



Come all those  
who are thirsty...  
Isaiah 55:1



# WEE BOX 2016 Prayer Resources

Prayerful activities that will help you and your pupils pray for our sisters and brothers in Ethiopia.

Activities will make particular references to TIOF RERC 1/2/3/4 – 14 and Senior Phase 'Hours of God'.



Scripture tells us *'The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working'* (James 5:14-16).

The aim of the prayers and reflections below are to help your pupils connect with God as they pray for the people of Ethiopia. Some are active, others are more contemplative.

You can take a number of these prayers and reflections and combine them to create a SCIAF prayer service or alternatively drop an activity/prayer into the start of a period over the course of Lent.



## Every drop counts

Get active with prayer and create a visual prayer display.

**You'll need: card, tape, string/wool, colouring pens/pencils, scissors, paper clips.**

Water is rich in symbolism throughout Scripture and the Church. This activity aims to pair up prayer with symbolism to focus our attention on our brothers and sisters, particularly in Ethiopia.

Using the templates of the cloud (which you can blow up to A3) and the water droplets (provided), cut out one droplet per child and as many clouds as you like to display them on.

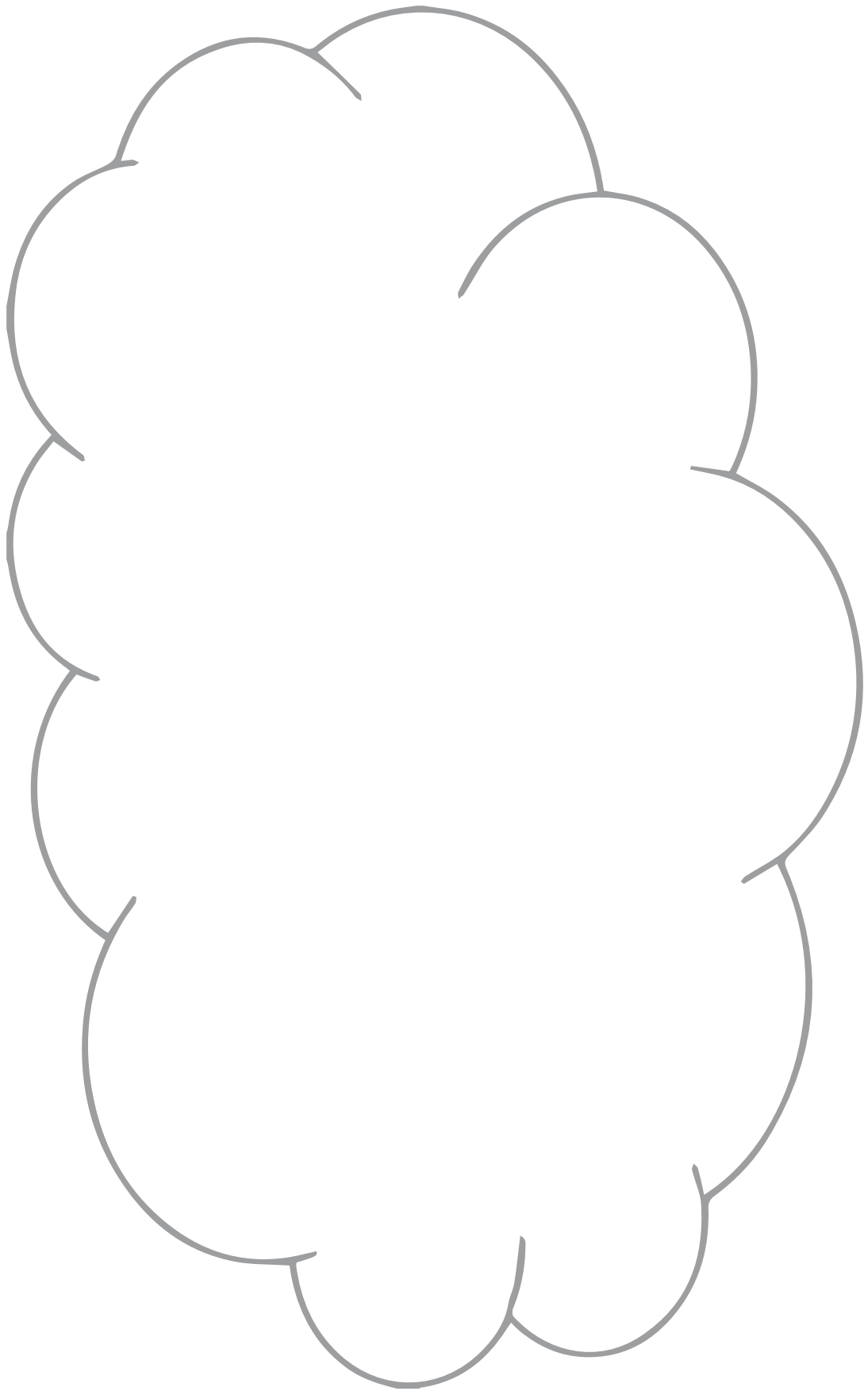
Ask each child to write a prayer for the people who are often living without enough water. Encourage the children not to worry about spelling or using big words, but that their own words are powerful enough. You might like to enlighten the children by watching the WEE BOX video to remind you of this year's appeal.

