

LENT FAST DAY



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10 March 2006

Lent Fast Day

Friday 10 March 2006

Running water is a source of renewed hope for families living in a dusty shantytown on the outskirts of Lima, Peru, called San Juan de Lurigancho.

Until now, they had to carry enormous buckets of water up an arid slope every day in scorching conditions.

Thanks to your support, CAFOD has funded a project run by the Columban Fathers to bring water right into their homes.

Christian Unocco, and 4 million Peruvians like him, live in conditions of extreme poverty unable to afford even the most essential food items. After school, Christian earns money for his family by shining shoes in the city centre.

For us in Britain, it is hard to imagine our homes without running water, but for people like Christian, having running water transforms lives.

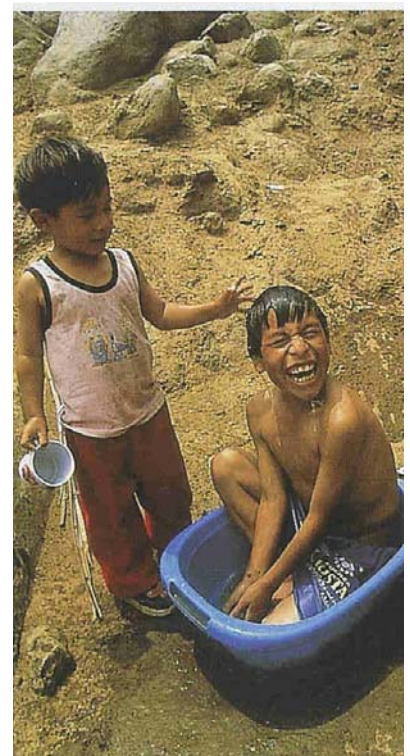
The community worked in a human chain carrying sand and bricks so water could be pumped into tanks at the top of the hill, serving 80 families.

Most inhabitants of Lima's shantytowns were forced out of rural areas and into the cities during Peru's 20-year internal conflict. Many of them are unable to speak Spanish and have few job opportunities.

Christian's father Alejandro Vidalon Machuca, sharpens knives for a living: "Every day I carried two huge barrels of water up the hill," he says.

"They weighed a lot even without water. My back ached from the weight. Now we have water in our home."

Water is an important symbol in our Christian life. This Lent we could reflect on the water of baptism, and the baptismal promises we will renew at Easter, and consider what changes we need to make to truly live our faith.



What your money can buy

- ◆ £1.75 buys a basic literary course for one adult in Bangladesh
- ◆ £5 pays for one pig for a family to rear and breed in Mozambique
- ◆ £7 buys a bag of seeds so a family in Ethiopia can grow enough food for a year
- ◆ £14 pays for training in new farming methods and technologies in the Philippines
- ◆ £25 buys 200 metres of pipe for a water system in Nicaragua
- ◆ £30 pays secondary school fees for one child orphaned by AIDS in Rwanda

Please remember to Gift Aid your donation if you are a taxpayer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS FAST DAY

Weekly Reflections for Lent 2006

CAFOD has produced a set of 6 full colour postcards for each week of Lent 2006, focusing on the Sunday Gospel. There is a colour photograph on one side and on the reverse there is a reflection on the Gospel of the day.

The postcard set would be an ideal resource for your parish or group or for individual prayer and reflection.

To order a set, please call Pat Merrett on 020 7326 5527 or email pmerrett@cafod.org.uk



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Lent Fast Day in Schools

In the UK, each person uses about 155 litres of water per day, and in the developing world it is on average 20 litres.

Primary Schools

Water is the focus of the Primary Schools Fast Day resources this Lent and, like the parish materials, tell the story of Christian and his community in San Juan de Lurigancho in Peru. The schools pack will help primary school children recognize that water is one of the earth's precious resources, a resource to use with care.

