

CAFOD Report for the Justice & Peace Commission – 19 November 2024

Harvest Family Fast Day



Harvest Family Fast Day this year was on Friday 4th October and focused on the story of Daniel, a carpenter from Goma in Democratic Republic of the Congo. Parish donations are still being paid in at this time so we do not yet have the total figures available. However, we thank all our parishes in the Birmingham

Archdiocese for showing their support during Harvest Family Fast Day through their prayers, parish collections, soup lunches and various other events.

Middle East Humanitarian Appeal (DEC)



The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is a member, launched the Middle East Humanitarian Appeal on 17th October in response to the humanitarian situation in the country, where the conflict is devastating lives. Millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region are in urgent need of food, shelter and medical care. Ninety per cent of the population are displaced, shelters are overwhelmed and hospitals are struggling to treat the thousands who are injured.

CAFOD is working with our partners to help people right now. Donations will help with emergency health care, food, hygiene kits and mental health support, along with fuel, blankets and other essentials. As our partners continue to respond urgently, they are clear that, with more funds, they can do more to meet the desperate needs in these communities.

We contacted parishes on 17th October to inform them of the DEC emergency appeal. We acknowledged that the appeal comes soon after Harvest Fast Day so asked that, if they are able, they hold a collection at a convenient point during the next few weeks. We also asked for their support via a notice in parish newsletters and displaying an appeal poster so that parishioners can choose to donate if they so wish. As this is an ongoing appeal, donation information is not yet available. Total income raised so far is over £1,137,000.

Sudan Crisis Appeal (update)

Total income raised is now over £992,000.

We thank all our supporters for the generous response to our appeals.

Schools

Live Simply continues to do very well in our schools.

As of 7/11/24:

- **17** schools have signed up
- **116** schools are registered
- **66** schools have achieved the award (*up from 44 at time of the last report*) – *with the latest schools being St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary, Walsall and Ss Mary & John Catholic Primary School, Erdington both achieving their Live Simply Award at the end of October.*

Parishes

The archdiocese of Birmingham still retains its lead with more *Live Simply* parishes than any in other diocese in the country.

- **17** parishes signed up
- **2** parishes are registered
- **18** parishes have achieved the award

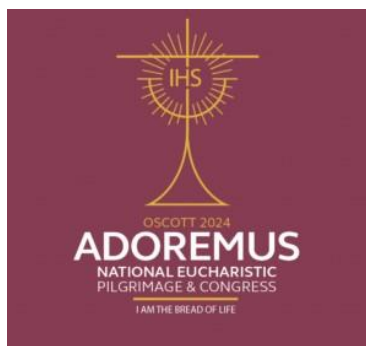
CAFOD Schools programme



CAFOD's school volunteers continue to lead assemblies, workshops and other activities with children and young people working alongside school staff in our Catholic primary and secondary schools. We currently have **11** schools' volunteers serving our Archdiocese.

During the 23/24 academic year, our school volunteers delivered 73 workshops and assemblies in our Catholic schools. Volunteers have so far visited 7 schools in the current academic year. We continue to appeal for school volunteers to enable us to deliver more sessions in all our Catholic schools.

Adoremus – National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress



Sylvester Mutsigwa and Kathryn Keenan from CAFOD in the Archdiocese, along with Simon Holleron from CAFOD in the Diocese of Salford, attended the Adoremus event at Oscott in September. We felt privileged to be a part of this event along with other Catholic organisations and to share our work with pilgrims from across England and Wales.

Jubilee 2025

The Jubilee Icon

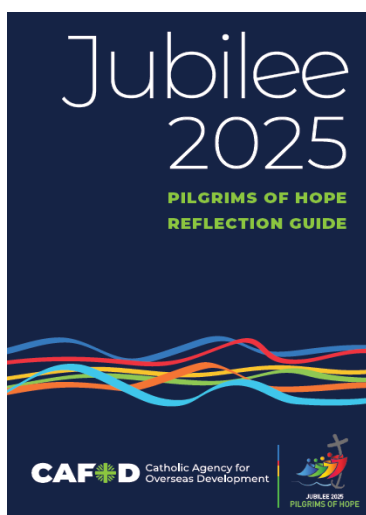


The icon has been produced with CAFOD partners from St Mary's College Wukro, Adigrat Diocese in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia, who have expertise in iconography. It portrays Jesus faithfully in the Northern Ethiopian tradition.

The icon was blessed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols at the Adoremus event in September.

We are working with the CBCEW to arrange for the Icon to travel to all dioceses and various events during the Jubilee year.

Jubilee Reflection Guide for Parishes



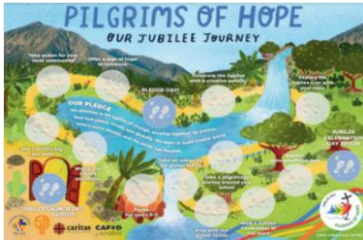
We have produced this reflection guide to be used by groups and individuals looking to deepen their faith and renew their hope during the special Jubilee year.

The booklet offers four reflection sessions, with accompanying videos available on our website. The sessions are ideal to run in a group, parish or deanery.

Leaders notes are available to help those wanting to run the sessions. We are also running an online taster on **4th December**, to show how the sessions can work.

Order or download the Jubilee Reflection Guide here: [https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/jubilee-](https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/jubilee-reflection-guide)

[reflection-guide](https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/jubilee-reflection-guide)



Jubilee Resources for Schools

Our education team at CAFOD have worked together with the Catholic Education Service and Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), Catholic Education Service (CES) and the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFED) to develop our Jubilee resources for schools, with opportunities for prayer, learning and action.

A launch day for schools is planned for Friday 24th January, with schools being invited to take part in an online assembly. In June/July 2025 there will be a Pledge Day when schools will be invited to pledge to take action to make the world a better place by committing to standing in solidarity with the poorest communities, sharing hope and challenging injustice. On Friday 21st November, there will be a Jubilee Celebration when we will celebrate achievements and look forward to the in hope.

Webpage: www.jubilee-schools.org.uk

Upcoming events

Looking back to a year with challenges and joys : A reflection with our Director Christine Allen

Wednesday 20 November, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Join us to hear from CAFOD Director Christine Allen and CAFOD trustees about CAFOD's challenges, joys and achievements of the past year and about our hopes for the future.

With the participation also of Ibrahim Njuguna Head of Humanitarian Africa and Mary Ward CAFOD Trustee.

[Register](#) to join us.

Faith in Action Our annual online campaigners' conference will be on **Saturday 23 November from 10am to 2.30pm**. We'll look ahead to the Jubilee Year 2025, hear live from one of our policy experts at COP29 in Azerbaijan, a debt campaigner from Sri Lanka, and we'll be joined by a new MP.

Sign up here <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/faith-in-action>

Jubilee Reflection resources Taster 4 Dec 7-8pm

CAFOD is also offering a [resource 'taster' session](#), on-line on 4th December, to anyone who might be interested in seeing what the resources are like. [Sign up here](#)

18th Jan Online Event: A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the CAFOD

Join us and our special guests for an introduction to the Jubilee, highlights of how we're celebrating locally and see how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. Our special guests include Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, and Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Africa. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-12pm, online. [Register here for free](#) or use the QR code



Sylvester Mutsigwa & Kathryn Keenan, 19 November 2024