

Pope Francis has declared Sunday 19 November 2017 to be the first World Day of the Poor.

On this World Day we are called to love and share with the poorest amongst us, and bear witness to Jesus' preferential love for the poor.

In our communities, we are invited to offer friendship, solidarity and welcome to the poorest of our sisters and brothers. Pope Francis also asks us to pray together, especially the 'Our Father'.



## **A CAFOD prayer for Poverty**

### **Unlimited generosity**

You asked for my hands  
that you might use them for your purposes  
I gave them for a moment then withdrew them  
for the work was hard.  
You asked for my mouth  
to speak out against injustice.  
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.  
You asked for my eyes  
to see the pain of poverty.  
I closed them for I did not want to see.  
You asked for my life  
that you might work through me .  
I gave you a small part that I might not get "too involved".  
Lord,  
forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you  
only when it is convenient for me to do so, and  
only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.  
Father,  
forgive me  
renew me  
send me out  
as a usable instrument,  
that I may take seriously  
the meaning of your cross.

*Joe Seramane, South Africa,  
from Lifelines, Christian Aid*