Secondary Schools and Youth Groups

The Lent Secondary School resources—the

FastTrack pack—concentrates on the lives of young people in Ethiopia who have turned the camera on their own communities. They aim to show the wider world a taste of life in Ethiopia from their own perspective. The pack includes a DVD, full colour posters including activities and



notes for teachers and youth leaders, as well as a liturgy and quiz. If you have access to the internet, visit www.EthiopiaLives.net, which tells you more about the project featured in the FastTrack pack.

If you would like either pack for your school, youth group or children's liturgy group, please contact the CAFOD Clifton office at clifton@cafod.org.uk, 01823 338903 or Pat Merrett (see page 3).



Lent Prayer

Loving Creator God,
your prophets foretell a time
when 'water will gush in the desert
and streams in the wasteland'

Forgive us when
we fail to appreciate
your gift of water;
when we take for granted
the times that
our physical thirst is quenched.

Renew in us a thirsty spirit
that seeks you in truth and
wisdom.

Comfort and console us
when we feel lost
in a wilderness of doubt.

In the face of the need we see,
transform our hearts
and lead us to walk in your paths,
restless until all can share equally
in the fruits of your generous
creation.

Linda Jones



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Make Poverty History - A Review of the Year 2005

In 2005, CAFOD campaigners in the Clifton Diocese were part of a global initiative to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**.

You cast your vote for Trade Justice, and lobbied your MPs in April and November. You were among the thousands who marched in Edinburgh to show the heads of the richest countries in the world that you care about unfair trade rules, debt and inadequate aid and were among the 91,000 people who sent postcards to the Prime Minister to push to make poverty history. You signed white sashes and joined vigils to pray for justice for the poor. You organised and joined in with White Band Days. But what have we achieved in the last 12 months?

UK POLICY CHANGE

- ◆ The UK government worked hard to achieve progress on global poverty issues at the G8 summit, whilst development debates featured heavily in election manifestos and in domestic political debates. In particular, several new policy approaches were established:
 - ◆ Recognition that making debt reduction and aid conditional on the adoption of certain economic policies is ineffective for poverty eradication.
 - ◆ UK bilateral aid should not be conditional on specific economic policy changes
 - ◆ Promise to make aid more predictable to improve its effectiveness
 - ◆ Manifesto promises that stopping forced liberalisation of developing-country markets is a priority in regional and multilateral trade negotiations
 - ◆ Increased support for global funds for AIDS, TB and malaria.

However, these promises must be turned into action. Recent experiences at the WTO are not encouraging as the EU repeatedly blocked progress on areas of interest to the poorest countries, and the UK government was accused of coercion in forcing services and industrial markets to open to foreign competition.

INTERNATIONAL POLICY CHANGE

Some progress was made in securing extra financial resources through

increased aid and debt relief for some poor countries. Three crucial principles were established in international fora:

- ◆ International acceptance of the principle of 100% debt cancellation
- ◆ G8 agreement that developing countries have the right to 'decide, plan and sequence their economic policies to fit with their own development strategies'
- ◆ Strong support for universal access to treatment for HIV and AIDS by 2010

MORE AND BETTER AID

The 2005 G8 leaders committed to provide an extra \$48 billion a year by 2010, which included between \$15 - \$20 billion of new commitments. If this promise is kept and delivered without imposing economic conditions, millions of lives could be saved: this will be a lasting legacy of 2005. However, the aid pledges made this year are not on the scale needed to make poverty history and the rate of progress towards the long overdue target of 0.7% is still far too slow. Limited progress was made on making aid more effective, with donors agreeing to be monitored on their targets and a new focus on Africa.

DEBT

If the IMF agrees to implement the promises made in July, 18 countries will be eligible to share cancellation of up to \$1bn per year. This compares to a minimum \$10bn needed to help poor countries meet the Millennium Development Goals. Recognition of the principle of 100% cancellation and the need to extend relief to more countries are important, but major issues remain around which countries and debts are eligible for relief, policy conditionalities and the lack of an independent arbitration mechanism.