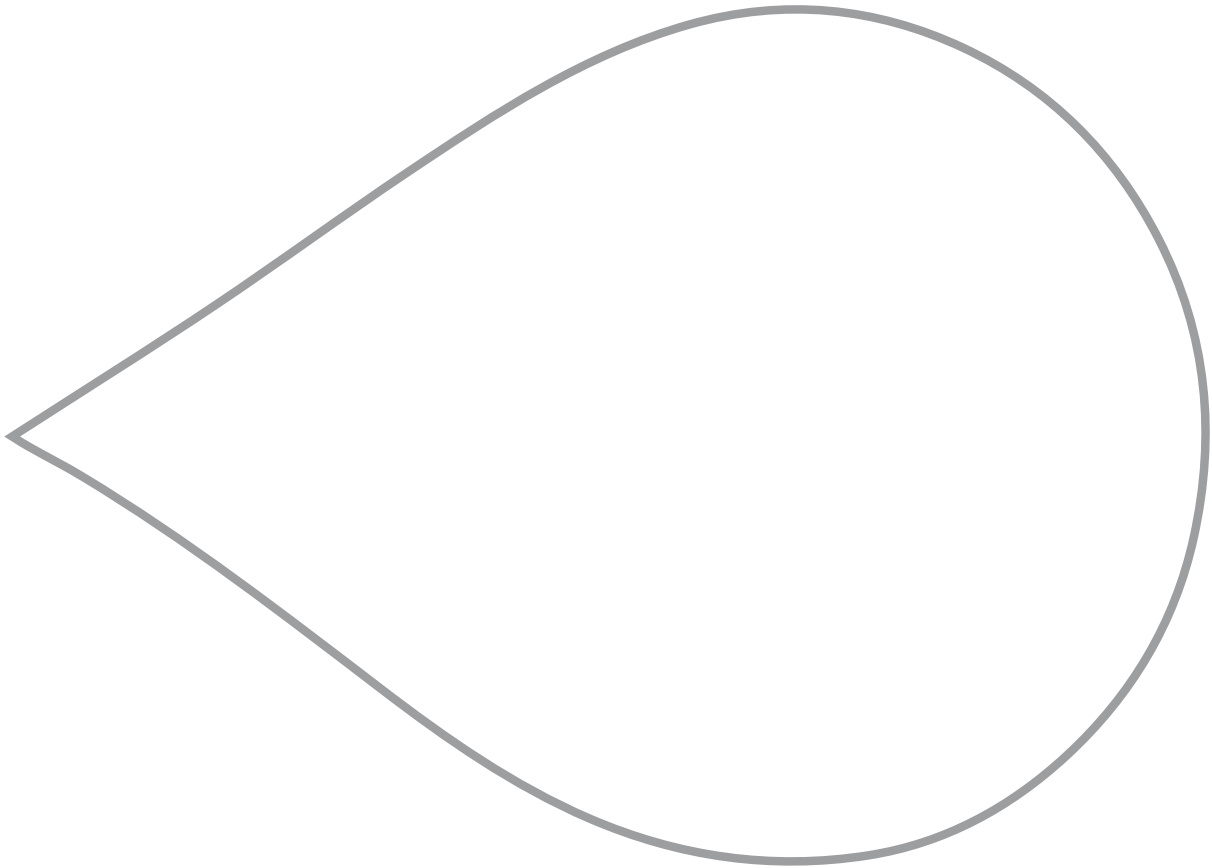
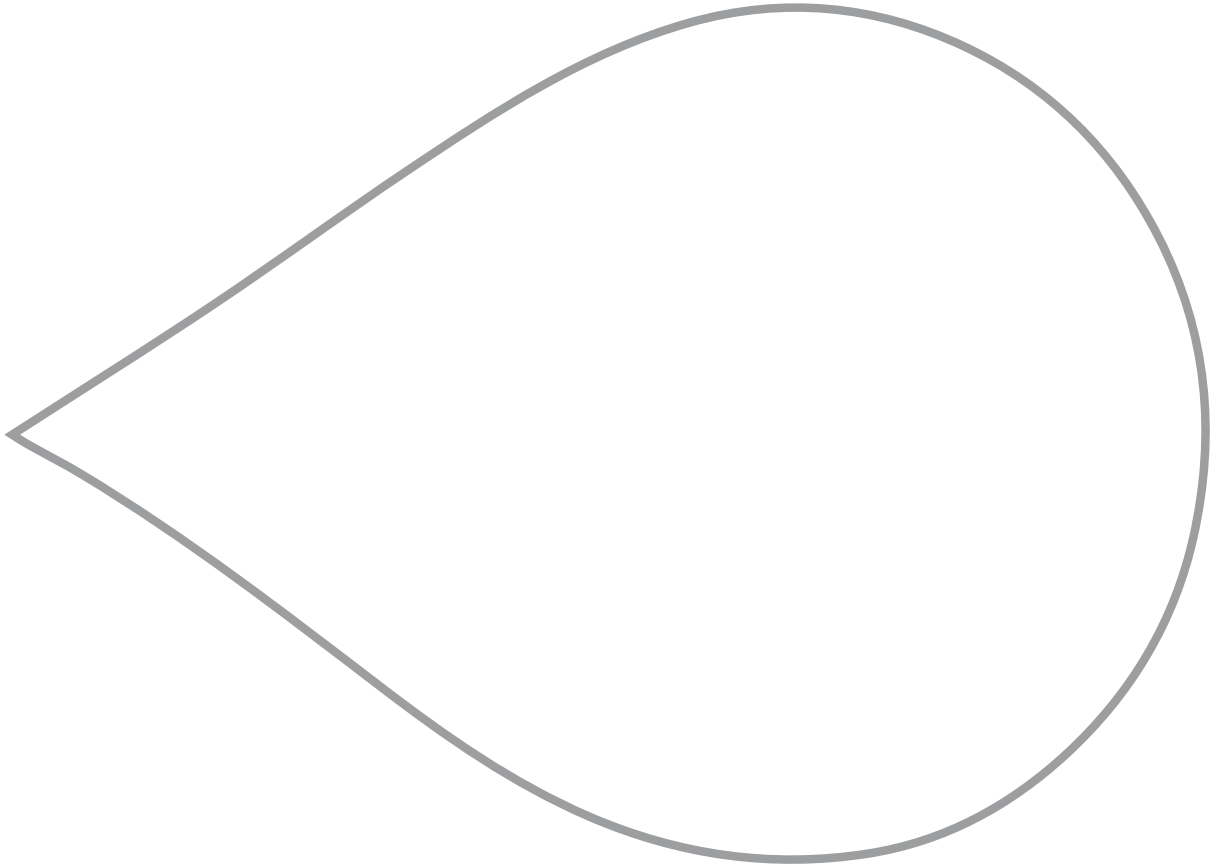
Once the children have completed their prayer and coloured the other side blue, attach two or three droplets to a piece of string and paper clip the string of droplets to the cloud.



