

Power to be

Organiser's guide

“Worldwide there is minimal access to clean and renewable energy. There is an urgent need to substitute fossil fuels and develop sources of renewable energy.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #26

Inside:

- > facts and stories
- > ways to share the campaign in your parish or school
- > a short talk
- > dates for your diary
- ...and lots more!



We have the power to make a difference

Over the past decade, we have made huge steps forward on tackling poverty and climate change, and shifting towards renewable energy.

This has come about thanks to your actions, filled with love and hope for our sisters and brothers around the world.

> **Climate Change Act**

In 2008, you campaigned for the UK to pass the world's first legally-binding commitment to cut carbon emissions.

> **Care for our common home**

In 2015, in response to Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, you ensured the voices of the world's poorest communities were heard by people in power. You marched, cycled, and signed a global petition ahead of the historic climate change talks in Paris.

> **Paris climate agreement**

195 countries signed the ground-breaking agreement, calling the world to take urgent action. It endeavours to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, paving the way to a low-carbon future.

> **Sustainable Development Goals**

In the same year, nearly 200 countries set new global targets to end poverty and protect the earth. This included a commitment to ensure "affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" by 2030.

We must act now

Every card you've signed, every march you've walked, and every prayer you've offered has helped us to get this far. Thank you.

Now, we must act together to ensure these commitments are turned into real change for poor communities around the world.

Access to renewable energy not only protects the earth we share, but also helps communities to escape poverty.



Did you know?

- > In 2016, 47 of the world's poorest countries, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Haiti, agreed to shift to **100%** renewable energy by 2050.
- > **18 of 22** Catholic dioceses in England and Wales have already switched to renewable energy.

“Quite frankly, there is no answer to climate change without substantially, dramatically, increasing the amount of renewable energy in the global energy system.”

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

What is the *Power to be* campaign?

Every child has the power to achieve great things. But one in six people live without electricity. This holds children back from reaching their full potential.

By joining CAFOD's *Power to be* campaign, you can speak up for local, renewable energy, and help families around the world to lift themselves out of poverty.

Dates for your diary

Use opportunities to promote the *Power to be* campaign in your parish or school – or pick a date that works for you. This campaign runs throughout 2017.



Saturday 22 April
Earth Day



Monday 24 April
Power to be launches in Parliament



Sunday 18 June
2nd anniversary of *Laudato Si'*



Saturday 1 until Sunday 9 July
Speak Up week of action



Friday 1 September
World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation



Wednesday 4 October
Saint Francis of Assisi



Friday 13 until Sunday 15 October
World Bank annual meetings

Sign the campaign action card

Please encourage as many people as possible to sign our action card to the World Bank. **More on pages 8-9.**

Involve your parish, school or group

Use our creative activity, short talk and guided liturgy to help people get excited about the campaign and to encourage them to add their voices. **More on pages 10-13.**

Support the week of action

You can join the campaign at any time during 2017, but the *Speak Up* week of action (1-9 July) is a great opportunity to share what your community has been doing with your MP. **More on pages 14-15.**

How does access to energy help end poverty?

We're speaking up on local, renewable energy because it gives communities around the world the power to transform their lives.

Having access to electricity means that children can study after dark, nurses can keep vaccines cold, farmers can irrigate crops, and people can drink purified water.

What is energy poverty?

When people lack reliable, affordable, legal and safe access to energy services they live in 'energy poverty'. People are often forced to rely on fuels which are expensive and damaging to their health.

"It was the best day when we had water in the camp. We still face many challenges living here, but now we don't need to worry about fetching water."

Amina lives in a refugee camp in Darfur, where a solar-powered pump brings clean, safe water near to where she lives.



Safe, reliable, affordable and renewable energy is a major factor in...



More children
living to their
fifth birthday



More children
completing
primary school



Increased
literacy of 15
to 24-year-olds

“Now that we have the solar panels at school, I’ll be able to do the extra school work I need to. School empowers me to achieve my plans for the future.”

Veronica, student, Kenya (pictured on the cover)

Communities take power in their hands

CAFOD works directly alongside poor communities overseas to help them access the energy they need to flourish. We see firsthand the benefits that it brings. That’s why we’re campaigning for more support for local, renewable energy. For example:



In Kenya, east Africa, we supported a four-year renewable energy project which reached nearly half a million people. After consulting with communities, our local partners installed solar lighting in 90 schools, equipped clinics with 48 solar fridges,

enabled 56 women’s groups to use solar panels to pump water for their crops and much more.



