***Family Fast Day* Short Talk**

CAF7762

Good morning/evening Father, and good morning/evening everyone.

My name is *[name]* and I’m going to take a few minutes to talk about why it’s so important for us to give to CAFOD’s work on Family Fast Day – these special days of fasting and giving.

CAFOD is part of Caritas, the global Catholic aid network that brings love, hope and practical help to our neighbours experiencing poverty. More than ever in this Jubilee year, we can join together with this worldwide church network, and offer our support and prayers where they are needed most.

Over recent weeks, the conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan especially have been getting worse, and the suffering of families there is in all our minds and hearts. I want to reassure you that through CAFOD’s local Church partners, your support – donations you have made in our previous Fast Day collections - is already reaching our neighbours who are caught up in these emergencies.

In today’s gospel we are reminded of the importance of being a good neighbour and caring for one another, as we hear the fate of the rich man who ignored Lazarus at his gates. Our faith calls us to open our eyes to the needs of others, to share what we have and to support one another in difficult times.

In this way, we can work together towards a better world and a movement of hope.

***Sunday 28 September (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Luke 16:19-31***

*[See page 3 for the gospel reflection for Sunday 5 October]*

This Fast Day, I want to invite you to give, using your CAFOD envelope *[hold up giving envelope]*, to help our neighbours like Waré *[say Warr-ay]* in Ethiopia.

Waré is a mother to five children, and she and her husband herd goats in southern Ethiopia. Severe drought there over the last four years has meant a lot of livestock died, and water has become very hard to find. Waré said she has never seen a drought as severe as this.

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“Because of drought, we always have little water,” she says, “and because we have lost so much, many families are vulnerable.”

Every day, Waré gets up at 5am and walks for a minimum of five hours to find water and return home. But if the nearest water sources have dried up, she has to keep looking – a much longer day, walking to find water.

This is Waré’s daily challenge. She even had to walk to find water when she was pregnant with her youngest child. “Sometimes I felt so weak I could fall down

…I was fearful for the baby I was pregnant with, but that child was with me – so I was also afraid for my [other] children, thinking that maybe I would not make it back to them and they would be left as children without a mother.”

But Waré had you, the Catholic community of England and Wales, as her good neighbours.

With your gifts at Family Fast Day, CAFOD worked together with Waré and her community to build an underground water storage tank, able to support 300 families through a normal dry season1 and even in longer droughts.

Instead of walking ten hours there and back, or longer, now the tank will mean Waré has water just a 10 minute walk from her home.

Change like this takes time. It calls us to stand with people for the long term, just as Waré and her community stand alongside and support each other.

Please pray that the rains come for Waré’s community – your prayers for our neighbours are so needed.

And please give today to help communities like Ware’s until those rains come. If you can consider starting a monthly gift today, you’ll be committing to helping more of our neighbours in need around the world for the long term.

On behalf of CAFOD, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for supporting Waré and all of our other neighbours in these hard and uncertain times.

Thank you for listening and for your donations, and Father, thank you for letting me share Waré’s story today.

1 This is usually four months in Waré’s region.

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As we look at the world around us, it can be easy to doubt that we can make any difference, but today’s gospel reassures us. Jesus tells the apostles that with just the smallest amount of faith, they could uproot a tree and move it into the sea. Let us place our faith in the Lord, then, and trust that with God’s help, we can work together with our neighbours towards a better world.

***Sunday 5 October (27th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Luke 17:5-10***

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