

## **Prayers on work and livelihoods**

### **Work through us**

Creator God,  
you, who looked on everything that you had made  
and saw that it was very good,  
work now through us in our daily tasks,  
so that in your grace  
we may use our creative skills  
for the benefit of all  
and help build your Kingdom of justice and peace.  
Amen.

*Sue Cooper/CAFOD*

### **Gifts and talents**

Lord of all,  
you have graced us with many different skills and talents.  
Using these many gifts,  
may we work together  
each in our own special way  
respecting everyone's contribution  
to build up Christ's body  
grounded in faith, hope and love.  
Amen.

*Sue Cooper/CAFOD*

**A future of hope**

Lord of hope,  
many people are left idle in the market place  
without work and without hope,  
through youth unemployment,  
ill health, disability, redundancy  
or because they are refugees.

May they be empowered by employment  
and receive once more their dignity  
as sons and daughters of God  
and so be able to provide for their families  
and have hope for the future.

Amen.

*Sue Cooper/CAFOD*

**God of life**

God of life,  
Creator of the earth and all that it contains,  
you rested and beheld all that you had made  
and you saw that it was good.

Encourage us to lift our heads from the daily grind  
and know that we are always in your sight.

Empower us to break the chains that bind us in unfulfilling work,  
and to bring hope to those that toil unseen.

Open our eyes to see what is truly important  
And lead us to seek the real wealth that only comes from you,  
making itself felt in dignity and justice for all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Catherine Gorman/CAFOD*

## **The joy of work**

Life-giving Spirit,

give the joy of fulfilling work

to everyone who wishes it.

Let everyone face each new day

with joy and expectation.

Let my concern for those working with me,

be a sign of your concern,

God, Servant and Carer of all.

Amen.

*Sister Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD*

**The cry of my heart (the workless)**

Those leaves, they say, are like you  
a tattered pile of rotting nothingness.  
But you, God of life, you say they are  
a living mound of composting goodness.

They say you are rubbish, a drain on society.  
You, Refuge God, say you who are drained take rest in me.

They say work makes the man.  
You, Creator God, say no work kills creation.

Ever loving God, Giver of life,  
you made me an integral part of your creation  
to know love and serve you.  
With every breath I will work to do so.

My hope is in you, Eternal God,  
who blesses me in all my undertakings.  
Amen.

*Joy Wanless/CAFOD*

## **Prayer of a person without employment**

I want to work, I *need* to work;  
to support my family;  
to feel valued by those around me;  
to restore my sense of dignity, my self-esteem.

The Scriptures I have read, Lord, tell me  
“to eat from the fruit of the labour of my hands”  
and “anoint me with the dignity of work”.

Help remove the barriers that prevent me from working.

Include me in the work of your creation.

Amen.

*Trevor Stockton/CAFOD*

**See me as a person**

What do they mean when they say I can't work?

I have a disability that's true.

But I am a person,

a person who can think and feel and create -

and work.

It's the attitudes and built environment that stop me from working -

these are not fixed, they can be changed.

Father of creation,

you gave me life,

help me to fulfil it,

help to change the minds – now closed -

to see me as a person who will give

and not one who takes.

I trust in you, Lord,

and know you will not fail me.

Amen.

*Trevor Stockton/CAFOD*

**A just worker**

Lord God,

grant that in our work

we may deal fairly with one another.

Fairness is both of the giver and the receiver.

Give us the courage, as Jesus does,

to challenge unjust practices,

may we not walk by on the other side.

With the help of the Holy Spirit

may we have the grace to respect all,

whether in work, or seeking it.

We ask that all be given the opportunity

to support themselves

and their families by their efforts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Pat Ezra/CAFOD*