TRADE

Despite having the potential to correct some of the gross imbalances in world trade, rich countries at the WTO, including those of the UK Government and its European Union (EU) partners, favoured their own interests over the world's poor. The approaches of some countries, particularly the EU and the US, showed no respect for the poor countries whose demands and concerns were repeatedly sidelined. Urgent changes are still needed if developing countries are to protect and cultivate their economies. As the WTO reconvenes at its headquarters in Geneva,

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Make Poverty History –continued

campaigners will continue to press the UK Government for urgent action within the EU and WTO to deliver on its promise of no forced liberalisation.

Your support kept global poverty on the agenda for world leaders. **THANK YOU** for all your campaigning and prayer support this year. We didn't get all we asked for but some progress has been made. World leaders must now be held to account for the promises they have made, so please continue to campaign with CAFOD in 2006.

New Year — action for 2006

- ♦ *Send your white band to Tony Blair, asking him to live up to the promises made during 2005 and to go further to deliver trade justice, more debt cancellation and aid. You can order special envelopes with a message to the Prime Minister from CAFOD – contact: CAFOD Resources on 0207 326 5692 or email resources@cafod.org.uk*
- ♦ *Take part in Fairtrade Fortnight 6-19 March 2005*
- ♦ *Get involved with our new Campaign. Come to the CAFOD Campaign Conference in London on Saturday 13 May 2006. More details from Tony or Gill at the CAFOD Clifton office.*

Prayer for guidance

*God of our past, present and future,
look with compassion on the wrong
we have done,
deal gently with who we are,
and fire us up to become the people
you would have us be.
Grant us humility to learn from the
past,
courage to embrace the present,
and wisdom to change the future
that together we may Make Poverty
History.
Make us mindful of our
achievements,
ever eager to work for justice
and always ready to do your will
that your kingdom come on earth.
Give us energy in the wake of
apathy,
inspiration in the face of opposition
and hope in the path of despair
that poverty finds an end
and humanity discovers a new
beginning,
in the name of Christ, Amen.*

Annabel Shilson-Thomas

Kenyan Partner visits Churchdown

At the end of October, CAFOD supporters came to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour parish hall to hear CAFOD partner Eliud Njunjiri speak about the devastating effects of **unjust trade rules** on poor people in Kenya, rules that prevent ordinary Kenyans from working their way out of poverty. Director of Kenyan-based agricultural development organisation, RODI (Resources Oriented Development Initiative), Eliud said that simply freeing up trade rules would only make the situation worse for developing countries.



Perpetuating poverty

“Agriculture is the mainstay of livelihoods in Kenya. We are leading producers of goods such as tea, coffee, cut flowers, and macadamia nuts, yet we remain among the poorest countries in the world. Why? One of the main reasons is unfair trade policies both at national and international level”, explained Eliud.