In Indonesia, south east Asia, our partners are supporting the people of Boafeo village to design the right kind of energy to serve their community. The villagers have agreed they want power to help children learn at school, have good lighting at home, and earn more from coffee farming. A mini-grid powered by solar energy could help the community meet its needs sustainably. We will share what we learn from this project with other organisations, so that we can help more communities.

What change do we want to see?

Having access to energy can give people the power to be farmers, teachers, doctors, and break free from poverty. But it needs to be...

Accessible

Reaching the poorest, most remote communities.



Nearly 90% of people without electricity live in villages. It can be expensive and difficult to extend the main grid to homes, schools and clinics in rural areas. The cheapest, most efficient solution is usually to provide mini-grids powered by renewables.

"In rural areas, people have to walk long distances to where there is energy to find decent health services. Even when (healthcare) staff have the skills they often can't help, because they do not have access to energy."

Sister Mathilde Mubanga,
national health coordinator for the
Bishops' Conference, Zambia

Reliable

Providing a trustworthy supply, without leaving people in the dark or experiencing frequent power cuts.



It's a myth that energy sources like wind and solar only generate electricity on windy and sunny days.

"The school isn't connected to the grid. Solar energy is more useful as we'll always have the sun, and the electricity (from the grid) is often subject to blackouts."

Halake Kara, headteacher, Kenya

Affordable

Within the means of the poorest communities.



In countries such as Kenya, Burkina Faso or Rwanda, the cost of connecting to the main energy grid is more than the average person earns in a month.

"I feel good that the solar panels are powered by the sun. Energy is from God, we are not paying for it."

Monica Asikuku, nurse, Kenya

Safe

Not harming people's health, but protecting families and the earth we share.



Over a third of the world's population rely on polluting fuels such as firewood or charcoal to cook. Millions of people die from causes linked to this pollution every year, with children under five among the most vulnerable.

"There have been cases where people's houses have burnt down. If someone falls asleep when using a candle things can catch fire."

Father Boniface Sakala, working for the Bishops' Conference, Zambia

Renewable

Generated from sustainable resources, which can be replenished without damaging the earth for future generations.



Solar, wind, geothermal, and tidal energy is so abundant that each source could potentially supply the entire world's electricity demand.

"I want my daughters to breathe fresh air with no coal particles in it, to enjoy the rivers, nature and landscape."

Lenis Tolosa, who lives near a coal mine, Colombia



Why is the *Power to be* campaign targeting the World Bank?

The UK helps fund energy projects in poor countries overseas to tackle poverty and promote economic development. The single biggest channel of UK funding for energy access for poor communities is through the World Bank.

The World Bank is an international organisation with a mission to end poverty around the world. **Yet currently only a tiny proportion, less than 3%, of its spending on energy goes towards local, renewable energy and clean cooking which we know benefits the poorest communities.** To tackle poverty, we need to shift the balance.

The World Bank is jointly owned by 189 member country governments, but

shareholder countries like the UK hold greater power in making decisions.

The UK is one of only five countries which appoints its own executive director to the Board of the Bank. The rest of the 25 executive directors are elected, often by many countries. The UK has a strong voice.

So through *Power to be*, we're calling on Melanie Robinson, UK Executive Director at the World Bank, to use her influence to ensure the Bank invests in providing safe, reliable, affordable and renewable energy for poor communities.

By speaking up, we can press the UK to stay true to its values, and reaffirm its commitments to tackle poverty and climate change.

“The solar panels (on the health centre) have made a big difference. When it gets dark, we look at the health centre like it's paradise. There is a new light in our neighbourhood.”

Lucy, community health worker, Kenya



How to organise a campaign card signing

Encourage people in your parish or school to sign campaign action cards. These cards help us to put pressure on the World Bank to increase support for local, renewable energy.

- 1. Speak to your priest.** Ask your priest if you could hold a card signing after Mass (if your card signing is at church). Arrange to speak during the homily or before the final blessing. **Use our short talk and prayers of intercession on pages 12-13.**
- 2. Get organised.** Alternatively, ask people to sign cards during a coffee morning, a school assembly, or a week of action event. **See some suggested dates on page 3.**
- 3. Get a group together.** If you're part of a parish or school group, ask people to help out on the day.
- 4. Order posters and campaign action cards from shop.cafod.org.uk** There are five versions of the card, each campaign action card showing a different child or young person, reminding us that every child should have the power to fulfil their dreams. You'll receive a random selection.
- 5. The week before.** Announce the signing in your parish newsletter or put up the poster on your parish or school noticeboard.
- 6. On the day.** Get there early. Place the cards on the pews before Mass if your priest allows, or on the seats during a school assembly. Try to get as many people as possible to sign the cards and remember to bring plenty of pens!
- 7. Collect in the cards and return them to CAFOD.** Count up how many actions your parish or school has taken and follow-up with a thank you. We will be building the pressure on the World Bank throughout the year, so please send in your completed cards as soon as they are ready.



