. May we follow her example, and the example of people and parishes in Scotland, who support the special families of Nicaragua.

All: Suffering for us, you set
us free, rising you gave
us life; you are the Saviour
of the world.

7th Station

Jesus falls for the second time.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Hunger brings people to their knees. Over 900 million people will go to bed hungry tonight. When drought created food shortages in Niger, Howel collected leaves to give her children. "I used to cook them," she said. "That was our one meal of the day."

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, the courage and resilience of people like Howel challenge us to ask why so many people are hungry in our world of plenty. May they inspire us to support SCIAF campaigns for an end to poverty and injustice.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

8th Station

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Like women around the world, poor women in developing countries want to give their children a better start in life than they had. Dora in El Salvador was struggling to feed her children and give them clean water, when a SCIAF supported project helped provide her with water storage and agricultural training. She said: "We want to thank you for caring about the neediest."

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, we are moved by the compassion of the women who mourned for you. We pray for SCIAF's partners in developing countries, who, in our name, give practical support to the neediest people.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

9th Station

Jesus falls for the third time.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

The church cares for over 25% of AIDS sufferers around the world. In India, SCIAF helps destitute women understand the dangers of HIV/AIDS, and provides them with ways of making a living so that they are not forced into prostitution. Keelakottai got a small loan to buy goats, and she can now provide for herself and her son.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as we fall, so may we rise to a greater awareness of your love for all humanity. We thank God for all those in the church who show your love to those with AIDS.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

10th Station

Jesus is stripped of his garments.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Many thousands of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo are subjected to horrific levels of rape and sexual abuse. Aimerance was enslaved by armed men who took her away into the forest after killing her husband and children. She escaped after a year, and found help at a SCIAF supported project. She is sad when she remembers how happy her family was.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as you were stripped of your garments, there was no compassion shown to you, only the greed of those who shared out your clothes. May you be with the women of Congo today.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

11th Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In Sudan there are many people with physical disabilities, because of war and poverty. There are few resources to help them. Auguri, who has polio, is grateful for the tricycle he received at a project funded by SCIAF. It has given him the freedom to go to school and get out to meet his friends.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, like many of those trapped by poverty and disability, you were nailed to a cross of pain. We remember all the young people in schools who care about people like Auguri and support them through SCIAF.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

12th Station

Jesus dies on the cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

We see the face of Jesus in the suffering and death of all those who die of hunger and disease; in the lives of those who work tirelessly for justice; and in the compassion of all the individuals, schools and parishes around Scotland who reach out through SCIAF to support the world's poorest people.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, through your death you have given us hope of eternal life. May you be with all who die today, especially those who die in poverty and isolation.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

13th Station

Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

In Sudan, Angelina sits on the ground, waiting to die. She is a leper, living in an isolated community of lepers on the outskirts of the city, which has largely been forgotten. SCIAF brought them practical, everyday things to make their lives easier.

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as you were taken lovingly from the cross, may we always treat both the living and the dead as signs of God's presence.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

14th Station

Jesus is placed in the tomb.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Pope Benedict said: "The family needs a home, a fit environment in which to develop its proper relationships. For the human family, this home is the earth, the environment that God the Creator has given us to inhabit with creativity and responsibility."

Let us pray

Loving Jesus, as you were laid in the tomb, may we see the signs and reality of your presence in the wonder of creation. May it inspire us to support SCIAF's campaign for climate justice, which calls for international agreement to tackle the causes and effects of climate change.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the Saviour of the world.

15th Station

Jesus is raised from the dead.

Leader: We praise you, O Christ and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader:

Out of death comes new life; out of destruction, hope; and out of chaos, transformation. We see the transforming love of God in our relationship with others; those far away, and those near at hand.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, may your rising from the dead empower us to believe that death has been destroyed, and eternal life awaits all those who hope.

All: Suffering for us, you set us free, rising you gave us life; you are the saviour of the world.

Closing Prayer

Loving Jesus, as we prayed these Stations of the Cross, we recalled your suffering and passion as you journeyed to your death, and the suffering and passion of those who experience poverty, disease and injustice in our world each day. Your cross has become for many the symbol of hope and compassion; your resurrection brings the promise of a new and eternal life.

May we be a sign of hope and compassion in the way we live our lives and in the care we show for others and for the environment.

Amen

Prayer of the Faithful

Prayer of the Faithful for Sundays in Lent

We pray for people in developing countries who are struggling to cope with the impact of climate change.

May we commit ourselves this Lent to make small changes in the way we live, so that the gift of God's creation is shared more fairly.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for SCIAF's partner organisations in developing countries, which support poor people in their struggle to rise from the depths of poverty and hunger.

May we continue to support them with our prayers and Lenten alms.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all the parishes, schools and individuals whose generosity and commitment have changed the lives of people in developing countries through their support for SCIAF.

May they continue to reach out to the world's poorest people.

Lord, hear us

We pray for the work of SCIAF, which helps people feed their families and care for the poorest, while working for long term change to bring an end to their poverty.

May we be generous in our giving and in our support for SCIAF campaigns.

Lord, hear us

We pray for young people, that they will know God's love and learn to share it with others.

May their eyes be opened to the poverty faced by young people in developing countries.

Lord, hear us

We pray for the church, which cares for so many people throughout the world.

May it continue to speak out against unjust political and economic structures, so that poorer countries can work their way out of poverty.

Lord, hear us

Children's Liturgy

Children's liturgy for the fourth Sunday in Lent

This liturgy is written following the format of the Welcome the Word Liturgy series by Sister Joan Brown SND and has been adapted for the fourth Sunday in Lent, known in many parishes in Scotland as 'SCIAF Sunday'. A collection is taken in churches for Papal and Episcopal Charities, which includes SCIAF.

Sunday Theme: Jesus is Our Light
SCIAF Lenten Campaign: Climate Change
Materials to use: SCIAF WEE BOX

Welcome and sharing

Encourage the children to tell you about the things that they saw on the way to church.

What things did they see that were made by people?

What things did they see that were made by God?

Who do they think should look after the things made by God?

In today's Gospel we hear how people who do good work for God live in the light.

Proclaim the Gospel

Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.

Lord, fill our hearts with the light of your Gospel.

Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.

