

Celebrating *Give it up!*



This short liturgy celebrates the hard work and success of young people's fundraising efforts for CAFOD throughout Lent. It can be used at various times: as part of a school assembly, liturgy or Mass, as part of a school prize giving, in smaller prayer times, or during a parish celebration of the Eucharist. The liturgy should take place during the season of Easter.

Opening Prayer

Risen Jesus,
we celebrate the new life of this Easter season
as we rejoice in your resurrection from the dead.
We say thank you today for the prayer, fasting and works of charity
that marked our days of Lent.
We give thanks that, through the generosity of our community,
we can share the gift of clean water with people across the world.
Inspire us, Jesus, to continue this good work!
Amen.

Celebration of Success

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (41:17-18)

This reading speaks of God's promise to his chosen people. It also helps us to see how, in God's name, we can bring living, clean, healthy and safe water to those who have previously only had access to dirty water.

When my people in their need look for water,
when their throats are dry with thirst,
then I, the Lord, will answer their prayer;
I, the God of Israel, will never abandon them.

I will make rivers flow among barren hills
and springs of water run in the valleys.
I will turn the desert into pools of water
and the dry land into flowing springs.

Saying Thank You!

The hard work and fundraising of individuals or groups of young people can be highlighted at this stage. Project photographs of activities that took place during Lent, read testimonies from young people and supporters, or share a litany of actions that happened in the community for CAFOD. These can be presented in a variety of ways, using slides and imagery, through 'interviews' and feedback, or visually using large cut out droplets of water made from card, each bearing a slogan or headline from the season's fundraising activities.

If a final fundraising figure is known, this can be presented to the group. It can be helpful to point out how the money raised will change the lives of people like Angel and Thando, whose stories we heard about during Lent. It's important to note that this liturgy celebrates our successes during Lent, not to give ourselves praise, but because through our actions and generosity we are saving lives.

Prayers

For the journey of Lent, and the chance to think, reflect and to give,
we say thank you, Lord! **Thank you, Lord!**

For the work of CAFOD in supporting people in need,
we say thank you, Lord! **Thank you, Lord!**

For our generous friends, families and community.
we say thank you, Lord! **Thank you, Lord!**

For the inspiration and courage to hope for a better world,
we say thank you, Lord! **Thank you, Lord!**

For the opportunity to provide safe drinking water for others,
we say thank you, Lord! **Thank you, Lord!**

For the hope that your resurrection brings,
we say thank you, Lord! **Thank you, Lord!**

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for blessing us through Lent
and for bringing us joy as you rise again this Easter time.
Keep us aware of the needs of others,
and keep us grateful for the plenty we enjoy.
Amen.