

FUNDRAISING IN SCHOOLS

The Big Lent Walk:

take part in our virtual pilgrimage
from Scotland to Vatican City

WEE BOX fundraising ideas

Sponsorship form

Thank you certificate

Jhoshua,
Colombia



**WEE
BOX**

60 years of change

COLOMBIA

In Colombia, violence lurks around every corner, displacing families, forcing children into crime, and leaving communities dominated by armed gangs. In Chocó, the poorest region, people face relentless conflict, poverty, and isolation, and feel forgotten by the world.

SCIAP's courageous local partners stand with people in Chocó, building peace and offering tangible support. With your help, we can give shelter, food and water to those caught up in violence, provide safe havens for children affected by the war, and help communities rebuild their lives long into the future.

**This Lent, you can ensure no one is left behind
– in Colombia and beyond.**

THE BIG LENT WALK



Over Lent, become a Pilgrim of Hope in marking the Jubilee Year by walking a virtual route from Scotland to Vatican City. The target is 2,000 miles, so join together as a school or class and get going!

During this Jubilee, Pope Francis asks us "to discover hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us." So, along the way, this resource can help you look out for 'signs of hope' and learn about our European Saints and Blessed Servants of God. Plus give ideas for putting faith into action by fundraising for our sisters and brothers in the world's poorest places.

Find our virtual route and resource on Page 5 and sign up here: sciaf.org.uk/biglentwalk

THE BIG LENT WALK

THE BIG LENT WALK

HOW IT WORKS

- STEP 1:** Register your class or school
- STEP 2:** Download and print your sponsorship sheets or create a JustGiving page for SCIAF
- STEP 3:** Promote your challenge around your school with the Big Lent Walk poster
- STEP 4:** Begin walking on Ash Wednesday
- STEP 5:** Track your progress each day along the route and pray and reflect on the Saints using our resource below. Aim for 300 miles per week for your group, if you can!
- STEP 6:** Have fun! Enjoy your walks together and share your progress with @SCIAF on social media! #WEEBOX #BIGLENTWALK



Sign up your class or school today at sciaf.org.uk/biglentwalk and take steps together with others across the country to fight for a just world for all.

Once you sign up, we will send you out a Big Lent Walk fundraising pack which includes SCIAF stickers and other promotional materials for your challenge.

For a school group of 30, each member would have to walk 11 miles each week of Lent to reach 2,000 miles

For a school group of 100, each member would have to walk 3 miles each week of Lent to reach 2,000 miles

THE BIG LENT WALK

WALK FROM SCOTLAND TO VATICAN CITY

Use the '**BLW Saints PowerPoint**' in the folder of downloadable resources to bring up an image of the focus Saint as you read the information below to the pupils.



Your 2,000 mile route from Scotland to Vatican City through Lent.

THE BIG LENT WALK

1. OUR JOURNEY BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY

ST MARGARET

As you begin this Lenten journey, as a Pilgrim of Hope, we want to reflect on the impact that Scotland, and you all, have on the world.

One of SCIAF's Patron Saints is St Margaret of Scotland. Born nearly 1000 years ago, Margaret became Queen of Scotland in 1070.

Despite being a Queen, Margaret was a humble, loving and generous woman, taking in the homeless and feeding orphans. Legend says she would sit on a stone outside Dunfermline Castle for people in trouble to find her. Poor people were also able to enter the castle where the King and Queen would feed them!

She was declared a saint in 1250 by Pope Innocent IV and buried in Dunfermline Cathedral. Margaret will always be remembered for her generous, kind spirit – and this spirit is very much alive in the supporters of SCIAF today.

As we take these steps and come together on this Big Lent Walk, we say,

“Saint Margaret, Queen of Scotland, pray for us.”



SIGNS OF HOPE

The St Margaret's Pilgrimage in Dunfermline began in 2015 after a break of 41 years. Today, hundreds of pilgrims participate in the procession and the Thanksgiving Mass.

THE BIG LENT WALK

2. WE STOP IN BIRMINGHAM, AFTER 340 MILES

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

As you begin the first steps of your journey through Europe, you will walk through Birmingham, once home of St John Henry Newman.

St John Henry Newman (1801–1890) started his life as an Anglican priest but later became a Catholic and was made a Cardinal. His strong belief in the Catholic Church was central to his life, and he often visited Saint Peter's Basilica as a sign of his faith.

On 11 August 1890, ten years after becoming a Cardinal, John Henry Newman died in Birmingham. He left behind an inspiring example that still touches people all over the world.