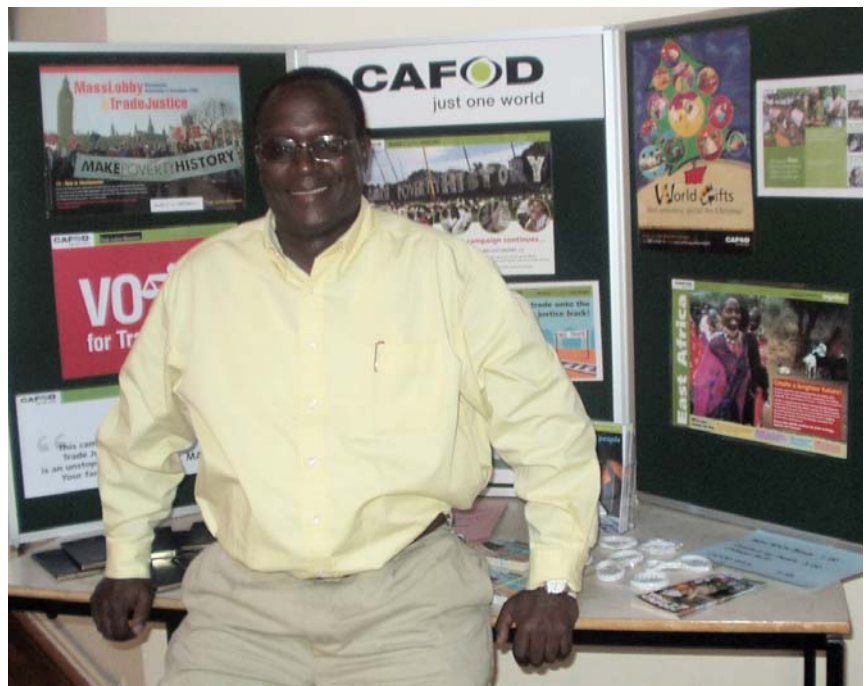
Over the past few decades, world leaders have been calling for greater market liberalisation and free trade, supposedly as a means of supporting and helping poor countries to develop. Eliud, a former civil servant in Kenya’s Ministry of Agriculture, however disagreed.

Poor Countries taken for a very rough ride

“Since before the GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) there have been calls for countries to open their markets. The poorer countries have done what has been asked of them, but what have they got in return? The richer countries have not kept their promises to cut subsidies and remove their own trade barriers. Basically, we have been taken for a ride along a very rough road.”

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Kenyan Partner visit—continued

“Free trade sounds like a good idea, but a free market between two unequal partners is not a free market. When we are told to liberalise, I say, remind me of one country that started this way?” The proponents of free trade started by protecting their markets and, even now when poverty on the scale of that which exists in developing countries today is history in their own domains, they still protect their markets. What logic is there in telling infant industries not to protect themselves? If they cannot protect their industries, the results will be disastrous.”

World Leaders need to start listening to farmers

“It does not make any sense to impoverish people with one hand while reaching around with the other to resuscitate them through aid and relief.” Eliud argued that the gap between the decision-makers at the global level and the farmers affected by trade rules should be bridged. “World leaders need to start listening to the farmers” he said. “After all you can’t fight poverty if you



are at the forefront of creating it. The views and concerns of the farmers must be heard. They must be allowed to stand and take charge of their own destiny.”

As well as speaking about unjust trade rules, Eliud also spoke about the work that RODI is doing with poor farmers, with former prisoners and with young people.

Working with farmers

Although only a quarter of the country is suitable for farming, 75% of the population in Kenya are farmers. RODI works with poor farmers, using organic farming methods, to help them secure and sustain their food supply. “Conventional agriculture requires expensive external inputs like pesticides and fertilisers, is beyond the means of poor farmers and injures people and the environment alike” he said.

Working with former prisoners

Prisons that were built for 15,000 inmates now house 53,000. Many of the inmates are young offenders, school drop-outs, with many of them imprisoned for poverty related offences. Once there, they find themselves interacting with worse criminals. “They leave prison stigmatised and re-offending is common,” said Eliud. “It’s a vicious circle.” RODI trains former prisoners in sustainable agriculture, with rehabilitated prisoners often taking on the role of trainers themselves.

Working with young people

RODI also works with the young, promoting a Schools Organic Agriculture Programme. Eliud explained: “If poverty is to be made history in a sustainable way, the poor have to be involved. One way of doing this is making agriculture work for developing countries. For this to happen, a culture of sustainable agriculture must be nurtured. The best way of doing this is by working with school pupils in promoting sustainable agriculture, on the one hand, and combating HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse on the other.”

Eliud went on to say that as well as being the farmers of the future, children are good educators themselves. “They are good agents of technology transfer to parents, relatives and society” said Eliud.

Where will our food come from?

