



## The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2026 An act of collective worship for schools

### Week 3: Schools – learning about food poverty

*This is one of five outlines for collective worship written to help schools and churches pray, offer love and hope and encourage giving towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2026. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ in our own diocese and in our link dioceses in Zimbabwe and the Diocese of Jerusalem as well as the Middle East.*

**Please be sensitive to your school's context and community leading this collective worship.**

**Bible passage:** Micah 6:8

**Song:**

*Lord of all hopefulness*

[Assembly songs – BBC Teach](#)

**Gather:**

Do you ever think about where the food that you eat comes from?

**Engage:**

What do you know about the cost of food?

You may have seen reports in the media about how the cost of food in the UK has significantly increased in recent years. For many people, this is something which can be very worrying and has directly impacted on their lives. This means that some families and individuals may struggle to buy enough food to maintain a healthy diet. This is known as food poverty, when individuals and families don't have enough affordable food available to them in order to provide them with a healthy and nutritious diet.

In 2000, Paddy and Carol Henderson set up the charity, The Trussell Trust. They were inspired by the story of a mother who was struggling to provide food for her family. The charity grew significantly and last year they distributed 2.9 million food parcels in the UK. That works out at around one parcel every 11 seconds.

The Bible teaches in Micah 6:8 *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does*

*the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God".* These teachings have inspired many Christian churches to run foodbanks, with many people choosing to support these through donations and volunteering. Maybe your school or church supports a foodbank to help those in your community. Through 'walking humbly', we can consider how we might act in compassion and welcome those in need. Food poverty may not always be visible and can impact on people's lives in many ways, including their health, wellbeing and confidence.

Let us consider the ways in which we can support those within our own community. How might we be inspired by the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 25:35 *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"*. How can we show compassion to those who are in need and how can we support charities to tackle the challenges of food poverty.

**Respond with a prayer:**

*Dear God,  
Thank you for providing food for us,  
help us not to take for granted what we have.  
We thank you for all those people who produce our food and for those who grow the food we eat.  
We pray for those who struggle to have enough food.  
We ask that you teach us to respond to the needs of others with compassion and love.  
Help us to act in love, justly and walk humbly with you.  
Amen.*



**Sending out:**

Think about how you and all of us might be less wasteful with food.

**A moment of reflection for schools:**

- Q:** Why should we think about where our food comes from?
- Q:** How might we act justly to eradicate food poverty?
- Q:** How can we be thankful for the food that we have?
- Q:** How can we show compassion and respond to food poverty in practical ways?



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