

Parishes hold debt petition signings!

We've been delighted to hear of parishes getting the **worldwide petition about the debt crisis** signed through May and June. Please can you plan to get the petition signed in your parish if you haven't already? We're working with our sister organisations in the Caritas network to get it signed in parishes all over the world and we need as many signatures as possible!

We have a poster with a **letter from Father Charlie Chilufya**, a priest based in Kenya, explaining the impact of debt on ordinary Kenyans, and **petition sheets** for people to sign on their way in or out of Mass. Please note that the petition sheets shouldn't be left unattended once people have signed them, for data protection reasons. There are **leader's notes** to help you, with a short talk for the end of Mass. Order or download these at cafod.org.uk/parishdebtresources



Father Charlie joined us for a webinar in May and explained all about the debt crisis. You can **watch the recording** at cafod.org.uk/onlinetalks

Please send signed petition sheets to us by **1 Sept** if possible. You can send them to 'Freepost CAFOD' (literally just write this on the envelope – it is correct).

Our bishops have been signing the petition! Right: Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Bishop Stephen Wright.



Left: Parishioners at Christ the King in Bramley, Leeds diocese



If you would like to put an **announcement in your parish bulletin** over the weekend when you are gathering petition signatures, here is a suggestion: "In this Jubilee Year CAFOD is working with our sister Caritas organisations around the world to call for urgent action on the global debt crisis. Many of the world's poorest countries are suffering huge debt burdens with devastating impacts on ordinary people. Pope Francis spoke about the need for action many times, saying, "More than a question of generosity, this is a matter of justice." Please sign the worldwide Church petition after Mass."

'Act Now, Change Forever' Mass lobby of Parliament: Wednesday 9 July

Over 100 organisations are coming together as part of The Climate Coalition to organise a mass lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 9 July in London. 2000 people have registered at the time of writing and it's going to get much bigger! Register at cafod.org.uk/masslobby

In this Jubilee Year, with a global debt crisis affecting the world's poorest countries, this event is a unique opportunity to speak to our MPs about debt cancellation for countries also hit hardest by the climate crisis.

MP meetings will run from 9.30am to 7pm, with a communal moment over lunchtime. **In order to meet your MP, you must register for a place**, and then you will be told the time of your meeting.



Organisations will also have a hub for the day at the QEII Centre in Westminster for people to drop in throughout the day, with speakers and stalls. We would also like to invite you to join us at the daily 5.30pm Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

This is a chance to take the message of the debt petition directly to our politicians. We would be thrilled to see you there. Register at cafod.org.uk/masslobby

If the cost of travel is a barrier for you, we may be able to help. Email us at campaign@cafod.org.uk

CAFOD Campaigns Update – June 2025

You are receiving this update as part of your volunteering agreement with CAFOD. If you want to stop volunteering or discuss your volunteering role, please contact your local CAFOD representative. Or for any queries email Helen Moseley hmoseley@cafod.org.uk or call our Campaigns hotline on 020 7095 5692. Photo credits: CAFOD

Extra resources on our website to help you

There are articles on our website to help you with our debt campaign, such as how Catholic Social Teaching can inspire us on debt in the Jubilee Year, what the Bible can teach us about debt cancellation, and more. There's a prayer from Fr Charlie at cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-prayers. There's an FAQs page, and here are some questions that you might have come across too:

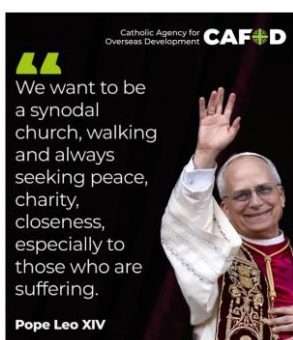
Who is the petition addressed to and when does it end?

It's addressed to 'world leaders' so that we can use it at various points during the year, in the UK or globally as part of Caritas. It will run for the whole of 2025. It will be used in communications at key political moments such as the G7 in Canada this month, the Financing for Development Conference in Seville at the end of the month and the COP30 climate conference in Brazil in November.

Do people have to give their address and email address?

They have to give their address as it's an official petition, but the email address is optional. Obviously, we'd love people to sign up to get email updates from us, but their signature will count without their email address.

Our debt FAQ page on the website covers topics such as 'What about corruption?', 'Shouldn't debts just be repaid?', and, 'Won't countries just get into debt again?' See cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt



Welcome Pope Leo XIV

Since our last update the world has mourned the passing of Pope Francis and has welcomed Pope Leo XIV. The inspiration Pope Francis gave us will last forever, and as Pope Leo leads the Church, we pray that his guidance leads us through these challenging times to make a better world a reality for everyone.

"Those at the margins of society and the world, those whose voices are not often heard...they know that the Pope understands them. And that is the source of great hope," said Gabriela Flores Zavala, CAFOD trustee, speaking on Radio 4 about Pope Leo.

CAFOD campaigners are part of the Relay of Hope

An interfaith group of campaigners prayed and lit candles outside the UK Treasury at the end of May. At the same time, candles were being lit, many outside financial institutions, in 40 countries as part of the Caritas Relay of Hope, to call for action on the global debt crisis.

We continue to work with our partners around the world on the issue of debt in the Jubilee Year, and the petition being signed in parishes is part of this global effort, so if you are doing the petition thank you for being part of it too!



Join our global neighbourhood!

A monthly gift to CAFOD means that when an emergency occurs, we can act quickly to give life-saving essentials like water, food and shelter. It also means that in the longer term, communities around the world can learn the skills they need to run successful businesses, put food on the table every night and build a better future for themselves. Your gift will also support our advocacy work, fighting the causes of poverty and supporting communities to call for change themselves.

Please can you join our global neighbourhood and give a monthly gift to CAFOD? Please see cafod.org.uk/neighbourhood if it's a possibility. If you already do this, thank you so much.

Prefer to receive this by email?

If you would prefer to receive this update by email rather than post, please email Helen on hmoseley@cafod.org.uk. It will be attached as a PDF, so it's suitable for reading on a computer, not a phone. We send six a year, and once a year in spring we will send you printed resources in the post.

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