His journey from being an Anglican to a Catholic and his work with the Oratorians have had a lasting effect on the Catholic Church. Oratorians are communities of priests and lay brothers who don't take religious vows but focus on prayer, helping others, and supporting people's spiritual growth.

His life is still an example for those looking for truth, faith, and spiritual direction. Beatified in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI, he was made a saint by Pope Francis in 2019.



Dear Lord,
Shine through me,
and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let me thus praise You in the way You love best, by shining on those around me. Amen

St John Henry Newman

SIGNS OF HOPE



Today, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham is one of the principal Diocese in England and Wales, covering an area similar in size to the Diocese of Galloway. It is home to 217 parishes and 240 schools, serving 450,000 Catholics. St John Henry Newman's legacy lives on in the Birmingham Oratory, founded by Newman in 1848, now housing the Cardinal Newman Museum.

THE BIG LENT WALK

3. TO ENGLAND'S CAPITAL, LONDON, AFTER 600 MILES

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Carlo Acutis (1991–2006), who was born in London, had a deep love for God, even though his parents weren't very religious. His mother admitted that before Carlo came along, she only went to Mass for special occasions like her First Communion, Confirmation, and wedding.

But from a young age, Carlo had a strong faith and loved praying the rosary. After making his First Communion, he started going to Mass as often as he could at the church near his school. Carlo's devotion to the Eucharist also helped his mother grow in her faith.

Carlo's example of faith, even as a child, inspired many adults to become baptised and join the Church. He was also a loyal and kind friend, standing up for classmates who were bullied, especially the vulnerable and those with additional needs.

At the age of 15, Carlo was diagnosed with leukaemia. Before passing away in Italy in 2006, he offered his suffering for Pope Benedict XVI and the Church. Beatified in 2020, recognising his holy life, he will be canonized as a Saint during the Church's Jubilee of Teenagers in April 2025.



O God our Father,

We thank you for giving us Carlo, a model of life for young people, and a message of love for all.

You made him fall in love with your son Jesus, making the Eucharist his "highway to heaven." You gave him Mary as a beloved mother, and you made him, through the Rosary, a cantor of her tenderness.

Receive his prayer for us. Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved and assisted. Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace that I need.

And make our joy full, raising Carlo among the saints of your Church, so that his smile shines again for us to the glory of your name.

Amen



SIGNS OF HOPE

Blessed Carlo Acutis is a sign of the immense goodness present in our world today. His joyful embrace of technology is a tangible sign of hope in a society often distracted by the superficial aspects of the internet. He has shown us that faith can thrive in the digital world that is a powerful instrument for glorifying God, Evangelisation and connection.

THE BIG LENT WALK

4. VIVE LA FRANCE, 960 MILES

ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Three weeks into your Big Lent Walk and you will be passing through France. As a group you will have covered nearly 1,000 miles and are halfway through the challenge! Our focus this week is on St Thérèse of Lisieux.

Saint Thérèse (1873–1897) was one of nine children born to Louis and Zélie Martin, who were made saints in 2015. She was born in Alençon, France, but sadly, four of her siblings died as babies. The remaining five children, all girls, became nuns. When Thérèse was just four years old, her mother passed away, and the family moved to Lisieux.

In 1887, during a trip to Italy with her father, Thérèse met Pope Leo XIII. She bravely asked him if she could join the Carmelite nuns at just 15 years old. The Pope told her, "Go...go... You will enter if God wills it!"

Saint Thérèse is the Patron Saint of missionaries, florists, pilots, and priests. Since her death in 1897, many miracles have been linked to her prayers, fulfilling her promise: "I shall spend my Heaven in doing good upon earth."

Thérèse had a profound devotion to the infant Jesus, and this formed the basis of her



'Little Way', a spiritual path of doing small, ordinary things with great love and trust in God.

Beatified in 1923 by Pope Pius XI, she was declared a saint in 1925 and given the name St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face. In 1997, 100 years after her death, Pope St. John Paul II named her a Doctor of the Church, a special title given to saints whose teachings help guide the Church.

"Everything is a grace, everything is the direct effect of our Father's love - difficulties, contradictions, humiliations, all the soul's miseries, her burdens, her needs - everything, because through them, she learns humility, realises her weakness. Everything is a grace because everything is God's gift. Whatever be the character of life or its unexpected events - to the heart that loves, all is well." St Thérèse Of Lisieux



SIGNS OF HOPE

St. Thérèse is a beacon of hope: that each person, no matter how ordinary, can transform the world through acts of love, mercy, and unwavering faith. Her legacy reminds us that hope is found not in extraordinary circumstances but in embracing God's presence in the smallest moments of life.

