

CAFOD (the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is the official international development and relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. We are a member of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation, a worldwide network of Catholic relief and development organisations. We believe all human beings have a right to dignity and respect and that all the world's resources are a gift to be shared equally by all men and women, whatever their race, nationality or religion. We work through the local Catholic Church and other partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to fight poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

We promote human development and social justice in witness to Christian faith and gospel values.

We raise funds from the Catholic community, the UK government and the general public so that we can:

- Work alongside people in need to reduce poverty and bring about sustainable change through development and humanitarian programmes. Our priority is to equip people with skills and opportunities to live with dignity, support their families and give something back to their communities
- Increase understanding of the causes of poverty and injustice
- Challenge governments and international bodies to adopt policies that promote social justice and end poverty. This is done both directly and by rallying the Catholic community.

We build long-term partnerships with local organisations in more than 30 countries across the world, supporting their work to build a better world for people living in extreme poverty. We maximise our impact on poverty by focusing on areas of work where we and our partners have particular expertise – creating sustainable livelihoods, combating HIV and AIDS and peace-building. In emergency situations we provide immediate relief but also stay on, supporting long-term programmes to rebuild people's lives. CAFOD is a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee in the UK.

Our work is made possible by the consistent generosity and commitment of the Catholic community who raise millions of pounds every year. Our dedicated team of volunteers help parishioners and school pupils learn about global poverty and put their faith into action.

The amount of money we receive and exactly how we spend it changes each year. But one thing stays the same – our commitment to spend it wisely. Out of every £1 we spend, 88p goes on vital emergency relief and development work in the world's poorest communities, as well as education and lobbying work, with only 12p spent on raising more money so that our work can continue.

If you would like to help CAFOD here at Corpus Christi – please contact our parish contact Cathy Hill in the first instance on 0118 9328 369 or email jandchill@dsl.pipex.com. We always need more helpers to assist with the twice yearly appeals for CAFOD's work by giving out envelopes or perhaps delivering a short pre-prepared talk at Mass to thank people for their support and to let them know how their donations are changing lives.

For more information on CAFOD, please go to <http://cafod.org.uk/>

For more information on CAFOD in the Portsmouth diocese, please go to <https://cafodportsmouth.wordpress.com/>