Eliud thanked CAFOD supporters for making time to come to Churchdown to hear him speak, for their action and their financial support, and urged them to continue to work for a more just world. “You are in a better position in your country to make a difference” he said. “You live in a democracy and your elected politicians have to listen to you. But you have a vested interest too. If poor farmers around the world are no longer able to produce, where will our food come from?”

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Update on World Gifts in Clifton

Christmas gifts with a difference—gifts that have an impact on the lives of impoverished people in the developing world—were launched in October and you in the Clifton diocese responded with your customary generosity and thoughtfulness.

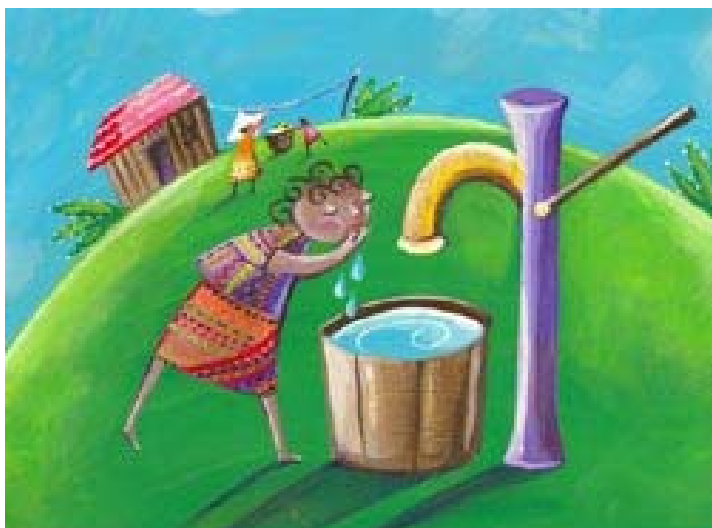
Nationally, the total amount raised to date by World Gifts is £1,566,543, of which the Clifton Diocese raised £101,019, an increase on last year of 92% - a terrific outcome.

Of the 12 gifts available, the school starter kit was by far the most popular—both nationally and in the diocese—and you bought 1632 of them!



An education is one of the most reliable roads out of poverty, giving the opportunity of a secure income to tomorrow's adults. Your gift of school starter kits will help pay for blackboards and classroom equipment, pens, pencils, exercise books, a uniform and a school bag.

Swindon Deanery World Gifts Project



The local community in the Swindon Deanery decided to go one step further and initiated the Virtual Village.

