

Time to pause and celebrate

We've achieved a lot already this year, and we've done it against all the odds. Volunteers such as yourselves came up with creative Covid-safe ways of promoting our climate petition. All your efforts are paying off and petition cards are now mounting up at Romero House!

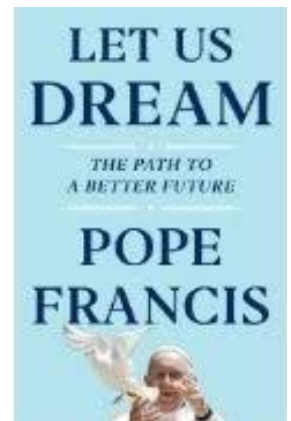
Our Parliament in your Parish initiative has been the highlight of the year so far. Not only because of what we have already achieved, but also because of the journey itself, and the collaborative work involved to achieving these wonderful results: over 75 parishes have arranged meetings with 65 MPs, representing more than **10% of the constituencies** in England and Wales. So, while some parishes are just starting to discuss how to contact their MPs and others are preparing for forthcoming meetings, we want to say another huge thanks for your time and efforts.

By organising a Parliament in your Parish meeting, you are playing a vital role in raising awareness about the urgent need to act on debt and climate. Through these meetings we are also ensuring that the Catholic community in England and Wales is showing up as a united leading voice for a post-pandemic green world which is based on justice and dignity for all.

With the promise of parish life returning to normal soon and over 80% of the population having had the first vaccine, we have grounds for renewed optimism. So let's take a bit of time this summer to pause, reflect and rejoice on what we have done together so far this year.



Meeting with Seema Malhotra MP



Recommended reading for the summer!

Register now! Faith in Action day, Saturday 11 September, 11am to 4pm



After recharging our energy in the summer, let's reconnect at our online **Faith in Action Day** and find out how, as a faith community, we can organise ourselves to build momentum for the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow this year.

Please come along to this event and learn more about the COP, Pope Francis's call to action and how people in the Amazon region are leading the fight to care for our common home.

Confirmed speakers included Josianne Gauthier, CIDSE Secretary General; Claudelice Silva dos Santos, Amazon and Human rights defender; Youth Catholic activists and lots more.

This event is part of the Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week. Register here cafod.org.uk/cop26event

CAFOD Campaigns Update – July 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
Photo credits: CAFOD

A Covid-safe card signing

Parish volunteers Oliver, Ann, Ka-Yee, Sally, Nnenna and Oby from St Augustine's parish in Milton Keynes tell us how they decided to promote our climate petition:

"We promoted the campaign while abiding by Covid restrictions. We got supplies of petition cards, stickers and posters from the [CAFOD shop](#) and set up a three-pronged plan of action.



Ann and Sally (left) stood at the church entrance ahead of Mass and offered the cards in a "help yourself" basket to everyone as they arrived. As people queued, socially distanced, to register their contact details for Mass we were able to offer the cards and explain. Children helped themselves to stickers.

Ka-Yee spoke at the end of Mass. For some parishioners it came as a surprise that we were not asking for money but instead encouraging them to add their voices.

Other team members were posted at the exit point alongside our real (ex) postbox, along with more cards and pens (alcohol-wiped after every use). Many parishioners completed and posted the cards there and then. Others took them home. Those who preferred not to handle anything scanned the QR code and said they would sign online. The postbox was left in place for three weeks so that people could return their completed cards if they wished.

We were delighted with the response. Everyone left Mass aware of COP26 and the CAFOD petition. Demand was so great for cards that we ran out and had to order more."



We have still 3 months to push for more signatures before we deliver the petition to Downing Street in October. But we wanted to say thank you to everyone in your parish who has signed the petition so far.

Order more cards at cafod.org.uk/shop or encourage people to sign online at cafod.org.uk/cop26petition. And if you have cards that haven't yet been signed, please do arrange a signing date in your parish.



Resources to celebrate Climate Sunday Mass

Can your parish have a Climate Sunday Mass? This ecumenical project can take place on any Sunday before the UN climate talks in November, and aims to reflect on the connection between the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the wonders of creation.

You can find the link to the Climate Sunday Mass template with leader's notes at cafod.org.uk/prayerresources

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