

Diocese of Portsmouth CAFOD & Caritas Lenten programme on The Bible and Laudato Si': Care for our Common home.

Sunday 1st March

Give Generously

Matthew 6:2-6

"So, when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win human admiration. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward. But when you pray, go to your private room, shut yourself in, and so pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you."

Laudato si' #220

"This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness. First, it entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works: "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Mt 6:3-4). It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. As believers, we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings. By developing our individual, God-given capacities, an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world's problems and in offering ourselves to God "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable" (Rom 12:1)."

CAFOD

In year 2018-19 CAFOD spent £22 million on development projects and 15 million on emergency relief. However, 1 in 3 projects that we are asked to fund we are unable to do so. The more money we raise at fast days the more people we can help as the majority of our fundraising comes from the generous support of the catholic community. In Lent 2019 with your help we were able to provide Mahinur and 3000 other families in her community in Bangladesh with seeds and livestock in order to diversify their livelihoods and reduce their reliance on the river as their only source of income. Please support our Lent fast day on Friday 6th March.

Action How can we be generous with our time, talents and treasure?

Personal

Could I give more of my time and talents by volunteering for CAFOD/ Caritas in my parish, school and local community?

Family

As a family could we collect 5ps for CAFOD during Lent or get involved in fundraising ideas. What percentage of our income do we donate to charity?

Parish

How do we promote the CAFOD Lent fast day collection? Could we organise a soup lunch/supper on Family fast day Friday 6th March or another fundraising event?