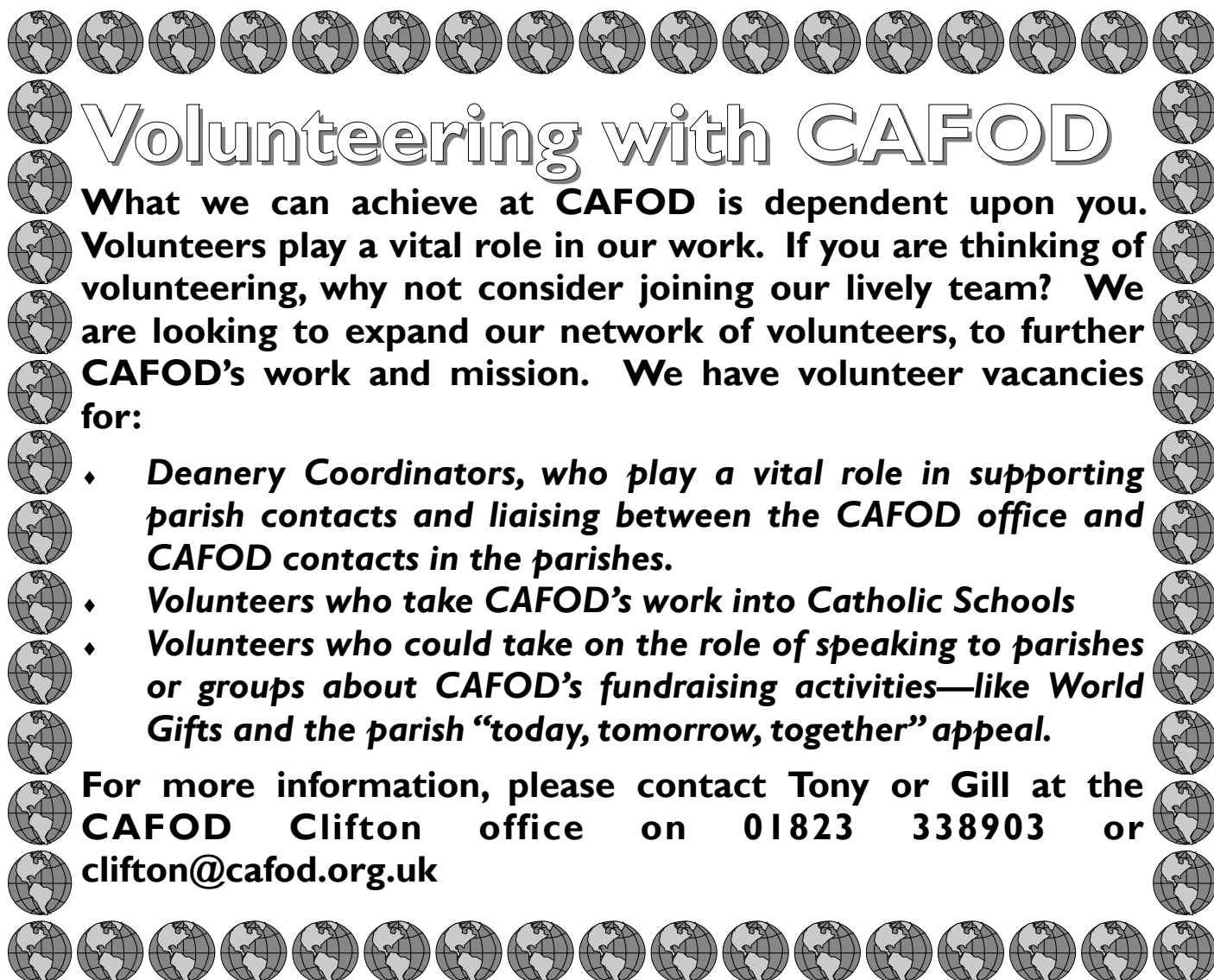
Launched on the Feast of Christ the King by young people in the deanery, and managed and supported by CAFOD contacts and Deanery Justice and Peace members, the Virtual Village has

been a huge success, with parishes and schools taking it enthusiastically on board, and raising almost £25,000.

“Not only was it a creative and involving idea, but it also raised awareness and funds, and built a strong sense of community in the Swindon Deanery. It has been brilliant,” said Tony Vassallo, CAFOD Clifton Manager.

Find out more about the Swindon Deanery initiative by visiting www.swindondeaneryworldgifts.co.uk

Thank you to everyone in the diocese for supporting World Gifts at Christmas. World Gifts is continuing, and anyone who would like to give a gift with a difference at other times of the year can visit www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts, or phone Gill for a catalogue on 01823 338903.



Volunteering with CAFOD

What we can achieve at CAFOD is dependent upon you. Volunteers play a vital role in our work. If you are thinking of volunteering, why not consider joining our lively team? We are looking to expand our network of volunteers, to further CAFOD's work and mission. We have volunteer vacancies for:

- Deanery Coordinators, who play a vital role in supporting parish contacts and liaising between the CAFOD office and CAFOD contacts in the parishes.***
- Volunteers who take CAFOD's work into Catholic Schools***
- Volunteers who could take on the role of speaking to parishes or groups about CAFOD's fundraising activities—like World Gifts and the parish “today, tomorrow, together” appeal.***

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Pilgrimage to Santiago di Compostela

During September and October 2005, Robin Anderson, a parishioner from St Joseph's, Peasedown St John, walked the Camino Frances to Santiago de Compostela, a distance of 774 kilometres.