You can then suspend your rain cloud prayers from the ceiling or display on a wall for the whole school to see.

Please photograph your clouds and send them to [mbooker@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:mbooker@sciaf.org.uk) and # SCIAF as you upload to Twitter or tag us on Facebook. It would be amazing to see your prayer showers.





# Praying together

**You'll need: A bowl/bucket of water, a bowl/bucket of small rocks (enough for one per pupil).**

This activity reminds the pupils that their prayers come together with others and as the Church they stand in solidarity with the people of Ethiopia and elsewhere who are struggling to make ends meet. This is a nice activity to do together and it really feels like you're part of something bigger.

The script below leads you through the activity. The bits that you say are in bold.

Tell your group or class that they're going to take part in a reflection and you will be praying to God so it's important that they're quiet and follow your instructions without speaking to one another.

Stand in a circle (side by side) around a table with a bowl of stones on it and a bowl of water next to it.

Teacher: **Take a few deep breaths together and focus your attention on God** (pause and take the deep breaths yourself). **Slowly and quietly move towards the bowl of stones, take one in your hand and return back to your place** (wait until all are in their place). **Hold out your hand with the rock on the palm of your hand and just look at it, keep your focus on the rock** (pause).

**Jesus told Peter in Matthew chapter 16 'on this rock I will build my Church'** (pause). **We are part of the Church of God and we all have important roles to play to build that Church** (pause).

**Close your eyes** (pause). **You are represented by the rock that you hold. Every rock is different and unique and so are you** (pause). **Together we can do amazing things just like a thousand rocks together can build an awesome tower** (pause).

**Even though we are one human family made in the image of God, some have and some do not have** (pause). **Because of war, climate change and unfair rules some people find themselves without enough food and water and without the chance of education** (pause).

**Wrap your fingers around the rock and play your part as the Church and pray for the people of Ethiopia who have little** (pause). **With your eyes still closed, pray silently for children** (pause). **Pray for families** (pause). **Ask God to comfort them and to provide for their needs** (pause). **Ask God to give them strength** (pause). **Ask God to help the work that SCIAF does in Ethiopia to support thousands of families to work and provide for their children** (pause).

**Open your eyes, slowly and quietly walk towards the bowl of water and drop your stone into the water, then slowly and quietly go back to your place** (pause).

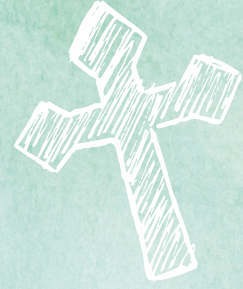
**As you see all the rocks together in the bowl, all of your prayers have been heard by God and they will join thousands of other prayers said by people in schools and parishes in Scotland this Lent. You are the Church and you have your part to play.**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen'**



# Prayers

Using the prayer below (also on power point slide), adapted from Rev Canon Paul Robertson (2004), pray together for the people of Ethiopia and other countries who are suffering from a lack of rainfall and access to clean water.



