

## Thank you for all you did – and what's next?



CAFOD coordinator Ged at a local hustings in Liverpool Archdiocese

We'd like to say a **big thank you to you** and your parish for joining the *Year of Encounter* initiative and using our Catholic voice in the election. Despite only having 6 weeks' notice of the election, the response was fantastic. CAFOD volunteers and parish groups quickly got organised, determined to make an impact.

And we did! More than **170 parishes** reached out to their local candidates by attending a hustings or sending emails. Many CAFOD supporters also contacted candidates individually to raise our issues, and we reached over **90% of constituencies** that way! And we did it in a spirit of encounter: with respect, with humility but also with the conviction that, as people of faith, we have the responsibility to promote the common good.

Many candidates heard our concerns about poverty and injustice at home and abroad. One candidate said, **"Just to say that I'm very impressed with CAFOD's advocacy to candidates... I've received lots of the CAFOD emails, and it's so lovely and refreshing to receive them among all the mailings on potholes and traffic and the like...!"**

CAFOD supporters from Windsor, Maidenhead and Twyford constituencies met before a hustings event in Maidenhead. On the night they successfully asked two questions, one about providing safe routes for refugees and asylum seekers. As Br Eddie Slawinski tells us, "This question raised the most sympathetic applause of the night from the 150 strong gathering. Responses from the six candidates were thorough and empathetic."



### Could you send your new MP a welcome card?

This is just the beginning! With a new government in power, this is an opportunity for you and your parish to build a relationship with your MP. Could you send them a welcome card from your parish; something along the lines of that pictured, left? It would be a powerful way to welcome them and let them know who you are, and that you're looking forward to engaging with them on issues of poverty and injustice.

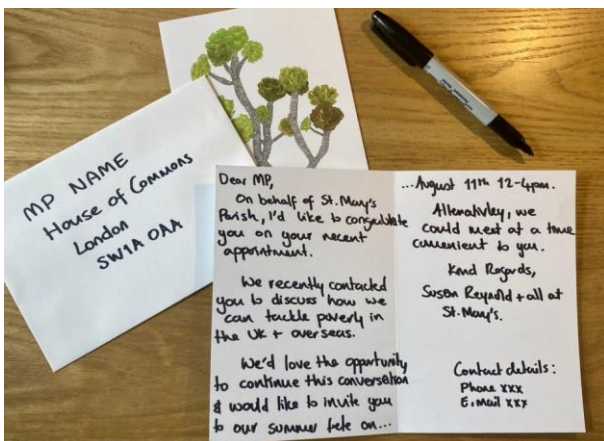
Or, how about giving a proper welcome to them by **arranging a meeting**? The steps are very simple:

- Talk to your priest, and if he is happy with the idea then share it with more parishioners.
- With a few other parishioners, set up a group to draft an invite to your MP, pencil in potential dates for the meeting, confirm the venue and decide on the issues that you would like to discuss e.g. food systems, debt cancellation, climate change.
- Send the invite email to your MP at either their constituency or parliamentary office
- Once your MP has confirmed the meeting, promote it to other parishioners.

Let us know if you decide to do this by emailing Helen: [hmoseley@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hmoseley@cafod.org.uk)

### CAFOD Campaigns Update – July 2024

You are receiving this update as part of your volunteering agreement with CAFOD. If you want to stop volunteering or discuss your volunteering role, please contact your local CAFOD representative. Or for any queries email Helen Moseley [hmoseley@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hmoseley@cafod.org.uk) or call our Campaigns hotline on 020 7095 5692. Photo credits: CAFOD



# We took your messages to the World Bank



This month marks 80 years since the World Bank was set up in July 1944. To celebrate this anniversary, a delegation of CAFOD supporters who also turned 80 this year visited the Bank's offices in London. They delivered a birthday card signed by thousands of CAFOD supporters, who each put a single message into their own words: World Bank, put seeds back into the hands of farmers. Thank you if your message was one of them!

We had a constructive meeting with two World Bank staff, which was part of an ongoing discussion happening as a result of this campaign. We are in this for the long haul! Stay tuned for updates: [cafod.org.uk/food](https://cafod.org.uk/food)

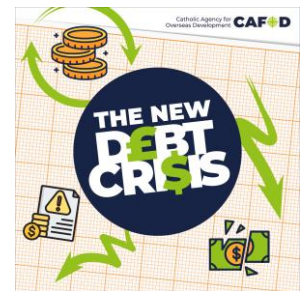
## How the new government must act to tackle global poverty

Here are the key steps MPs in the new Parliament must take to help us build a better world and address the injustices our global family is facing.

### 1. Passing a 'Debt Justice Law'

There is a new global debt crisis forcing low-income countries to make an impossible choice between funding essential public services such as health and education or repaying mounting debts to big banks.

The new government can change this. The majority of contracts governing these debts are made under English law, so MPs have a unique opportunity to introduce a 'debt justice law'. This would prevent banks like HSBC and Blackrock from suing low-income countries that are unable to service their debts and enable them to spend money on essential services instead.



### 2. New funding for fighting the climate crisis

The climate crisis is getting worse. But rich countries, who have been most responsible for the emissions driving global temperature rises, aren't providing anything like the sums needed to support communities that are being hardest hit.

The new government needs to act, with steps such as introducing new taxes aimed at the richest and largest polluters, making it more expensive to burn fossil fuels whilst raising much needed funds. Cancelling debts of low-income countries would also free up funding for governments to tackle the climate crisis.

### 3. Fixing the food system

Global hunger is on the rise, with 2.4 billion people now without regular access to food. Ministers settling into their new departments in Whitehall must get to work on a new global agricultural strategy that supports small-scale farmers, including by channelling aid money that's currently being used to support big agribusiness companies to small-scale farmers instead.

They must also work to use the UK's influence at the World Bank to end policies that force farmers to buy expensive commercial seeds from big businesses, contributing to a food system that is less resilient to the threats posed by the climate emergency.



## Prefer to receive this by email?

If you would prefer to receive this update by email rather than post, please email Helen on [hmoseley@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hmoseley@cafod.org.uk) and we can arrange that for you. Just to let you know, this update will be attached as a PDF, so it's only suitable for reading on a computer, not a phone. We send around six a year, and once a year in spring we will still send you printed resources in the post. If that would suit you, just let us know and we'll do that for next time.

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