



*Volunteers visit Parliament to get their voices heard*

## Welcome to our May 2017 eBulletin

### Dear Supporter,

This is a busy time coming up to the elections. Please do take a moment to read our [three top things to ask this general election](#).

Can you help? We really need more [people to go into our catholic schools](#) to deliver assemblies and/or workshops provided by CAFOD. All training and travel expenses will be provided. If you or someone you know is interested, please get in touch as we would really love to be able to offer all our schools a CAFOD visit.

Do have a look at our [blogs](#) as we celebrate volunteers and get inspired by what parishes and schools have done.

With every blessing

Debbie

Deborah Purfield  
Community Participation Coordinator – Northampton

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## General election 2017

Our common future



Pope Francis reminds us that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and calls us to join a new dialogue about the future. Britain has a proud record in looking outwards, and in working with others to tackle climate change and poverty. This election, CAFOD is asking you and others in your parish to stand up for the common good, and to encourage your candidates to do the same.

[Find out what you can do, read our briefing and contact your candidates.](#)

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## Retreats - Pope Francis' Vision for a renewed church



Pope Francis has spoken out extensively on issues of poverty, inequality, refugees, environment and the global family. He has words of wisdom that are highly relevant for our times today. This day will be a wonderful chance to reflect and contemplate some of the deeper messages in his writing, and to look at ways we can reconnect our lives to the values of the Gospel in our homes and parishes.

The day is from **10am – 3pm with a shared lunch.**

- Saturday **10 June** : Holy Family, 226 Trelawney Avenue, **Slough** SL3 7UD
- Saturday **1 July** : St Edwards, 2 The Grove, **Ketering** NN15 7QQ

Please book a place [northampton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:northampton@cafod.org.uk) or call 01844 274723

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## Our Connect2 scheme:

Join the journey...

As a parish you can [Connect to](#) a community in Ethiopia, El Salvador, Brazil, Peru or Cambodia and hear directly from people in these communities who are working hard, often against the odds, to improve their lives, and raise money to help them. [You can watch a short film here as well as read more about the scheme.](#)

You can also [join us online on Tuesday, 6 June at 7pm](#) to hear from our [gap year](#) students who visited our Connect2 community in Sebeya, Ethiopia and saw some of the great work happening there. (Click on the link to register to listen live or to be sent a recording afterwards).



## Alternative gifts that transform lives



CAFOD's World Gifts make perfect presents for First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates. Our charity gifts are an ideal way to help celebrate these special occasions and our global family. Please could you pass on [this letter](#) to catechists in your parish as we kindly ask them to bring World Gifts to the attention of First Communion and Confirmation parents? The letter is on [this page](#) (please scroll down). You could also give them a catalogue or let them know about our website where the gifts can be bought – all details are in the letter. Thank you very much for your help with this.

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## Dates for your diary

All are most welcome. We hope to see you there

### ➤ Myanmar country rep visit – 6 June 2017

Julian, Country rep for Myanmar, will give an update on the situation in Myanmar. This will be a very interesting talk as we will get a follow up from the community we heard about in Lent 2015.

St Teresa's Parish Hall, New Road, Princes Risborough HP27 0JN. 7pm for 7:30pm start till 8:30pm.

### ➤ Mass of Thanksgiving for CAFOD volunteers

To mark Volunteers' Week in June, CAFOD will be holding several [Masses of Thanksgiving](#) for our wonderful volunteers. We are also having a day at CAFOD's head office for volunteers on 7 June.

### ➤ Step into the Gap Programme - closing date Monday 19 June

Anyone aged 18 – 30: an opportunity to volunteer in the UK, gain experience, develop leadership skills and visit CAFOD partners overseas. Visit [www.cafod.org.uk/Education/CAFOD-Gap-year](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/CAFOD-Gap-year)

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**Please book**

### ➤ Fr Peter Hughes (Columban missionary) shares his experience in Peru – 12 July 2017

7pm for 7:30pm start till 8:30pm. Holy Ghost parish centre (the lounge room), 33 Westbourne Road, Beech Hill, **LUTON** LU4 8JD

### ➤ Harvest Supporter Days 2017 – please put it in your diaries : **16 Sept** Northampton or **23 Sept** Little Chalfont. 10am – 1:30pm followed by a shared lunch.

*Lord, we see your face in the images on our TVs, in our newspapers and on social media of people experiencing terrible hunger in East Africa; people who are trapped in conflict or seeking refuge and suffering greatly in the process. Help us to continue to see your face in those who are suffering; help change the mindsets of those who only see your people as a threat and give us the courage to continue to support them in our prayers in our giving and in our actions. Amen*

Prayer written by Trevor Stockton, CAFOD volunteer

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