**Loving God, whose son Jesus Christ  
called all who were thirsty  
to come to him, believe and drink.**

**Look in mercy on your people living in dry lands and  
struggling to survive without safe drinking water.**

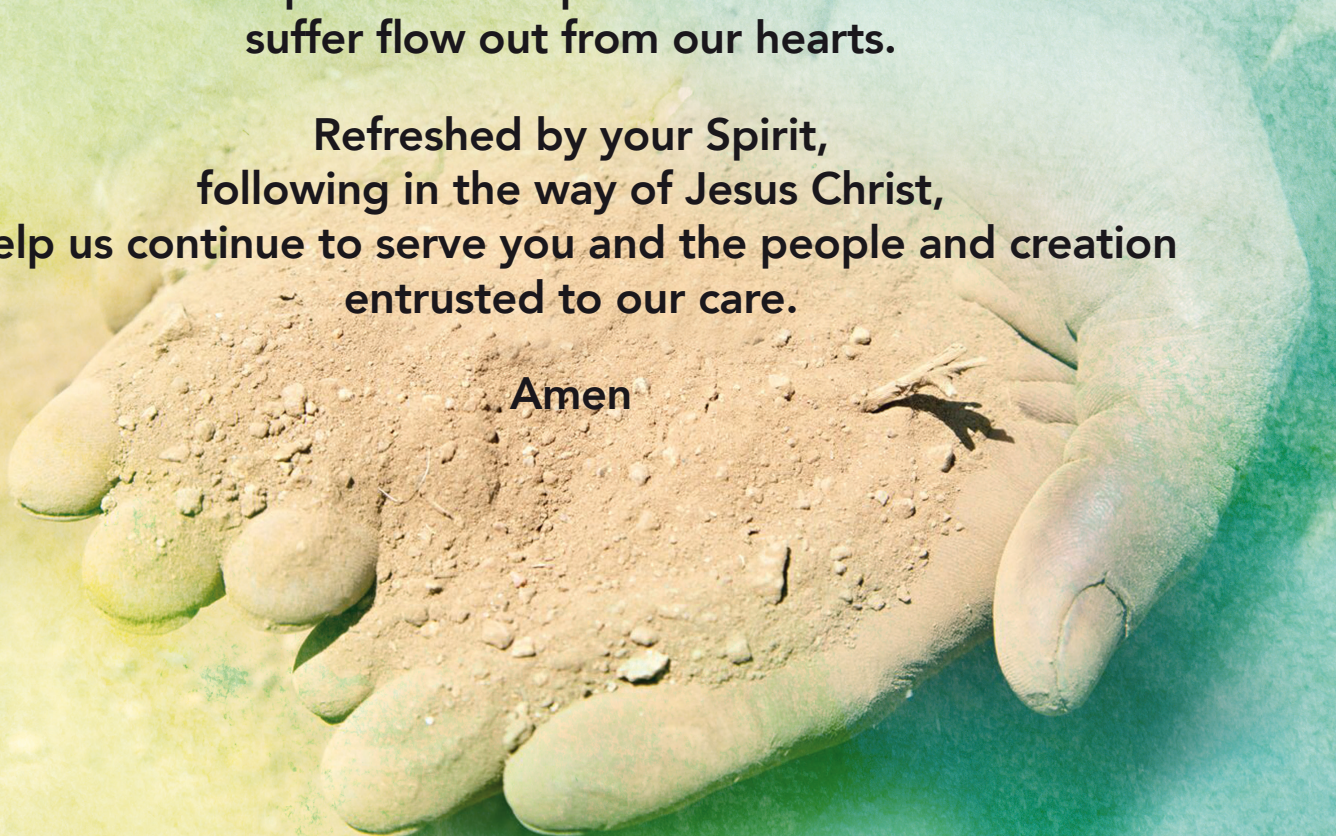
**Forgive our selfishness in life and our misuse of  
our natural resources.**

**We commit ourselves to value and care for your gifts to us.**

**May rivers of living water  
and practical compassion for all who  
suffer flow out from our hearts.**

**Refreshed by your Spirit,  
following in the way of Jesus Christ,  
help us continue to serve you and the people and creation  
entrusted to our care.**

**Amen**



In the year of Mercy, let us remember that we have been shown great mercy by God and we in turn should be merciful to others. This short prayer by Bishop Jaime Soto would be a good prayer to use throughout Lent as you remember the people that, you're helping. Maybe you can use the slide provided and start each lesson with the prayer or alternatively use it at the start of assemblies?

