

Dear friend,

In recent days, among our dispersed CAFOD teams, planning our global response to Coronavirus, some words from St Paul have come to mind: faith, hope and love.

We are facing an unprecedented emergency in every country we work in; and we are also mindful, each day, of people in our own Catholic community here in England and Wales who are unable to attend Mass; people worried and overstretched; of those who have tragically lost loved ones, and of those who were already enduring loneliness and are now in isolation. We need to respond in faith, hope and love. And so in faith, hope and love, we are reaching out to you.

Coronavirus is affecting every country we work in. The poorest and excluded are most vulnerable. Food prices have risen with borders closing; the poorest are losing their jobs and income with wholesale shutdowns. As you can imagine, the outlook is very serious in places where healthcare is inadequate, and washing regularly and social distancing are luxuries. Half the world's population can't access basic healthcare, and already struggle to feed their families; and they now face the threat of hunger as the coronavirus shuts down markets and jobs.

As our [first response](#), we have adapted all of our current work across 40 countries, and are also responding to already severe needs with emergency food relief, water and sanitation, and spreading awareness of prevention measures, especially through Church leaders and Catholic media.

But this is very much only the beginning of what will be a massive, and enduring response programme across every country we work in. This virus is changing our entire programme of work across the world. Beyond the immediate loss of life and suffering, long-term vulnerability, poverty, exclusion and injustice will only become more acute. The task is daunting. We and our church partners around the world are looking to God for strength, and to keep us acting in faith and hope, and we know that you across England and Wales are doing the same.

We know all too well that things are far from straightforward in all our parishes right now. We, as a global family, have never faced a crisis of this magnitude –in our own communities, and those communities CAFOD works with. But the scale is unimaginable in the most vulnerable communities of our world, and so as of today, we are [appealing for support for our emergency response](#). Those communities with nothing, who have everything stacked against them, - our brothers and sisters - have never needed your love and support so much.

To help with adapting parish life to lockdown, some resources and guides are below, and I also include wording for an announcement in your parish newsletter, website and social media.

We are so grateful as always for all of your prayers and support, especially in what we know are distressing times for many here in the UK. At this time, I truly believe that our way through this time lies in holding fast to our faith and to one another. Please remember

CAFOD's work and our appeal in your communications with parishioners and in your prayers.

We are living through one of the global events that will shape humanity, and our response can only be the response of the heart of God. We need to be his hands and feet – we cannot do otherwise.

With my sincere thanks and my prayers

Christine Allen

Director, CAFOD

P.S. A version of this email has gone to your parish CAFOD priest too.

### **Adapting parish life to lockdown**

- [cafod.org.uk/parishes](https://cafod.org.uk/parishes) has a **two-minute video message from me about the appeal** – do share with your parish, and please ask your priest if he would share this with parishioners – whether in online Masses or gatherings you're doing, or just by putting the link in an email.

- Also at [cafod.org.uk/parishes](https://cafod.org.uk/parishes) you'll find tips for gathering virtually, prayer resources, children's activities and our step-by-step guide to set up a **parish collection page online**.

- ideas from parishes round the country about [getting online as a parish community](#)

- we also have a programme of [online talks](#) about our response work as well as a weekly live-streamed Mass and Sunday Children's Liturgy, and next week this will include a webinar on getting your parish collections and community fundraising online.

### **Newsletter insert for Emergency Appeal Launch 30 April**

#### **Short version:**

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal](https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal), or as a parish community via your own parish coronavirus appeal JustGiving page [*insert link*] or parishes finances). [*please amend as appropriate*]

#### **Full version:**

CAFOD, our Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. Coronavirus (Covid-19) has now spread worldwide, with

confirmed cases in many countries where CAFOD works. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries are likely to be devastating. Many countries have very weak healthcare systems and will not be able to cope. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with other diseases, will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. It is not just a public health emergency. Many of the world's most vulnerable people will lose their jobs and be unable to support their families. The poorest and most marginalised communities, working hard to transform their lives, will be pushed further into poverty. CAFOD is adapting its programmes to help manage the risk of coronavirus in communities and working with local Church aid agencies on the frontline of this crisis. They are already working to get food to where it is needed most; to improve hygiene, handwashing and sanitation in communities and households; producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention; and training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns. In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. While we are not able to hold collections in our church, you can donate at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal](https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal),