

Becoming a Fairtrade Parish

What is Fairtrade?

Unfair trade condemns millions of people living in developing countries to poverty.

Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their lot and to have more control over their lives. More than 7 million producers, workers and their families now get a better deal from Fairtrade.

The FAIRTRADE Mark is an independent consumer label created by CAFOD and other organisations (including Christian Aid, Oxfam and Traidcraft) which can now be found on more than 3,000 different products. The Fairtrade Foundation is the independent non-profit organisation that licenses use of the FAIRTRADE Mark on products in the UK.

The FAIRTRADE Mark means:

- a fair and stable price to farmers for their products
- producers receive additional income to invest in their community
- greater respect for the environment
- a stronger position for small-scale farmers in world markets
- a closer link between consumers and producers.

“Fairtrade is a good idea and makes a big difference to us. It is marketing our coffee and giving us a fair price. And we know we are not being cheated.”

Oliva Kishero, coffee farmer in Uganda

Why become a Fairtrade Parish?

Working to become a Fairtrade Parish is a great way to get more people buying and using Fairtrade products in their everyday lives. The Fairtrade Foundation has worked with CAFOD and other organisations to set three goals for becoming a Fairtrade Parish.

To become a Fairtrade Parish, you must:

1. Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and for all meetings for which you have responsibility.
2. Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, biscuits and fruit).
3. Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

Tips for getting started

- Gather a small group of people – perhaps members of an existing Justice and Peace or CAFOD group – to discuss how to promote Fairtrade within your parish.
- Identify some allies. Talk to your parish priest and enlist his interest and support. It's also vital to involve those responsible for refreshments! Explain some of the ways Fairtrade can bring people together and strengthen the church community.
- Put up Fairtrade posters, show videos and use other promotional resources from the Fairtrade Foundation or Traidcraft.
- Make it sociable. Holding an event like a Fairtrade cake and coffee tasting, Christmas fair or fashion show can attract a wide range of people.
- Get wider publicity through parish, diocesan and local newspapers.
- Use the prayers and reflections in the Fairtrade Church Action Guide to help incorporate Fairtrade into your worship.

For more ideas and resources, including the Fairtrade Church Action Guide, contact:

CAFOD – www.cafod.org.uk/fairtrade_campaign@cafod.org.uk, 020 7095 5692

The Fairtrade Foundation – www.fairtrade.org.uk, faithgroups@fairtrade.org.uk, 020 7405 5942

Traidcraft – www.traidcraft.co.uk, 0191 491 0591

Fairtrade Parish application form

Please complete and return this form to CAFOD. If CAFOD is satisfied that the goals have been met, we will send you a Fairtrade Parish certificate for you to display.

Name of parish (and diocese)	
Name of Fairtrade contact	
Fairtrade contact address and post-code	
Fairtrade contact email address and telephone number	

I would like to receive:

- Campaign information and actions from CAFOD by post/e-mail (please select as appropriate)
- Fairtrade Churches email updates (sent by the Fairtrade Foundation)

By filling in this form, you are agreeing to CAFOD passing on your contact details to the Fairtrade Foundation.

Please use the space under each goal for more information about what your parish has done so far to show its commitment to the goal. Your parish must meet all three goals to become a Fairtrade Parish.

Our parish made a commitment at a council meeting to:

- Use Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which the parish has responsibility and after Mass (if/when refreshments are served).

- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, biscuits and fruit)

- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

Please return this form with any accompanying information to:

CAFOD Supporter Services, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

Registered charity no. 285776