



Let's build on last year's progress: call for action on debt

Thank you for your support of CAFOD's work over the last few months. Last summer, as part of the Jubilee year, your parish voices joined a powerful movement against the global debt crisis. Over 35,000 of you stood in solidarity with low-income countries by signing the Church's petition in your parishes!

While there is still a road ahead of us, your actions have helped to shift the conversation. We have seen influential leaders formally acknowledge that urgent action is needed. This is a vital first step. Let's keep this impactful momentum going! Read more about the issue at cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt.

Please can you run this new petition in your parish this summer, **ideally between May and July** (but after that is fine too). We have prepared everything you need.

Tips for sharing the petition in your parish

- Please read out the **short talk (overleaf)** and **collect signatures** at the end of Masses one weekend. **Cardinal Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla**, the Archbishop of Juba in South Sudan, has sent a letter to the parishioners of England and Wales to explain how a huge debt burden is affecting his country.
- Prepare a space in church, e.g. a table near the exit, and display **the Cardinal's letter** for people to see, with **petition sheets** for them to sign. Each petition sheet holds 15 signatures in total. If you can fill more, do photocopy them, or order them (or download to print yourself) from cafod.org.uk/shop
- **Afterwards, return your signed petition sheets to us, with the completed return form.** The return form makes processing the petitions much easier – thank you. If you collect signatures on more than one weekend, please keep the first batch safe and then return them all to us together. Please don't leave signed petition sheets unattended because of data protection.
- **Please return them by 1 September** – although we can still accept them after that. Please just write 'FREEPOST CAFOD' as the address on the envelope – anything else generates a charge.
- We will email you to **acknowledge safe receipt** of your signed petition sheets.
- **Please take a few photos** and send them to us at campaign@cafod.org.uk to inspire others!
- Ask that this **Prayer of intercession** is included in the Mass: *We pray for our sisters and brothers living in countries where governments can't afford to pay for essential services like health and education. May we come together to build a better world where all people may flourish. Lord, in your mercy...*
- There's a **QR code** for people to sign online if they prefer (it's the same petition). This saves us money in processing costs so **please do suggest it** to people if you can.
- **NEW!** We've produced a **postcard** for you to send to your MP afterwards – more details overleaf.
- We have a **debt Q+A** to give you more background info, and you can also find more at cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt
- **Any queries or feedback**, email us at campaign@cafod.org.uk - we are here to help!
- We will have a **webinar about the debt crisis at the end of May**. See cafod.org.uk/onlinetalks for the confirmed date and time.
- In addition to the short talk, we have a **short handout** (just a slip of paper) you can give to people to explain what the petition is about, if helpful. Download it at cafod.org.uk/parishdebtresources

Short talk to give at the end of Masses

Thank you, Father, for this opportunity. My name is _____ and I am a volunteer with CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, part of the Caritas network.

Today I have a special message to deliver to you, from Cardinal Stephen from South Sudan. It's about how the debt of his country is having a devastating impact on ordinary people. He says:

"I write to you with a heart carrying the reality that our people face today. South Sudan is enduring conflict, political fragility, economic hardship, and the effects of climate change.

Nearly 10 million South Sudanese need humanitarian assistance. Flooding has displaced a million people this year. Food insecurity is widespread and malnutrition is rising.

Alongside all of this is the burden of external debt. Years of instability forced our nation to borrow in order to function. Today, so much of our national resources are diverted to servicing that debt, instead of paying for healthcare, education and building peace. When debt repayment takes priority over essential services, the poorest suffer most.

Last year, in the spirit of Jubilee, you raised your voices in support of a fairer and more compassionate debt system. That solidarity mattered. But the need remains urgent.

I invite you to continue standing with us through prayer, advocacy and support. May the Lord bless you for your solidarity and commitment to justice.

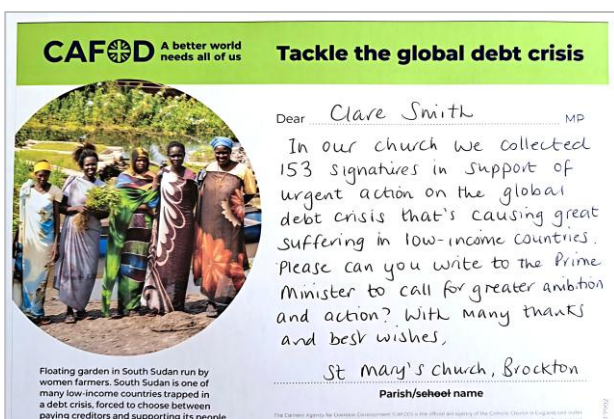
Sincerely in Christ,

Cardinal Stephen

Please stop for minute as you leave church today and sign CAFOD's petition. Thank you for listening and for your support.

Postcard for your MP

NEW! We have produced a postcard to send to your MP, letting them know that people in your parish have supported the call for action on the debt crisis. Please send this afterwards, when the petition has been signed by parishioners. This is really helpful as it increases the impact of the signatures.



This is just for you to complete with a message to your MP on behalf of everyone, not for others to sign.

Please write the MP's name on both sides of the card.

You can find the name of the MP for your parish at theyworkforyou.com or email us for help. If your parishioners come from more than one constituency, you can order an extra card for each extra MP from cafod.org.uk/shop (this isn't essential!)

Please see a sample message on the left. Here are some suggested points to write on your card:

1. Tell your MP that xxx people in your parish signed the petition calling for urgent action on the global debt crisis that's affecting low-income countries and causing great suffering.
2. Ask your MP to write to the Prime Minister, ahead of the UK hosting the G20 next year, calling for more ambitious action on the debt crisis.

You can post it for free. Finally, please **tick the box on the return form** to tell us you've sent it! Thank you!