THE BIG LENT WALK

5. WE MAKE ANOTHER STOP IN FRANCE, AFTER 1,300 MILES

ST JOHN VIANNEY

"When the heart is pure and simple it cannot help loving, because it has discovered the source of love which is God." St John Vianney

At this point of our Big Lent Walk journey, we are still travelling through France and our focus is on St John Vianney.

St John Vianney (1786–1859) grew up in a Catholic family that often helped the poor. His family even hosted St Benedict Joseph Labre (now the Patron Saint of homeless people) during his pilgrimage to Rome.

In 1790, during the French Revolution, priests had to hide or risk being executed. Young John admired their courage and saw them as heroes. He received his First Communion lessons in secret from two nuns who had lost their convents because of the Revolution. At the age of 13, John made his First Communion and prepared for his Confirmation in secret.

In 1815, St John Vianney became a priest and was sent to the small town of Ars as its parish priest. When he arrived, he saw that many of the 230 residents had become careless about religion due to the Revolution's influence. Determined to help, he worked for ten years



to renew the town's faith. His hard work paid off, with more people coming back to church. He especially loved teaching children their catechism and encouraging people to pray the rosary.

Over time, St John Vianney became known for his wisdom and holiness, and by 1855, around 20,000 people visited him each year for advice and guidance.

Declared a saint in 1925 by Pope Pius X, St John Vianney is now the Patron Saint of priests.

SIGNS OF HOPE



St John Vianney helps us discover hope by revealing that, even in times of difficulty, like during the French Revolution or in other times of conflict, God's grace is at work. God's mercy and love are ever-present signs of hope for us. His life teaches us to find hope in the Sacraments, in service to others, and in trusting that God is present in every moment of our lives. His unwavering faith invites us to become signs of hope for the world.

THE BIG LENT WALK

6. BELLA ITALIA, SASSELLO, 1600 MILES

BLESSED CHIARA LUCE BADANO

As we cross the France-Italy border and near the end of our Big Lent Walk, we focus on another Blessed Servant of God.

Chiara "Luce" Badano (1971-1990) was born in Sassello, Italy. She joined the Focolare Movement (a Catholic organisation dedicated to living out Gospel values and fostering unity) at the age of nine. Her nickname "Luce" means light.

Chiara was known for being calm, joyful, and full of life. She loved playing tennis and was part of a youth group. She cared deeply for people who were vulnerable, rejected, or overlooked by society, always showing kindness and love to everyone she met, even as a teenager.

She lived life with a focus on pleasing Jesus, not worrying about what others thought of her. Chiara once said, "What matters is to be beautiful inside."

At 16, Chiara was diagnosed with a painful bone cancer. Even though she was suffering, she didn't lose hope or faith. She spread joy by cheering up other patients in the hospital and offering her pain to Jesus. Her trust in God never wavered, and when asked about her situation, she confidently said, "God loves me immensely!"

In her final hours, Chiara received her last confession and the Eucharist, surrounded by her family and friends in prayer. She died on 7 October



1990, age 18, with her parents at her side. Her last words were, "Bye, Mum. Be happy, because I am."

Chiara's deep love for God and her unshakable faith transformed her life. She is a powerful example that, while faith does not take away suffering, it can bring joy and peace even in the hardest times.

Beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010, the global Catholic community hope for the recognition of miracles through Chiara's intercession, and pray for her on the journey to Sainthood.

***O Father, fount of every good,
We give You thanks for the wonderful
testimony of Blessed Chiara Badano.
Filled with the Holy Spirit, and guided by the
radiant light of Jesus, she believed firmly
in Your infinite love and wished to return it
with all her strength, surrendering herself in
complete trust to Your paternal will.
We humbly beseech You that You may also
grant us the gift to live with You and for You,
and ask You, if it be Your will, for the grace.
Through Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen***



SIGNS OF HOPE

Blessed Chiara "Luce" Badano's life is a guide to help us discover hope in the "signs of the times" the Lord has given us, by recognising His presence in the world today. Her example calls us to be witnesses of hope in today's world, recognising the signs of God's enduring grace and purpose,

THE BIG LENT WALK

7. OUR JOURNEY COMES TO AN END, VATICAN CITY, ROME

ST PETER

You have made it! Congratulations to you all and thank you for your efforts this Lent in fundraising for SCIAF. Your support for our sisters and brothers is incredible and we hope that you have enjoyed learning about our Saints and Blessed Servants of God as you have journeyed together from Scotland to Vatican City.