**May God open the heavens and let His mercy rain down upon our fields and mountains.**

**Let us especially pray for those most impacted by water shortages and for the wisdom and charity to be good stewards of this precious gift.**

**May our political leaders seek the common good as we learn to care and share God's gift of water for the good of all.**

**In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

*Bishop Jaime Soto, Catholic Diocese of Sacramento*

# Thought for the day/week

Use the Bible verses quotes and prayers below to offer a thought for the day style input to a lesson or assembly (use power point slides).



**When you help the poor you are lending to the Lord-and he pays wonderful interest on your loan!**  
– Prov. 19:17

**“From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people approach it.”**  
– Misericordiae Vultus

**If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.**  
– Isaiah 58:10

**We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.** – 1 John 4:19-20

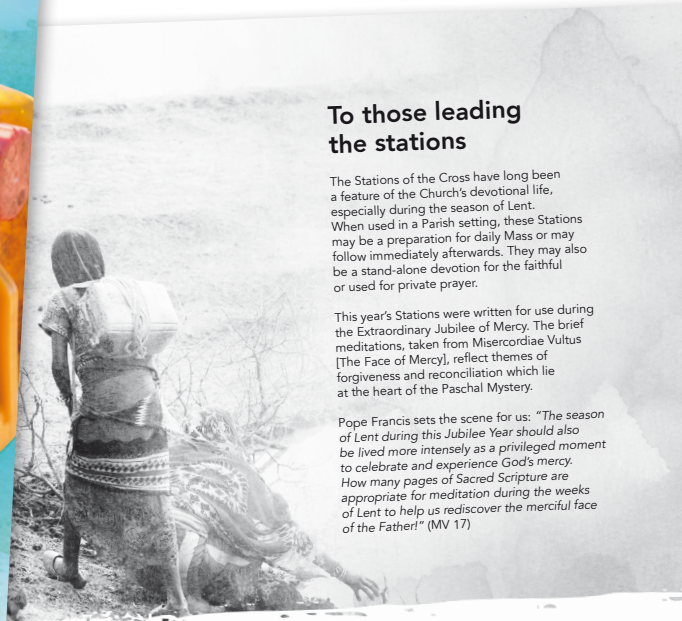
**“God’s mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. Ez 37:1-14)... Let us be renewed by God’s mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.”** – Pope Francis, Easter Urbi et Orbi message on March 31, 2013

**“I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me... I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.”** – Matthew 25

**The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.**  
– Proverbs 22:2

# Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross is a traditional spiritual pilgrimage where we meditate on the 14 scenes of the stages of Jesus' painful journey to his crucifixion. On your DVD you'll see the power-point and pdf file that will help lead your pupils through the stations.



## To those leading the stations

The Stations of the Cross have long been a feature of the Church's devotional life, especially during the season of Lent. When used in a Parish setting, these Stations may be a preparation for daily Mass or may follow immediately afterwards. They may also be a stand-alone devotion for the faithful or used for private prayer.

This year's Stations were written for use during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The brief meditations, taken from *Misericordiae Vultus* [The Face of Mercy], reflect themes of forgiveness and reconciliation which lie at the heart of the Paschal Mystery.

Pope Francis sets the scene for us: "The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. How many pages of Sacred Scripture are appropriate for meditation during the weeks of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father!" (MV 17)

All photos were taken by Sarah Hunter. They feature SCIAF's work with communities in the Borana region of Ethiopia

**Stations of the Cross  
and prayers for Lent 2016**

Written by Fr John Bolland

**SCIAF**  
for a just world