Please return individual action cards using the freepost address on the card. For batches of cards, please use a stamp and send these to:

CAFOD campaigns team, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB.

We invite people over 18 to complete their name and address on our action cards and to state if they want to receive email updates from CAFOD in future. This enables us to say thank you and to keep people up-to-date with our campaigns. If adults do not wish to provide their full details, they can still take the action by giving their name and the name of their parish.

Under 18s can use the action cards, but should tick the 'I am under 18' box. They do not need to provide their address details as we will not process these, but may include the name of their school/group. A form for teachers or youth leaders to return with completed actions is available on cafod.org.uk/powertobe

How to involve your whole community

God has given us a beautiful common home, complete with sun, wind, and sea. These riches of the earth, when harnessed in the right way, have the power to change lives for good.

The creative activity below is a great way to inspire your parish or school. You can use it...

- > as part of our new *Power to be* liturgy (available to order from shop.cafod.org.uk or download from cafod.org.uk/powertoBe)
- > during a children's liturgy
- > alongside our short talk
- > after a card signing
- > or as a classroom activity.

Here comes the sun...

Come together with your parish, school, or youth group and create your own display of the sun.

1. Using coloured paper, write 'Power to be' on a big cut-out circle for the centre.
2. Cut out smaller triangles for the sun's rays and hand one to every member of your group.
3. Ask people to write something on their ray: either a message to the World Bank, a promise to save energy, or a prayer for children to have access to electricity and reach their potential.

4. Bring all the rays together to form one large sun – the bigger, the better!
5. Share your photos with us on Twitter and Facebook. Tag **@CAFOD** in your tweets, and email your photos and stories to campaigns@cafod.org.uk This shows we're part of a bigger movement speaking up on renewable energy.

What next?

- > Share the *Power to be* messages with your parish or school. Display the sun on your noticeboard or ask your children's liturgy group to bring it forward to the altar during Mass. There will be an accompanying children's liturgy available for Sunday 2 July to download from cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy
- > If you took action with a school or Confirmation group, let us know the name of your group and how many people took part, using the form on cafod.org.uk/powertoBe
- > If you are meeting your MP as part of the *Speak Up* week of action (1-9 July), bring your sun along. Invite your MP to add their commitment to action. Ask your local press to come along for a photo opportunity.

“Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Let them praise the name of the Lord.”

(Psalm 148)





A short talk for your parish or school

Good morning/evening everyone. (Thank you Father for giving me the opportunity to speak today).

My name is _____ and I'm here to talk to you about CAFOD's new campaign, *Power to be*. As many of you know, CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and works to bring hope and compassion to some of the world's poorest communities.

I want to talk to you about something truly special. We use it to heat and light our church / school, and to make tea and coffee after Mass / cook school dinners.

You guessed it – I'm talking about electricity. Many of us use it every day without even thinking about it. Yet it has extraordinary power – the power to help the world's children break free from poverty.

Veronica is 16 years old and lives with her family in Kenya. She loves going to school. Her father didn't have this opportunity when he was young, so he wants her to succeed.

In the evening, Veronica helps her mother prepare a meal before doing her homework. For years, Veronica has used a paraffin lamp to provide the light she needs to study because her family can't afford electricity at home.

But burning oil for hours made her cough and she found it hard to concentrate. Veronica's hopes of finishing school were starting to become a distant dream.

Now she has new hope. And it's all thanks to the power of the sun.

Solar panels have been fitted on her school roof, bringing light to her classroom. She can now go to evening classes and achieve the grades she deserves. She also has a solar lamp at home to help her with her studies.

Veronica has the power to fulfil her dreams. And she is looking forward to her bright future.

All around the world, local, renewable energy is transforming the lives of the poorest communities. It means clinics can keep vaccines cold, farmers can irrigate crops, and families can drink clean water. Whole countries can benefit.

Yet one in six people are still living without electricity.

We believe that God, through infinite power and love, created heaven and earth, the sun and the stars. We are called to share the power of God's love with our neighbours, so that children everywhere can fulfil their dreams and flourish.

That's why I am asking you today to join CAFOD's campaign to help bring power to our global neighbours.

