

CAFOD Report for APC: November 2024.

Our mission: Inspired by Gospel values and as part of the Catholic community in England and Wales, we come together in partnership with others, locally and globally:

- To support people, communities, and our local partners to be artisans of their own destiny.
- To prioritise and work with those who experience poverty and are most vulnerable and excluded, to provide lifesaving support, relieve suffering, and strengthen resilience, in ways that protect and regenerate the environment.
- To challenge and transform the structures and behaviours that drive poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice and exclusion, and harm the environment.
- To educate, enable and inspire the diverse Catholic community in England and Wales to act in solidarity for the common good.

Thank you to all parishes for your participation in the Harvest Family Fast Day last month.

We have had an extraordinary Emergency appeal for Sudan. The civil war there has led to millions forced from their homes. The situation has been made worse by heavy rains leading to terrible flooding in South Sudan. We also have Emergency Appeals current, for the humanitarian crises in Gaza and the Middle East, Ukraine, Yemen.

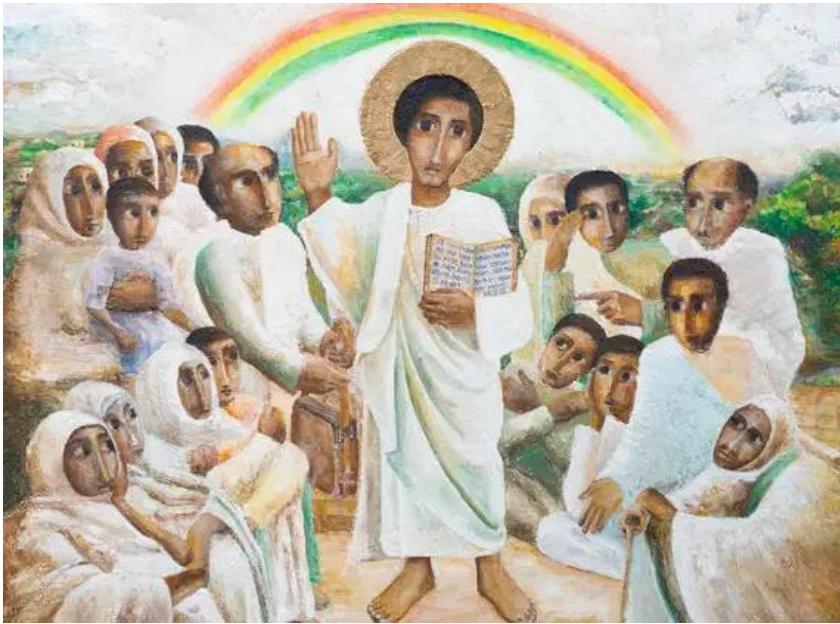
Visit the Cafod website for the Annual Report of the Trustees. This is a detailed and lengthy report; 83 pages which describes our work in country by country.

<https://cafod.org.uk/about-us/how-we-work/annual-reviews>

I would urge you to download and read CAFOD's document Our Common Home, updated this year. [Our Common Home: CAFOD's vision of progress](#)

CAFOD's World Gifts scheme. All parishes will have received copies of our World Gifts catalogue. I will be grateful if you can ensure these have been made available to parishioners. I use these gifts for Christmas presents. You decide which gift you want to buy; ring CAFOD and place your order, e.g. the Goat that gives. You will receive a nice card, with a description of how the gift of a goat is helping a family, living in poverty, by providing milk for them to drink or sell, thereby improving their lives long term. You then deliver the card to your chosen recipient.

Finally, CAFOD commissioned an Ethiopian artist to paint an icon for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, for the Year of Jubilee beginning on 24th December. The icon was blessed by Cardinal Vincent at the Eucharistic Congress a few weeks ago. More details are on the website.



Schools: CAFOD needs volunteers to visit schools. Schools Visitors are well supported and given excellent training and resources. Please contact Phil for more information.

Justice and Peace Commission

Our Annual Assembly was held on 19th December, the theme was “Called to be Peacemakers”. This is the title of the Bishops’ recent teaching document on Nuclear weapons, disarmament, and autonomous weapons. Bishop William Kenney, one of the co-authors of ‘Called to be Peacemakers’ was our main speaker, supported by Aisling Griffin, the Pax Christi Youth and Schools co-ordinator.

Our next online Forum will be in a couple of weeks, but I will not know the details until Monday.

Care for Creation Committee. We are addressing a clergy training day on 21st November. Work is ongoing encouraging schools and parishes to engage with the Live Simply Award.

During the Season of Creation, Holy Trinity hosted a Vigil at which all schools in the Christ the King MAC participated. They each reported on their varied projects. The Season of Creation is celebrated each year, September 1st to October 4th.

Being Pilgrims of Hope in 2025

Faith in Action. Our annual online campaigners' conference will be on **Saturday 23 November 2024 from 10am to 2.30pm.** We'll look ahead to campaigning on the new debt crisis in the Jubilee Year 2025 with debt expert Sandun Thudugala from Sri Lanka and CAFOD's Lead Economist, Maria Finnerty. We'll hear from our climate change policy expert Liz Cronin live from COP29 in Azerbaijan, and we'll be joined by new MP Florence Eshalomi. Sign up at cafod.org.uk/FIA

Pilgrims of Hope Reflection Guide, available from CAFOD Shop. Four reflections. Free.

Campaigns: Fix the Food system: continues with contact with the World Bank. (80th anniversary this year). Seeds; local seeds for local people.

Next year focus on Debt relief. "Cancel Debt, Choose Hope."

We need a new debt justice law. 90% of debt issues are governed by English law. We can do a lot more than others by campaigning here with our M.P.s

Two new in-depth reports on 'Seed systems and gender equality' and 4 myths

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Phil Mayland

November, 2024.

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