



The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2026

An act of collective worship for schools

Week 5: Schools – helping with the Cost-of-Living Crisis

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: Matthew 6:8-15,25-34

Song:

'Jireh' by [Elevation Worship and Maverick City Music](#). (One of the names of God is Jehovah, Jireh, meaning 'the Lord will provide.')

Gather:

We all have things that we worry about.
What do you worry about?
(*Some pupils may want to share their worry, but no-one should be forced to, as they may want to keep their worries private.*)

Engage:

A big worry for many people now is the Cost-of-Living Crisis. What is this? How might people be affected by it?

If a person or family do not have enough money for the basic needs in life, this means that they are living in poverty. What are those basic needs?

Maybe this is a worry for you and your family. If so, you are not alone. Shockingly, now nearly one in three children live in poverty.

What is causing so much poverty in our country now? Some answers may be: rising prices, lack of jobs, low-paid jobs, the funding of public services being cut meaning that they are limited in what they can offer, long-term illness, people not being treated equally and many other reasons.

Poverty is about having less than you need to thrive in the community and wider society you live in. If it is a constant struggle to get access to the key things required to live like food and shelter, it is an indicator of poverty. Poverty is so much more than going without, though. Poverty can make life really difficult. It robs people of joy, hope, and opportunities. Poverty often means that parents go without for their children so that their children can have what they need. This is because their parents love them so much, this is sacrificial love. God showed another form of sacrificial love in his son Jesus dying in the world because he loved humanity so much. Hope sprang out of this with Jesus' resurrection.

The Christian faith teaches that God is our provider and has promised to take care of each one of us, including in tough times. He sees our hidden and individual needs and promises to look after us. However, we still practically need money and the basic needs of food, shelter, clothes and equipment for life, etc. God can provide this through acts of kindness from other people and organisations. There are many who are helping those living in poverty to feel happier, hopeful and helping things to change for the better. Many schools and churches support their local Foodbanks or run projects themselves to quietly help children and families who do not have enough and for who life is a daily struggle. These initiatives may be providing such help as Pantries, free breakfasts and/or teas, Uniform Banks, other financial assistance to help with school expenses and food parcels for during the school holidays.



Respond with a prayer:

*Dear God,
Thank you for all those who help people in poverty, those who show sacrificial love and those who provide people with what they need. We pray for an end to poverty.
May there be lasting positive change for those who do not have enough.
Help us to always care for each other.
We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ's name
Amen.*

Sending out:

What could you do to help someone with less than you?



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A moment of reflection for schools:

- Q:** Why is it important to be compassionate towards others and treat them with dignity?
- Q:** Have you ever felt an example of God looking after you? If so, what happened?
- Q:** What acts of kindness have helped you in your life and who made them?
- Q:** Listen to the worship song: 'This We Know' by Vertical Worship

What does it mean in the song's reminder that God continues to 'lead us out of our deserts into victory'?

'This We Know' (Official Lyric Video)

[Vertical Worship](#)



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