Robin's photo of a view of the Pyrenees gives an idea of the beauty and grandeur of the scenery.

"Why are you doing it?" is one of the favourite questions along the camino. "A few do it as a religious pilgrimage" he says, "but most do it for company, the architecture, the countryside and the magic of Spain."

However, he feels that the religious dimension is difficult to avoid. "I don't think I have been to Mass so often for years!" he says.

Around 200,000 people a year do the Camino Frances. "Apart from other British pilgrims, I counted 21 nationalities, including pilgrims from Estonia, Colombia, Poland and Russia," says Robin.

Robin invited parishioners to sponsor him and has donated the sponsorship money to CAFOD. £987 was raised which, with tax repayments from Gift-aided payments, results in a grand total of over £1200.

Gift Aid

Questions about Gift aid come up regularly!

You can gift aid either as an individual or through any amounts that you donate through your parish, provided that you are a taxpayer. Did you know that since 2001, CAFOD has claimed £7.5 million thanks to Gift Aid? This goes into the vital projects that CAFOD supports around the world.

If you wish to gift aid your donation through your parish either at the Fast Days or any other time, you will need to fill in a gift aid slip, that is attached to the CAFOD donations envelope, each time you donate. If you are making an individual donation directly to CAFOD, you will need to fill in a Gift Aid form only once.

If you are interested in making a regular gift to CAFOD, you can do so by direct debit and forms are available from the CAFOD Clifton office—please contact Gill for more information.

Autumn at Holy Cross

Fruits of their labours

Margaret Webb, parish contact at the Holy Cross, Bedminster writes: “When lovely cooking apples started to fall from the tree in the parish garden, it seemed a sin to let them rot. With the blessing of our priest, the CAFOD group collected the apples each week and turned them into pies, which we exchanged with members of the congregation for a donation. Then it all started to grow.”

“Green tomatoes were turned into chutney, red ones into relish, and strawberries and oranges into jam and marmalade. Ripe tomatoes were bagged and onions pickled. Our autumn produce has raised nearly £200 for CAFOD, given us a great sense of achievement and pleasure and given our parish priest, Fr Frank, among many, some enjoyable home cooking. What a wonderful harvest festival!”

CAFOD benefits from Bristol Half Marathon

For the second year running, Jim Whelon, parishioner of Holy Cross, Bedminster, has raised money for CAFOD by taking part in the Bristol Half Marathon.

Kay Summerell, another parishioner, describes him as a keen gardener who looks after the Presbytery garden for the parish, that same garden that produced all those apples!

Jim trains for an hour for the marathon before going to work each day. Last year he made a spur of the moment decision to take part in the run and to donate his sponsorship money to CAFOD. He repeated his success and this year and raised £1,050.

Tsunami Update

The tsunami was the most destructive event of its kind ever recorded. It was also unique in the response it generated from people around the world. CAFOD received £27 million for its tsunami appeal, £9 million of which came from the Catholic community in England and Wales.

Our partners responded immediately to the disaster by providing emergency aid to those in need. The geographical focus was Aceh in Indonesia, Batticaloa in Sri Lanka, and Tamil Nadu in India. One year on, CAFOD and its partners have made good progress in rebuilding tsunami hit communities. Houses are being rebuilt and people are making a living again.

CAFOD has produced a DVD entitled “Standing Together” showing how, with the support of the Catholic community in England and Wales, lives and communities have been rebuilt. If you’d like to see the DVD, please contact Gill for a copy.

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Jim trains for an hour for the marathon before going to work each day. Last year he made a spur of the moment decision to take part in the run and to donate his sponsorship money to CAFOD. He repeated his success and this year and raised £1,050.