The final focus of our Big Lent Walk is St Peter, one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus.

St Peter was the first Bishop of Rome – and his inspiration is a fitting way to reflect on this journey you have taken through Lent as you reach Vatican City.

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18



SIGNS OF HOPE



Our Catholic Community in Scotland have made a massive impact on the world. Through SCIAF and our Caritas network across the world, your love and prayers have reached our sisters and brothers 60 years now. Your support continues to improve lives and provide relief to those affected by war and violence. Thank you for all that you do.

THE BIG LENT WALK

WALK 2,000 MILES
TO HELP BUILD
A BETTER WORLD!

**SIGN UP
NOW**



SIGN UP FOR THE BIG LENT WALK

Over Lent, join the global Pilgrims of Hope in marking the Jubilee Year by walking a virtual route from Scotland to Vatican City!

Celebrate the Jubilee by walking 2,000 miles together as a school or a class while learning about our European Saints and Blessed Servants of God along the way!

sciaf.org.uk/biglentwalk



FUNDRAISING TIPS AND INSPIRATION

By supporting our WEE BOX Appeal for 2025, you will be helping our sisters and brothers in many countries who continue to struggle with poverty, injustice and violence.

FUNDRAISING TIPS



- Set a target you'd like your school to raise, it's a great incentive
- Make arrangements for handling the donations and have at least two people counting cash together – or ask your pupils to count it with you
- Remember to send us your donations by paying in your fundraising [here](#).

EVENTS



- Contact local businesses and organisations to ask for raffle prizes. We can provide a letter of authorisation if you need it
- Ask your class to help put together a budget for the fundraising event. Think about how much you could raise and make a list of costs so you can be sure your event will raise money
- Remind pupils, staff and parents how the money will help those most in need by showing the WEE BOX video.

MEDIA



- Ask your local newspaper if they'd mention your event or send a photographer on the day
- Please mention SCIAF on your school/class Twitter or Facebook page. We'll share and retweet your posts too! @sciaf #WEEBOX
- Write a blog about your experiences fundraising for SCIAF in school and we may be able to feature it on our website. Send it to getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk

OTHER FUNDRAISING INSPIRATION



- **SCIAF Café:**
A coffee morning or café is a simple and fun way to raise funds and get the local community involved. You could run a delivery service to staff and offer a takeaway service for parents.
- **Hair-raising Fundraising:**
St Patrick's Primary School in Coatbridge raised funds for SCIAF by having a crazy hair day and involving their local priests!



- **Sponging for SCIAF:**
Students (and teachers!) at St Mary's Primary School in Largs took an opportunity to throw wet sponges at P7s who kindly agreed to be sponsored for this messy fundraiser! They raised £178 for the Wee Box!



- **Sponsored sports:**
Set up a football match with teachers and students! Put on snacks and raise money through sport
- **WEE BOX Fundraising Friday:**
Choose a theme day for every Friday of Lent. Ask for donations to take part. How about a non-uniform day or sponsored silence?

SPONSORSHIP FORM



Name: _____

Event name: _____

I want to raise: **£** _____

My reason for taking part is:

To sponsor me, please write your name, address and sponsorship amount below. **Thank you.**

PUT YOUR TAX TO WORK TO HELP PEOPLE FIND A WAY OUT OF POVERTY!

Gift Aid your donation and increase it by 25% at no cost to you.

By signing up to gift aid you agree that: I want all the donations I've made to SCIAF since 6 April 2020 and all donations in the future to qualify for Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax / or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. *SCIAF will reclaim 25p of tax for every £1 you donate.*

Title	Initial	Surname	Home Address BLOCK CAPITALS	Postcode	Amount given £	<i>giftaid it</i>	Date
Mr	A	Example	123	EX4 MPLE	£10	✓	03/04/25

Your details will be used to process the donation and any gift aid as well as allowing us to evaluate our fundraising appeals overall. SCIAF will keep your details secure and never sell them. So that more money can reach some of the world's poorest communities, SCIAF does not send acknowledgement letters to thank individual sponsors.

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TOTAL amount £

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Romans 15:13



Usy and Nely,
Colombia

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SCIAF THIS LENT AND BRINGING HOPE TO OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS

Thank you:

For your gift of:

