

Looking forward to 2021

For the entire world, 2020 has been a year like none before: loss, illness and unemployment have hit billions. Yet in spite of these challenges, we haven't stopped campaigning for justice, because as Catholics we understand that no one is saved alone. Thank you to everyone who joined our campaigns throughout the year: fighting for climate justice; taking action on the debt crisis; and ensuring the poor were not forgotten in the response to the pandemic.

The coronavirus crisis has provided us with a moment to rethink the way the world is run. In his last encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis invites us to embrace this moment: "We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes."

In response to this call from the Holy Father, we have big plans for next year with the launch of our new campaign, **Reclaim Our Common Home**. From wherever we are and with whatever we have, we hope that everyone will continue to campaign with us in 2021. Until then, we wish you a wonderful Christmas.



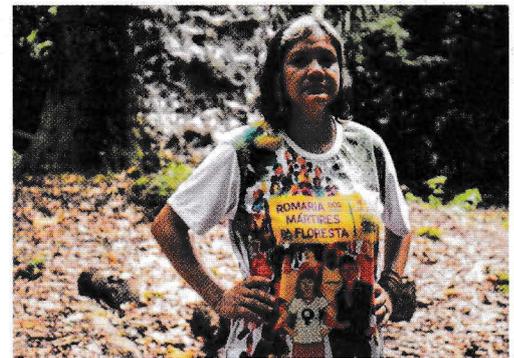
Only two days left

Have you sent your 'Message to the Brave' yet?

The pandemic is causing more postal delays than usual at this time of year. We want all our Christmas messages of solidarity to reach the human rights and environmental defenders on time. If you haven't sent your message yet, hurry and post it ASAP. It cannot wait!

Please send a Christmas message by **7th December** to **Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7JB**.

You can read more about the human rights and environmental defenders at cafod.org.uk/messagetobrave



Ask your MP to support a renewed peace in the occupied Palestinian territory

Young people across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Israel are being denied the possibility of a peaceful future. A lack of international action is failing to prevent the illegal annexation of the oPt by the Israeli government. But with President Trump leaving the White House, this is a key moment for the international community to show a renewed commitment to human rights and peace. Please write to your MP today and ask them to raise these concerns with the Foreign Secretary on your behalf.

Take action today: cafod.org.uk/opt

CAFOD Campaigns Update – December 2020

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

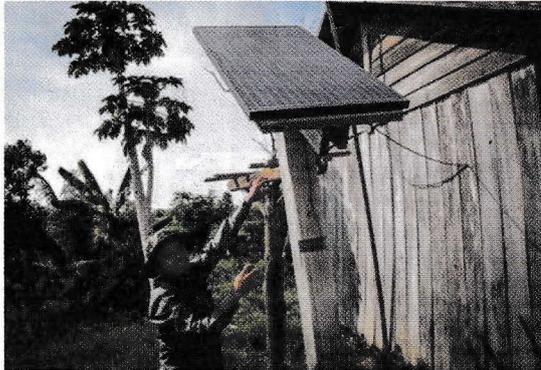
Photo credits: CAFOD

Faith into Action: A big thank you

On 14th November, more than 300 CAFOD campaigners joined our "Faith into Action" online event to learn and explore how to create a better post-pandemic world. Practical theologian, Sam Ewell, shared his journey and work in Brazil, and with our Campaign Manager, Liam Finn, we explored *Fratelli Tutti* and Pope Francis' call for "change through fundamental reform and major renewal."

We felt hugely inspired by the work of two young Catholic campaigners from Nigeria and Colombia, and heard about the importance of stepping up our campaigning work in 2021 from our Director of Advocacy, Neil Thorns, and Head of Campaigns, Aisha Dodwell. They explained the importance of the UK hosting both the G7 and the COP26 next year and set out the ways we hope to achieve change with our new **Reclaim Our Common Home** campaign.

A big thank you to all who attended this event. For those who couldn't make it, you can watch the inspirational sessions here: cafod.org.uk/betterworld



2021 needs to be a year of transformation. Let us pray together, "A Prayer to the Creator"

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognise the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.

This prayer is from Pope Francis' new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*



Meet Andy...

Campaigns Volunteer, Andy Wansbury from Southwark, tells us how, even if we can't be in church, we can still live out our faith.

In the current pandemic, how are we to live out our faith without access to Mass and the sacraments? Attending Mass is a vitally important part of Catholic life, but for me, being a practising Catholic has always been more than just going to church on Sunday.

The roles we fulfil in church are both inside and outside of the building: some are a server, a choir member or a catechist, some are community leaders, emergency service and key workers, or campaigners for justice – as I am with CAFOD.

As a Campaign Volunteer Coordinator, I encourage and support volunteers like myself to take part in CAFOD's social justice campaigns, as well as campaign actively myself. Working for justice in this way and encouraging others to do the same forms part of my Christian life and service.

In today's environment with Mass attendance difficult to achieve, let's put our faith in action. I take inspiration from the letter of St James: 'By my works I will show you my faith.' If we cannot be in church, we can still live our Christian lives through our actions.

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