Tsunami Update

The tsunami was the most destructive event of its kind ever recorded. It was also unique in the response it generated from people around the world. CAFOD received £27 million for its tsunami appeal, £9 million of which came from the Catholic community in England and Wales.

Our partners responded immediately to the disaster by providing emergency aid to those in need. The geographical focus was Aceh in Indonesia, Batticaloa in Sri Lanka, and Tamil Nadu in India. One year on, CAFOD and its partners have made good progress in rebuilding tsunami hit communities. Houses are being rebuilt and people are making a living again.

CAFOD has produced a DVD entitled “Standing Together” showing how, with the support of the Catholic community in England and Wales, lives and communities have been rebuilt. If you’d like to see the DVD, please contact Gill for a copy.

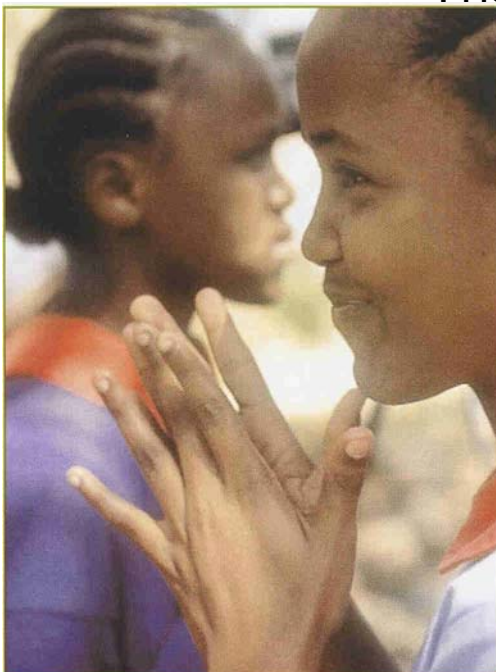
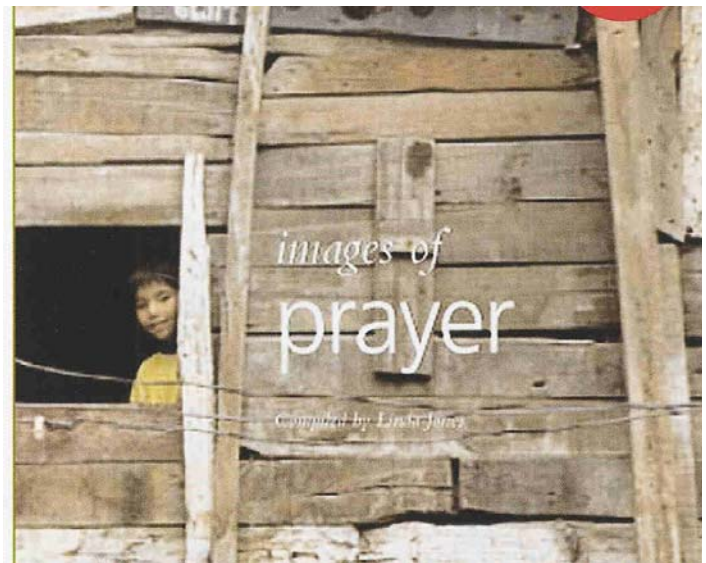
New Resources from CAFOD

Images of Prayer

Compiled by Linda Jones

Through our prayer we can support work for change that is going on all around the world. This book encourages us and enables us to pray alone or together in our parishes, youth groups or schools using contemporary photographs to focus our meditation.

Price £5.99



Facing forward

The CAFOD/Christian Aid/DLT Lent Book 2006

Facing Forward

An ideal resource for Lent 2006, six contributors reflect on the Scripture readings for each day of Lent. The book could be used by individuals or groups or could help in the preparation of homilies or talks

Price £4.99

Both resources are available from the CAFOD Clifton office. Please contact Gill to order: email gvasallo@cafod.org.uk, phone as below, or order from resources@cafod.org.uk . phone 0207 326 5692

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