

CAFOD – LENT APPEAL 2021



“Fancy a cuppa?” “Yes please – I’m parched.” “OK - I will put the kettle on. Won’t be a minute.”

Sound familiar? But lockdown, for now, is drastically curtailing our opportunities to get together to enjoy a chat – and WATER. For us, at our bidding, water comes out of a tap. Not so for millions of people - our sisters and brothers in Christ – who must go to inordinate lengths daily to get enough of this precious liquid to sustain their lives.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

For its Lent Appeal 2021, CAFOD is asking us to support its endeavours to improve access to water for families in many places around our world. A heartrending example of where this need is very great – in Ethiopia - is portrayed in Abdella’s story.

Abdella is 23 and he has big dreams. He dreams of starting a small business, of having children, of having his own home. He dreams of the day he will not have to walk **ten hours** every day to get water. He lives in Afar, Ethiopia – one of the hottest places on earth. Like hundreds of people in the area, he spends most of the day walking to get water for his family to drink. He knows that if there was water near his home, his family would not have to worry any more about getting enough to stay alive. And he could start on the dreams he has for the rest of his life. To see Abdella’s experience go to [here](#).

The question is asked – why do people like Abdella not move to somewhere less hostile to human survival? The answer is complex but includes factors such as where would they be welcome and should they relinquish connection to territory inhabited by their ancestors for generations. Migration is not an ideal solution – particularly if effective measures can be taken fundamentally to improve the living conditions of the impoverished and enable them to stay happily in their own lands.

An encouraging example in Abdella’s own country of how such improvement radically changes lives can be seen with Hagos’ story.



Hagos lives in a drought-prone area of northern Ethiopia. “Land and water feed us. They keep us alive.” The lives of Hagos and his community were transformed when CAFOD’s partner in northern Ethiopia constructed two solar powered water pumps for the community. These pumps enable water tanks to be filled with water domestic use and for irrigation channels to sustain crops.

Pope Francis leaves us in no doubt that we have a paramount duty to take action to bring about such change.

How? Remember the A in CAFOD is for AGENCY. If we provide the financial resources, we can enable CAFOD's people and its collaborative networks to do the work on the ground where the need is greatest. Of course, all their endeavours must be supported by our prayer. There are rich prayer and meditation resources provided by the CAFOD Theology Team and, perhaps, during Lent as a parish we could include the following as a daily collective petition

*Loving God,
we hear your call to all who thirst for a brighter future:
"Come to the water".
Pour out your Spirit upon us and lead us to walk alongside one another.
Let a desire for change well up within us.
May we overflow with compassion and love.
And as a stream wears away stone, may we reshape
our world together to reflect your kingdom of hope for all.
Amen*

To associate this prayer with a film of Abdella's daily journey please visit [here](#).

So, in lockdown, until Easter perhaps, how can we together respond to CAFOD's urgent call to action?

THE WALK FOR WATER CHALLENGE

In lockdown we are recommended to take exercise. Good idea – but sometimes a bit of a daily chore. So why not walk, hop, skip or jump with a purpose. Alongside the Lent Fast Day and related collection, CAFOD proposes a challenge for Lent. This challenge is to walk 10,000 steps every day for 40 days starting on Ash Wednesday which is on 17 February. The idea is to just do it yourself or gather sponsors who will contribute according to the distances achieved over the period.

Funds collected from sponsors can be donated via JustGiving pages or by cheque to CAFOD or by text. Full details of how to go about the daily walk challenge and the ways of delivering funds raised can be found [here](#).

THE BIG WALK FOR WATER

On Saturday 20 February, if you are already walking for the challenge or are not taking part, feel free to join our virtual walk in solidarity with people who, like Abdella, need to walk to collect clean water, and in community with hundreds of people in England and Wales. Joining the Big Walk can be an individual or a group effort and more information can be found on the CAFOD website [here](#).

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

We are familiar with the CAFOD Fast Day twice a year (Harvest and Lent) and the associated collection. This year CAFOD's Lent Fast Day will take place on Friday 26 February. During the immediately following weekend (27/28 February) a collection will be promoted across the Catholic Parish of Guildford. The Stewards at each church will advise where to place cheque and cash donations.

Specific Lent Appeal CAFOD donation envelopes which include a Gift Aid Declaration for use where appropriate will be available in the four churches for postal donations. Cheques should be made payable to CAFOD. Ensure that the Parish name section is completed.

To ensure association with the CAFOD appeal cash donations should also use the CAFOD donation envelopes which include a Gift Aid Declaration for use where appropriate, but in this case will be collated and sent by consolidated cheque to CAFOD.

Some people will wish to donate but for Covid-19 reasons may be reluctant to attend and donate at church. We understand this concern and suggest the following alternative ways of donating.

- A. **Post** a cheque (but not cash) made payable to CAFOD at CAFOD Head Office, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB or **deliver** a cheque or cash via the letter box at the Presbytery; or
- B. Use the CAFOD online donation opportunity at [here](#), if appropriate applying Gift Aid; or
- C. Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5; Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10; Text LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20; a text response will automatically be received with a link to enable the donation to be Gift Aided if so desired.
- D. Telephone 0303 303 3030 to donate over the phone.

If possible, it would be helpful if all donations could be made **not later than 15 March**.

If you are a UK taxpayer and wish to apply Gift Aid to your donation **in option A** please download the CAFOD Gift Aid Declaration from [here](#) , complete and sign it and include it with your cheque or cash.

CAFOD have confirmed that for all forms of donations they will endeavour to summate totals from the parish and advise accordingly. To assist this process donors are requested, where the parish is not identified on a form, to include a separate note with the parish name. If calling by telephone request a link be made to the parish. If by text CAFOD will endeavour to link by post code.

MORE ABOUT CAFOD FOR LENT

We have set out above only part of the information and ideas that CAFOD is proposing for Lent. To get further information on the items mentioned above and a range of other campaigns and initiatives being undertaken by CAFOD please visit their website [here](#).

If you have any questions about the **CAFOD's** actions for Lent or how to donate, please contact Steve Rowden at srowden@cafod.org.uk or on 07899 804211.

Thank you very much for supporting the CAFOD Lent events.