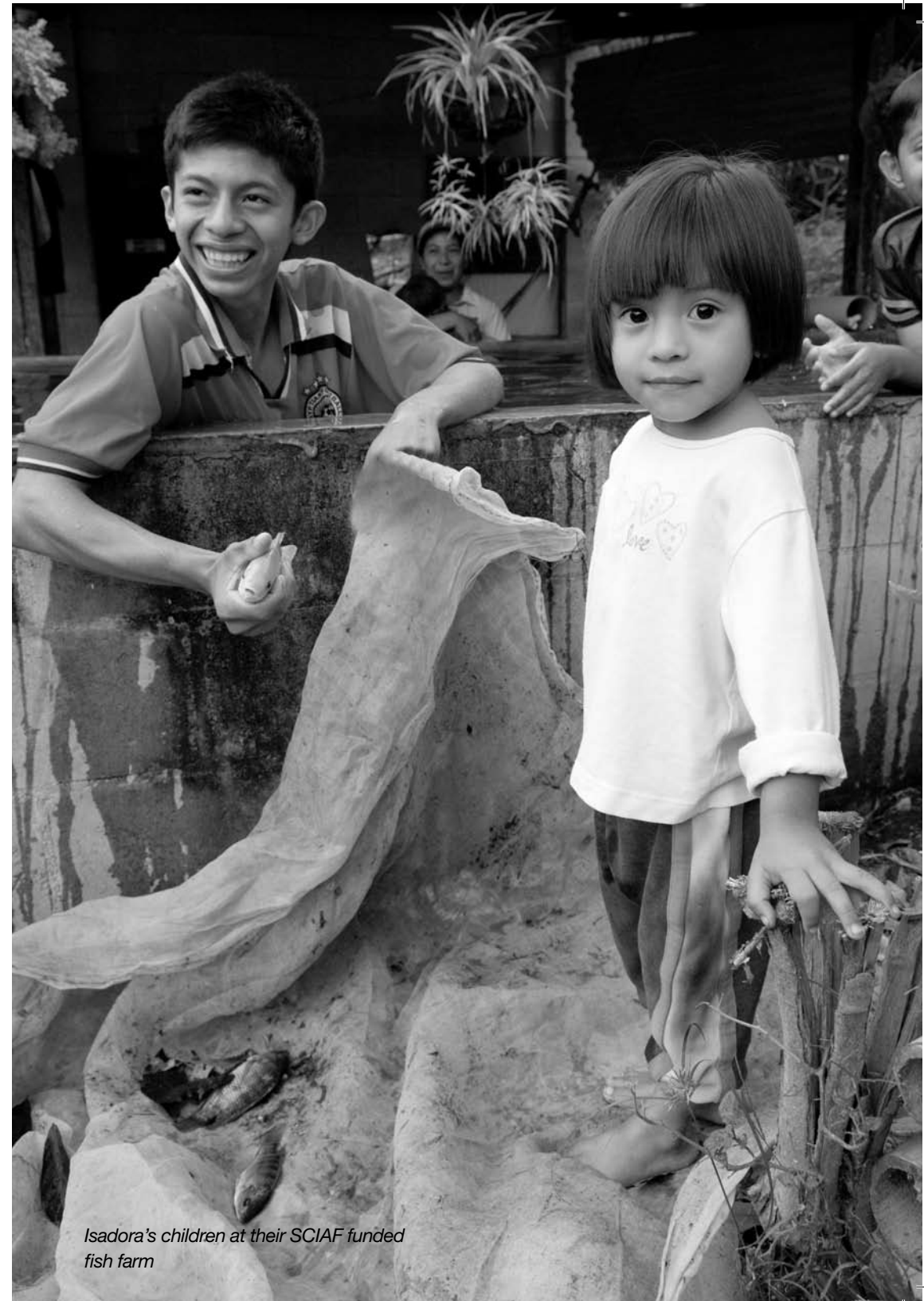
A reading from the Good News given to us by John.

Glory to you, Lord

Jesus said to Nicodemus 'I have been sent into the world to save it. I am the light of the world. Everyone who does wrong hates the light because it shows their badness. Those who are good love the light so that everyone can see the good things that they do for God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



Isadora's children at their SCIAF funded fish farm

Discussion

In the Gospel, why do bad people not like the light?

Why do good people like the light?

Do you know what Sunday this is?

Does anyone know what SCIAF does?

Explain that SCIAF helps us all to do good things for others and for God, by helping people all over the world.

SCIAF helps us all to be good people by helping to look after God's world, and all God's people in it.

This year SCIAF is telling us about families in poor countries who need our help because of climate change, which makes the weather change.

SCIAF has helped Isadora and her children.

They live in a country called El Salvador. In their country climate change has made it very dry sometimes - this is called a drought - and there is no rain to water their plants.

The plants die, and then the family have very little to eat. Sometimes it rains far too much and this causes a flood. Then the plants can be washed away or covered up in mud, and again the family have very little to eat.

SCIAF helped Isadora and her family by teaching them how to build ditches around their plants to save them from flood waters. It also gave them money to set up a fish farm. Isadora said 'SCIAF has helped us. We would be living on the street without SCIAF's help. Sometimes the children only had one corn cob to eat a day but now we have fish to eat as well.' Isadora can also sell some fish to help buy other things for her family.

This wee box could be your way of helping God and his world. Just by saving your pennies you could help another family like Isadora's to have enough food to eat. That would be like the person in the gospel who lives in the light and does God's work.

Background information and pictures of children and families adapting to climate change are available from SCIAF website Lent 09 campaign. www.sciaf.org.uk



Isadora and her children



www.sciaf.org.uk

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SCIAF
Scotland's aid agency

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