

Lent Assembly 2025 Script

Themes: Lent, chickens, drought, Kenya, hope.

Time: 9 minutes with video.

Learning outcomes: That all students understand the Catholic Social teaching principle of solidarity – working together as a group – by understanding how groups overcome challenges.

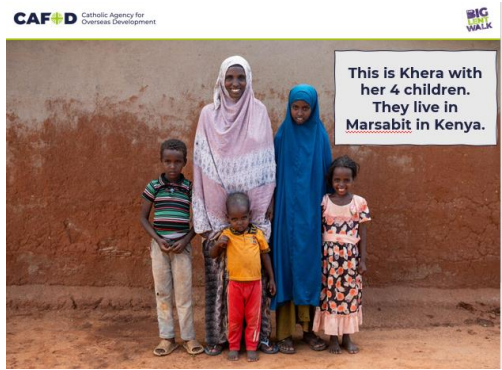
	<p>Hello and welcome to the CAFOD Lent assembly for 2024. CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development and we work with communities all over the world for an end to extreme poverty and global injustice. We are an NGO which means a non-governmental organization – we work independently of the government.</p>
	<p>Ok, so let's start with a few warm up jokes and maybe you'll guess the theme of today's assembly. What do you call a prankster chicken?</p> <p>A practical yolker!</p>
	<p>Why did the chicken cross the road?</p> <p>So people would stop asking why it crossed the road.</p>
	<p>Why did the chicken cross the road?</p> <p>Because he was taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk!</p>
	<p>We're sorry about the terrible jokes – but hopefully you have worked out we're all about chickens this Lent! Every year CAFOD raise money to end global inequality by participating in the Big Lent Walk, and we'd love for you to get involved.</p>



So why did CAFOD go crazy for chickens?

Well this bit isn't a joke, this is the very real reason.

Because communities in Kenya lost all their income due to drought and needed new income strategies quickly.



This is Khera with her 4 children. They live in Marsabit in Kenya.



Marsabit is in the northern part of Kenya.



If we look at Kenya's country profile we can understand why CAFOD went crazy for chickens.

Kenya has a large population that rely on agriculture. The country is considered a low income country. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya borrowed money from private lenders which means they are now trapped into paying high interest rates, where you pay the bank back extra money for the privilege of borrowing it.

So, can you imagine in a country, where there is already economic instability and then they face another disaster...



Marsabit, in Kenya, experienced a severe drought. This meant that their largest industry, agriculture, which provided income to many people, was lost due to a natural disaster.



Going to get water from the nearest source would be a long journey – and sometimes they needed to do this multiple times to keep up with the demand for water.



Livestock require a lot of water and there was not enough – the animals died. Khera lost all her livestock and had no other income.



That's when CAFOD and Caritas Marsabit created opportunities for training on... chickens!

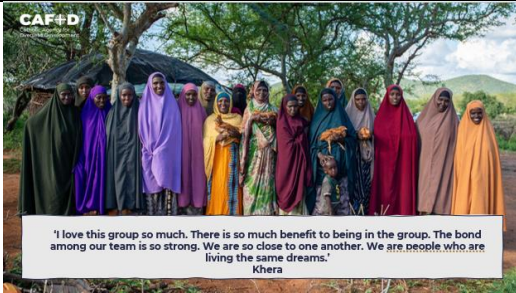


Let's find out more by watching this video.



You heard in the video that Khera's group are called 'The Glitter Group.' Together, they share out responsibility for caring for the chickens.

They work in solidarity with one another.



Khera shared her thoughts about the Glitter group, 'I love this group so much. There is so much benefit to being in the group. The bond among our team is so strong. We are so close to one another. We are people who are living the same dreams'.

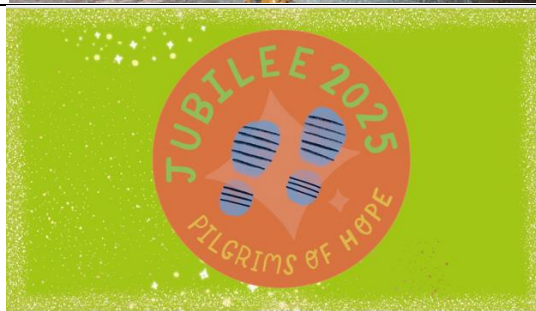
I wonder if you have friends who you could say the same thing about?



So glitter group, glittery chickens? Well...



They are actually just new improved indigenous chickens, which are bred to be more disease resistant and produce more eggs. Crucially chickens require less water than livestock so they provide a more stable income incase there is another drought.



All throughout this year, we've been putting sparkles on CAFOD resources. Because 2025 is a Jubilee year, and Pope Francis has asked us all to be Pilgrims of Hope. We think the best way to describe how it feels when you have hope, is as Khera suggests – hope shines, it sparkles. Every step we take on our journey this year we have the opportunity to make a mark as Pilgrims of Hope.



Khera was so grateful for the training provided by Caritas Marsabit and CAFOD, she said 'Every dream is realised through education'.



We'd like to provide more chickens and training opportunities for our brothers and sisters around the world. How many chickens can your fundraising buy?!



Lord Jesus,
We are so grateful for the enormous privilege of easy access to water.

We pray for Khera and her Glitter group in Marsabit, Kenya. Thankyou for the wonderful example they are of solidarity. Would you bless them and protect them from more drought.

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Help us to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world as Pilgrims of Hope, supporting them in times of crisis and praying for them to experience the hope of Christ through our actions.
Amen.



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Thanks for taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Chicken-Walk



cafod.org.uk/bivschools

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