The UK helps fund energy projects in poor countries overseas to help tackle poverty. The biggest single channel of UK funding for energy access for poor communities is through the World Bank.

The World Bank has a mission to end poverty around the world. Yet currently only a tiny proportion, less than 3%, of its spending on energy goes towards local, renewable energy which we know benefits the poorest communities. To really make a difference in tackling poverty, we need to shift the balance.

Please sign a card to the UK's representative at the World Bank *(that's on your seat/ at the back of church – hold one up as an example)*.

Each of these cards shows a child or young person. The right kind of energy can help these children have the power to be whoever they want to be – whether that's a politician, a doctor, or a mathematician. Your support will help them fulfil their dreams and reach their God-given potential.

So please do take a few moments to sign a card. Your action cards will be returned to CAFOD, to show the World Bank how many people, parishes and schools want them to act.

Thank you so much for your actions and prayers, and for helping our neighbours to live life to the full.

Prayers of intercession

We pray for the Church: that through the grace of God she may shine a light on injustice, and uphold a vision of fullness of life for all. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that the Holy Spirit may move them to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, and take urgent action. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for people living in energy poverty: that through the Risen Christ they may be alive with hope and joy for a brighter future. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our local community: that we may remain faithful to Christ through our daily actions, and do all we can to care for our common home. Lord in your mercy...

Speak Up week of action (1-9 July)

This summer, speak up to your MP and show them you care about energy access for the world's poorest people.

The week of action (1-9 July), supported by The Climate Coalition, is a wonderful opportunity to join together with schools, churches and faith groups in your area and get your voice heard.

Your MP represents your voice in parliament. They can speak up to the UK government on your behalf and call on them to champion local, renewable energy at the World Bank. But they'll only act if we ask them to.

Invite your MP to come and meet people in your community – perhaps after a card signing or liturgy. Speaking up on energy means loving our global neighbours. It's time to tell your MP.



From students in Manchester to parishioners in Kent, thousands of Climate Coalition supporters met with their MPs at community events as part of the week of action in 2016.



CAFOD is a member of The Climate Coalition – the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action on climate change and limiting its impact on the world's poorest communities.

Get your voice heard

During the 2016 *Speak Up* week of action, parishes, schools and communities spoke up at 250 local events across the country.

The Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Climate Change Minister were among those who were lobbied by CAFOD supporters. And media coverage put even more pressure on MPs to take action.

It was an unforgettable week... all the more reason to do it again!

Sign up now at cafod.org.uk/speakup

“We definitely agree on the issue of renewable energy. There is so much potential for solar power in developing countries, in order to bring energy to households who will never be able to access the energy grid.”

John Spellar, MP for Warley after meeting CAFOD supporters

“I was very nervous. But this meeting helped me realise that whilst power may be held by ministers and MPs in Westminster, they are willing to listen to people who are trying to make an impact.”

Aaron, 16, from London after meeting Nick Hurd MP

What can I do?

- **Sign up on the online map** to show that you are interested in taking part in the week of action. You don't have to have all the details confirmed before you sign up, and it helps to show MPs the strength of support across the country.
- **Organise or take part in an event** in your community from 1-9 July. Think about who you could invite – such as neighbouring schools, your local interfaith group or allotment scheme. You can also use the online map to find out what events are taking place in your area.
- **Invite your MP.** Their diaries get filled up quickly, so invite them along as soon as you've set the date.
- **Download more week of action materials** to spread the word, and find an in-depth briefing to give to your MP on the day. Order *Power to be* posters to help publicise your event.

In Wales? Speak up to your Assembly Members as well. Find out more at:

stopclimatechaoscymru.org/speakup

Sign up and find resources at cafod.org.uk/speakup

Next steps

Visit **shop.cafod.org.uk** or call **0300 011 5680** to order more free *Power to be* resources including:



campaign action cards
for everyone in your
parish, school or group



sustainable energy
factsheet



liturgy booklets and
leader's notes



A3 poster with
two A4 versions
on reverse

These can also be downloaded from **cafod.org.uk/powertobe** along with FAQs, resources for children and young people and much more.

Keep in touch

› Share the campaign with your friends and family:
cafod.org.uk/powertobe

› Sign up to receive feedback, news and the latest campaign
actions by email at **cafod.org.uk/howtocampaign**

“Energy, in its many forms, is a gift of God, made
freely available to the whole of humanity.”

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 2014



References for the all facts quoted in this booklet are
available at **cafod.org.uk/powertobe**

Registered office: Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB
Tel: 020 7733 7900 Email: cafod@cafod.org.uk
Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398
Printed on paper from well-managed forests

CAF3516

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