

Plan your Generations Unite parish action now!

Last year many of you held Creation Celebrations and petitioned the government to commit to a net zero emissions target – and they did! This year we want to build on that success, because there is so much more to do.

All around the world, young people are bringing energy and determination to fight the climate crisis. Many are leading their communities. Can you help your parish to support a young climate leader in 2020 with prayer and action?

Each diocese has been partnered with a young climate leader or group to be inspired by and walk with in 2020. Some of them will be visiting the UK this year. You should have received your organisers' pack in the January mailing which has all the details of how to run a card signing in your parish. **Please get your event in your parish diary now, ideally between April and July.**



Richard Apeh, 33, is a Lay Missionary in Nigeria who has already spent years educating children and young people in schools about protecting their environment. Richard is partnered with the dioceses of **Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood.**

The **Eco-Brigades** are groups of schoolchildren in Lima, Peru who take action to protect green spaces, such as rubbish clearing and water management. The project is partnered with the dioceses of **Hexham and Newcastle, Hallam, Middlesbrough, Leeds and Nottingham.**



Mary Moeono-Kolio, 28, is the voluntary coordinator for the Wellington, New Zealand branch of the Pacific Climate Warriors, young activists on the frontline of the environmental struggle. Mary is partnered with the dioceses of **Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham.**

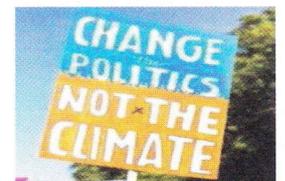
Delio Siticonatzi Comaiteri, 29, is an Indigenous community leader of the Ashaninka people who mostly live in the rainforests of Peru. As a teacher, Delio implores his students to nurture and protect their natural environment. Delio is partnered with the dioceses of **Birmingham, Cardiff, Clifton, Menevia, Northampton and Plymouth.**



The Atrato River in north west Colombia is protected by a court ruling from the harmful effects of mining and logging. Young Guardians organise rubbish collections and raise awareness about the river's protection. The **Atrato River Guardians** are partnered with the dioceses of **Portsmouth, Arundel and Brighton and East Anglia.**

The road to COP 26

Boris Johnson officially launched the Conference of Parties (COP), the 26th UN Climate Summit earlier this month. Scheduled to be held in Glasgow from 9-19 November, the COP is a critical opportunity for the UK government to lead the way to urgent action - action that restores God's precious gift of creation, enables people to adapt to a warming world and stops the climate crisis from getting worse.



Your parish can provide important support during this vital year – by writing prayers in your parish for your young climate leader as they bring about change on their own doorstep, and by letting the UK government know that we need them to put people and planet at the heart of every decision they make in the run up to Glasgow and beyond. See your organisers' pack that came in the post last month or visit cafod.org.uk/climate for more content on your climate leader.

Goodbye from CAFOD's Head of Campaigns, Daniel Hale

"CAFOD's campaigning is very special. Responding to Christ's invitation to build the Kingdom of God alongside him and people across the world living in poverty, we are a unique family. Inspired by *Laudato Si'*, we have a unique mission. And with thousands of campaigners in hundreds of communities, we are uniquely powerful.

It can be easy to think that CAFOD's Campaigns Team is a few people in London, but in reality we are hundreds of Campaigns Volunteers in parishes, scores of young Climate Champions across the country and dozens of Campaign Volunteer Coordinators and regional staff in every diocese. When I started campaigning with CAFOD in earnest at university 20 years ago I could never have dreamed I'd take the helm of such a dedicated, creative and powerful nationwide family of campaigners.

The last four years have been extraordinary and I've been blessed to meet many of you and our partners with whom we campaign. But 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' grow louder, and so must our campaigning. I know you are more than up to the challenge; we can, as St Paul reminds us, do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Go well and I hope our paths cross again soon."



Government pledges to end support for coal overseas

Thanks to everyone who took our Twitter action last year, asking MPs to call for an end to aid support for fossil fuels. Our research found that 60% of the UK government's financial support for energy in developing countries went to fossil fuels between 2010-2017.

We received a lot of press coverage and the Prime Minister announced last month that the government will stop providing financial support to coal mining and coal-fired power plants overseas. This was a good result for our campaigning! CAFOD's climate analyst, Sarah Wykes, described it as "a positive step forward. But the UK must show it means business by committing to phase out all forms of public support for fossil fuels overseas." The work continues in 2020!

Look out!

**COP26:
Glasgow, 9-19
November.**

We'll be offering some campaigners the opportunity to be there with CAFOD, to make our presence felt by world leaders and hold them to account for the decisions they make. More details soon on how to apply for a place!

A worldwide prayer chain will begin on Ash Wednesday. Communities will pray continuously until November for the success of the COP. More details very soon on how to sign up for your prayer slot!

Have you got...

» 2 minutes?

Sign our petition at cafod.org.uk/climate

» 3 minutes?

On **Tuesday 3 March, at 1pm**, we'll be hosting a **webinar** to give you all the information you need about taking part in **Generations Unite**.

You can sign up today at this address:

<http://bit.ly/GenerationsUnite>

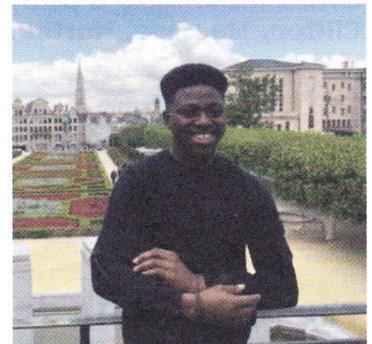
Meet Richard...

Richard Apeh is a Lay Missionary for the International Young Catholic Students. From Nigeria, he is one of our Young Climate Leaders we are featuring this year. He explains why he is passionate about protecting our common home, and what the prayers of parishioners in England and Wales will mean to him this year.

Growing up in Otukpo, Nigeria, we knew exactly when the rains would start and stop with 98% precision. But now the weather patterns are irregular and the farm yields are much lower as a result. I have also witnessed devastating floods.

I started trying to protect the environment in my secondary school days, encouraging my peers to plant trees, and since then I've organised many workshops in schools and parishes to encourage as many people as possible to take action.

The feeling of knowing that someone or some people out there, who you don't know and may never meet, are united with you in such a powerful act of solidarity; personalising your concerns and praying for you is such a powerful energiser and a conviction never to give up. It helps me keep hope alive and keeps me ever grateful. Thank you for this act of love.



» Read more of Richard's story and those of our other young climate leaders, and plan your parish's support of them at cafod.org.uk/climate

CAFOD Campaigns Update – February 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, Richard Apeh