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Bishop of Motherwell

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6 March 2018

To be shared with Parishioners on Sunday 11th March – SCIAF Sunday

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write on behalf of the Bishops of Scotland on this, the fourth Sunday of Lent, to thank you for your generous and loving support for SCIAF – the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund.

Today's gospel tells us that God loved the world so much that he gave his only son to ensure that everyone who believes in him will not be lost but will instead have eternal life.

But it isn't enough for us to say that we believe in God we must also strive to live lives that recognise the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf and to reflect that love. Lives of faith, compassion and love for our brothers and sisters are what God expects of us.

In 1965 SCIAF was founded to work with, and for, the poorest and most vulnerable people on God's earth. It is the aid agency of the Scottish Bishop's Conference and acts on our behalf in fifteen countries around the world. Each year SCIAF highlights a different country and family as an example of its work. In Cambodia SCIAF works with people, like the Lang family who rely on fishing and growing rice and vegetables to feed themselves. In recent years this was made extremely difficult because illegal fishing methods were used by criminal gangs and this had a detrimental effect on fish stocks. Without fish to eat and to sell the family struggled to have enough food to eat and buy the necessities of life.

With help from SCIAF, regular patrols are made of the river and the people now have enough fish for their needs.

See over

Diocesan Centre, Coursington Road, Motherwell. ML1 1PP
T: 01698-269114

Scottish Registered Charity No. SC011041

Thanks to the WEE BOX appeal people like the Langs also have access to clean water and no longer go hungry. They and their children can look forward to a brighter future. This year the UK government has pledged to match, pound for pound, all donations given to the WEE BOX appeal before 8th May, allowing SCIAF to do so much more to help those brothers and sisters who need our help.

SCIAF helps us all to put our faith into action and to show our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ, wherever they may be. During this Lenten season I urge you to remember the work of SCIAF in your actions and your prayers. Let us remember that we are all beloved of God and demonstrate our love for our brothers and sisters by sharing what we have with the Lang family and all those who need our help. Please support the WEE BOX appeal as generously as you can.

May God bless you and your families during this holy season of Lent.



+Joseph Toal

Bishop President of SCIAF

On behalf the Bishop's Conference of Scotland.