



A signing at St Ethelbert, Slough, Northampton Diocese

Giant letters from parishes flood in!

Over 100 parishes have had a signing of Salina's giant letter so far. In every diocese, people have been coming together to show their support for small-scale farmers, and co-sign Salina's letter to the World Bank. We're delighted with the huge response and we know many more signings are happening soon.



Parishioners from Enfield, Westminster Archdiocese

In Lancaster Diocese, volunteer Stephen reports that people responded to the clear injustice of farmers losing rights to their own seeds. "We invited people to sign the letter on the way into Mass," Stephen says. "We'd put information into the parish bulletin beforehand to explain the issue. A few people hadn't seen it and didn't want to sign on the way in, but as soon as they heard the short talk, they came straight to sign at the end of Mass."

The seeds issue explained from Bangladesh

Last month we were joined live from Bangladesh by Farida Akhter, Executive Director of our partner organisation UBINIG. Farida, (centre right) explained how the corporate takeover of seeds has affected the small-scale farmers she works with, including Salina, and how the farmers are fighting back. "The seeds to them are their wealth," she explained, "more than dollars or gold." To watch the recording, which is called 'A struggle for control over the world's seeds', visit cafod.org.uk/onlinetalks



Ten more Bishops support Salina



Many of our Bishops have signed Salina's letter in their dioceses. Clockwise from top left: Archbishop Bernard Longley, Bishop David Evans, Bishop John Arnold, Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Bishop Terry Draine, Bishop Peter Brignall, Archbishop John Wilson, Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop Paul McAleenan, Bishop David Oakley.



Signing Salina's letter in your parish – there's still time!

We just need the signed letter back by 18 September. You can order resources at cafod.org.uk/shop including extra letters and prayer cards to give out, and a Supporter Briefing if you want to understand more about the issue.

Arrival of resources

We know there are times when your resources don't come through quickly enough. We're sorry when that happens. To avoid waste, we try to print the right quantities, but this action has been very popular, so we've had to reprint. We'll keep trying to get things to you as quickly as possible.

Meet Ciara and Gráinne

Ciara Biswas-Graham, our Advocacy Assistant, spoke at our recent reception for CAFOD supporters in Parliament. Her mother Gráinne was there to watch on proudly. They tell us about the evening.

Ciara, how did it feel to speak at Parliament?

I felt hugely privileged. CAFOD has always been close to my heart so to be able to take its message to Parliament, and speak on a panel with my local MP, was surreal and something I'd never have imagined I'd do.

What was your main message?

Young people sometimes fear that if they talk about issues of poverty and inequality they will be dismissed. I said, "To all the young people in the room who may be voting for the first time in the upcoming elections, I urge you to keep the message of 'politics for the common good' in mind when you go down to the polling booth and remember that voting is one of the best ways to encourage real change."

How do you hope to work for justice in the future?

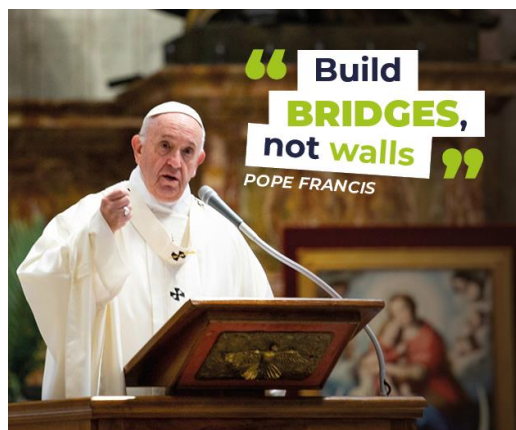
I hope to continue my work in CAFOD, advocating for justice and to live out the Pope's message of caring for the common good every day, especially at the next election!

Gráinne, why are you involved with CAFOD's campaigns work?

I really believe CAFOD's work is vital. The grassroots approach means that the campaigns can have a meaningful long-term impact.

How did it feel to see your daughter speak at a parliamentary event?

I was immensely proud to see Ciara speak. It was a privilege for me to witness the passion, commitment and enthusiasm she brings to her work.



"Build bridges, not walls"

Pope Francis has called on world leaders to "build bridges, not walls" and show compassion for those fleeing their homes, whether it's because of war, persecution or poverty.

But instead, our government has introduced a new 'Illegal Migration Bill' that would effectively shut the door on people needing protection and enable deportations to countries such as Rwanda - a policy the Court of Appeal has ruled is unlawful.

We need to ask our MPs to oppose the Bill so that we can welcome those who need protection. Please email your MP at cafod.org.uk/buildbridges

Why are you receiving this update?

These days, we all get lots of emails – and sometimes mail, like this update! You might be wondering why we send this to you several times a year. It's because we think that you are willing to organise CAFOD activities in your parish, and to ask people to sign their name or take an action with us to fight against poverty and injustice, in addition to when we ask them to make a donation.

If you don't want to receive this anymore, or if you have any feedback, please email hmoseley@cafod.org.uk. I write this update, and that's me on the right with the giant letters in our office! I'd be happy to hear from you, as would your local CAFOD Coordinator.

Helen Moseley, Campaigns & Outreach Manager



CAFOD Campaigns Update – July/August 2023

You are signed up to receive this update as a CAFOD Campaigns Volunteer. For queries or to order resources, contact CAFOD Campaigns hotline: 020 7095 5692 or campaigns@cafod.org.uk

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