

## Let's bring Parliament into our Parishes

Have you started organising your parish meeting with your MP?

In his latest Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis talks about the need for a better kind of politics.

We can all play our part in promoting this better kind of politics. By organising a meeting with your local MP in this critical year you can ensure that our political representatives use their voice in Parliament to push for real progress on climate change and the cancellation of debt for low and middle-income countries.

Talk to your priest and let him know that you would like to organise a virtual "Parliament in your Parish" meeting to support CAFOD's campaign.



- Last month we sent you a step-by-step guide to arranging an MP meeting. If you'd like to share an online version of this guide with other parishioners, you can download it here: [cafod.org.uk/PIYP](https://cafod.org.uk/PIYP) or order more copies at [cafod.org.uk/shop](https://cafod.org.uk/shop)
- If you missed the Parliament in your Parish training session we ran earlier this month, please contact us at [PinyourP@cafod.org.uk](mailto:PinyourP@cafod.org.uk) and we will send you a recorded version of the session.

**reclaim  
our common  
home**

**Wealthier nations have bought enough doses to vaccinate their population 3 times over whereas the poorest 70 countries will only be able to vaccinate 1 in 10 during 2021**

**#CancelTheDebt**

## #CancelTheDebt update

Last month, alongside other organisations, we launched a new online action asking supporters to email the bosses of HSBC, UBS, JPMorgan and Blackrock to urge them to cancel debts as the pandemic has pushed many low-income countries to the limit.

The cancellation of unjust debts is something we've been campaigning for a long time, but with the devastating consequences of the pandemic it is has become more urgent than ever.

"...Relieving the burden of debt of so many countries and communities today, is a profoundly human gesture that can help people to develop, to have access to vaccines, health, education and jobs..."

**Pope Francis**

If you haven't taken this online action yet, please read about it and do so here: [cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt](https://cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt)

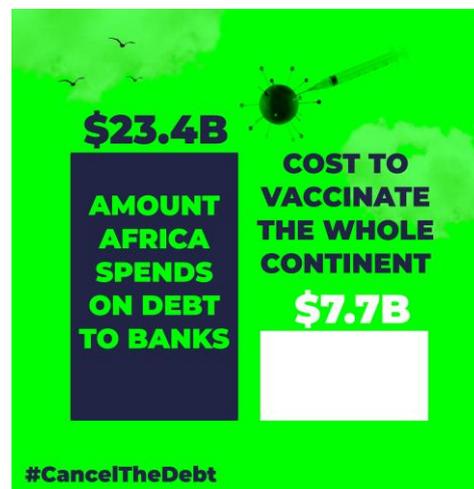
These ultra-rich private creditors must stop demanding loan repayments from poorer countries who need the money to respond and recover from the Covid pandemic.

## Do you want to find out more about our work on debt cancellation? Join this webinar on Thursday 20 May.

**Cancelling the Debt: An update on CAFOD's work to secure debt relief for the world's poorest nations**

With Aisha Dodwell, Head of Campaigns and Dario Kenner, Debt policy lead.  
Thursday 20 May, 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Sign up here: [cafod.org.uk/cancellingthedebt](https://cafod.org.uk/cancellingthedebt)



Last month we sent you 15 petition cards. We hope you'll be able to share them at Mass if you are attending, or perhaps by posting them through the doors of parishioners you know would be willing to sign and post one themselves. Could you get more than 15 signed? Order more at [shop.cafod.org.uk](https://shop.cafod.org.uk) – thank you.

We need as many people as possible to add their signatures to the petition to the Prime Minister ahead of the UN climate summit, COP26. If due to the pandemic you are not able to circulate the petition cards, please encourage parishioners to sign it online. Here is a **suggested insert for your parish bulletin** or parish Facebook page:

*This year, the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: the 'COP26' climate talks in Glasgow in November. As Prime Minister, Boris Johnson must push world leaders to show the ambition we need to keep temperature rises below the disastrous 1.5-degree threshold. This means that all countries must play their part. With the eyes of the world on the UK, we must urge the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. Please sign our petition at [cafod.org.uk/reclaim](https://cafod.org.uk/reclaim)*



### Meet Karen

**Karen Ramos will be travelling to Cornwall in June at the time of the G7 summit as part of CAFOD's Young Adult delegation. She explains why...**

**Why do you care about poverty and injustice?** No one should have to live in misery and suffering whilst others enjoy a surplus. We are all equals and it is up to those of us who are in positions to help others to provide the support they need to live full and dignified lives. It also forms an integral part of our faith.

**Do you think campaigning makes a difference?** Definitely, campaigning is one of the best ways to shape the future we want. It enables us to raise awareness. This alone is a win, but often once people know what's going on they are more likely to get involved and do something about it!

**What would you say to other people to encourage them to campaign too?** Where you can't always have a direct impact on an issue, campaigning is an excellent way to still lend your support. Sometimes it just requires an hour from your day to make a difference. CAFOD also offers a variety of ways to get involved that play to different strengths and in the end every single act (however seemingly insignificant) counts because our strength truly is in the numbers!

#### CAFOD Campaigns Update – April 2021

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](mailto:campaigns@cafod.org.uk)

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