



Rt Rev. Joseph Toal STB KC*HS
Bishop of Motherwell

To be shared with Parishioners on Sunday 31st 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 prayerful support for SCIAF – the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund.

In the gospel today we hear of a son who, having squandered his money, is so hungry that he would have eaten the swill put out for his master's pigs. We are told that when the son finally returned to his father's house there was great celebration and his father was overjoyed to have his son with him once again.

This unconditional love of an earthly father is as nothing compared to the love that our heavenly Father has for us. We should rejoice in that love and it should remind us that God loves all our brothers and sisters equally, and expects that we, in turn, will demonstrate our love for them.

That is why SCIAF was founded, to give the church in Scotland the opportunity to show its love for our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters, and why, during Lent, we ask you to give generously to support the vital work SCIAF does on our behalf.

In Uganda SCIAF has been working to support people like Lydia who was struggling to feed her five children. You will see pictures of Lydia and her children on the WEE BOX. With some practical help she has been able to turn the life of her family around and now has food for today and hope for the future.

In addition to helping Lydia and vulnerable young people like her grow more food, SCIAF and its partners are also helping the community to work with the local authorities to ensure that they receive the agricultural services the Ugandan Government has promised them. In this way SCIAF is improving local state governance, democratic accountability, and the sustainability of the farming in local communities.

In this way SCIAF is, on your behalf, protecting communities for generations to come.

SCIAF helps us all to put our faith into action and to demonstrate our Christian love for all our brothers and sisters. Please support the WEE BOX appeal during this holy season and in today's special collection. As Lent draws to a close and we look forward to the celebration of Christ's resurrection, please remember SCIAF and everyone they work with in your prayers.

May God bless you and your families during the holy season of Lent and throughout the year.

+ Joseph Toal

+ Joseph Toal,
Bishop President of SCIAF
On behalf of the Bishop's Conference of Scotland