

## Useful tips for organising 'Parliament in your Parish'

Lots of volunteers have already started organising meetings with their MPs to urge them to work towards a global and green recovery from the pandemic. Some of them have shared a few tips with us:

- ✓ If you want to organise a meeting but haven't found anyone in your parish to help, contact your local coordinator now. They can put you in touch with other CAFOD supporters who might be able to support you or who might be organising their own local meeting which you could attend. Reaching out to others is at the heart of this initiative.
- ✓ If you've emailed your MP and haven't heard back from them more than a week later, don't hesitate to send another email and follow it up with a phone call. MPs receive hundreds of emails weekly, so persistence is key.
- ✓ If your MP has confirmed the date, and you'd like to go through the issues that you'll be discussing during the meeting in more detail, book a meeting with the Campaigns team. Remember, we are here to support you. Just email us at [pinyourp@cafod.org.uk](mailto:pinyourp@cafod.org.uk) to ask for a meeting.



## One parish group's meeting with their MP



**Chris Donaghy (top and centre of picture) is part of the CAFOD parish group at Holy Spirit & St Edward parish in Wool, Dorset. He tells us about their recent meeting with Chris Loder MP, in the constituency of Dorset West**

### Why did you want to meet with your MP?

The UK government holds a unique position as host of G7 and COP meetings this year, and we wanted to pass a message of support and encouragement to them. Our CAFOD group comprises 4 churches, 3 constituencies. We felt that if we could gently influence our own MPs, they could in turn influence the government.

### How easy was it to set up your meeting?

Very easy. There are advantages to lockdown! Zoom meetings are relatively easy to organise, and the MP's office was very happy to agree to the meeting, allowing the MP to remain in London whilst conducting his weekly surgery with constituents in Dorset. Some people from neighbouring parish Holy Trinity, Dorchester joined us as they share the constituency.

### How did the meeting with your MP go?

Very well. In round terms he was on side, though he did have some queries surrounding debt relief which subsequently we responded to. From the outset we were concerned to be non-confrontational but committed. I hope Mr Chris Loder felt that we were trying to support him, as well as passing on an important message.

### Would you encourage other people to meet with their MPs as part of our Parliament in your Parish initiative?

Very much so. MPs recognise and appreciate that they should acknowledge and represent the views of their constituency. If we do not tell them, they will not know. I believe our MP was encouraged by our interest.

## G7 interfaith event: Join us in Cornwall – from your laptop!

Next month's G7 summit will see heads of government from seven of the world's richest countries travel to Cornwall and discuss how the world can rebuild after the pandemic.

With the UK holding the G7 presidency, we want to send a message that people of faith here and around the world expect leaders at the summit to put in place plans for a global and green recovery which leaves no one behind.

The pandemic means we can't all travel to Cornwall to send this message to the leaders at the summit. But that doesn't stop us coming together online in an act of witness. So, instead of travelling to Cornwall, we can join together on our laptops, tablets or phones at an event which we'll be livestreaming from Truro Cathedral at **7pm on Thursday 10 June**.

We'll hear leaders from different faith groups reflect on how we can rebuild from the pandemic and reclaim our common home, and we'll also send a digital message to the G7 presidents and prime ministers ahead of the start of their meeting the next day.

Join us by signing up at [cafod.org.uk/g7event](https://cafod.org.uk/g7event)



## Petition cards are starting to arrive at the office

The first round of signed petition cards have arrived at the office this month! We couldn't be more grateful to you and the other Campaign Volunteers who have gone to great lengths to ensure that we collect signatures to let the Prime Minister know that Catholics want urgent action on the climate - all the while doing so in a Covid-secure way. Here are some ideas a volunteer shared with us which you might want to try in your parish:

- Put a box of blank petition cards somewhere for people to take one. After they've signed they can post it themselves (freepost), or you could set up a "return petition card box" to collect signed cards after Mass for you to post later.
- Ask your parish office if you can staple a petition card to the parish bulletin.
- You can order more cards at [cafod.org.uk/shop](https://cafod.org.uk/shop) and encourage people to sign online at [cafod.org.uk/cop26petition](https://cafod.org.uk/cop26petition)

## More about the G7 summit: The Wave of Hope

In the run up to the G7 (11-13 June), you might also want to join 'The Wave of Hope' by drawing or printing a hand and displaying it in your window. By joining this action, we can flood the G7 world leaders with our calls for a better future, no matter where we are. Find a Wave of Hope template at [crackthecrises.org/wave](https://crackthecrises.org/wave)



### CAFOD Campaigns Update – May 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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