



Preparing liturgies and assemblies with CAFOD

Why CAFOD assemblies and liturgies?

CAFOD is the Catholic Church's official development agency in England and Wales. Catholic Social Teaching (CST), drawn from documents like Pope Paul VI's *Populorum Progressio*, has shaped CAFOD's development for over 40 years. Our faith tells us that we are all God's children and calls us to care for each other, especially the poor, and in prayer we can reach beyond barriers of time and distance. Good liturgy will always open our hearts to others even as it opens our hearts to God.

There are many CAFOD resources that can help you prepare assemblies or liturgies for your school. Some of these are listed below. If you want to prepare a liturgy that is grounded in CAFOD's approach to its work, you could use the Pastoral Cycle as a guide. The Pastoral Cycle (experience > analyse > reflect > act) is drawn from CST and expresses CAFOD's methodology.

A liturgy based on the Pastoral Cycle would include something from the experience of the audience and/or our sisters and brothers in developing countries, some background or explanation of that experience, time for reflection and prayer in the light of scripture and CST, and some opportunity for action.

We encourage your school community to continue to pray for CAFOD's work, for our partners and for those whom they help.

*"O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek;
You will strengthen their heart,
You will incline your ear
to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed."*

(Psalm 10: 17-18a)

Our resources

Visual stimuli

- **Posters:** CAFOD produces a variety of posters. For example, Fast Day posters and, most recently, the *livesimply* six-poster parish set. A full list of available posters is in the education resources flyer. Additional Fast Day posters can be requested from communityfundraising@cafod.org.uk.

💡 Hold up a poster and ask questions such as "What would you like to ask the person in the picture? What do you think is happening behind the camera? Then tell the story behind the poster."



- **Photographs:** CAFOD has a number of photopacks either in print, online or both. For example, *The Call of Creation toolkit*, which costs £3 plus postage and packaging, can be ordered from resources@cafod.org.uk, the Climate Change photopack can be ordered or viewed online. Both of these have images suitable for a liturgy on creation and stewardship or climate change. Images from the Peru photopack would be ideal for a liturgy on the global family.



💡 Pupils each choose one image from a pack, say what strikes them about it and construct a prayer around the image.

- **PowerPoints:** We have a selection of PowerPoints online that you can use as part of an assembly or within a liturgy. For example, a number are within the Conflict and the Emergencies sections of the secondary pages.

There are also illustrated biblical texts, such as Matthew 25 in the Assemblies and Liturgies section.

In the youth leaders' *livesimply* pages you will find a PowerPoint, 'With my own two hands', and there are a number of useful slideshows about our partners in the Videos and Galleries section of the website.



💡 Play a CD of a suitable contemporary song as the PowerPoint is being shown.

- **Displays:** If you are doing a liturgy or assembly on a particular country, ask your local diocesan office if they have any artefacts that you could use as a focal point. CAFOD candles are available from resources@cafod.org.uk for £3.50 + P&P.

💡 Project the 'virtual candle' from the assemblies and liturgies section of the schools secondary pages onto a screen during reflective moments.

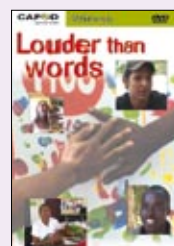
Stories

- **Text:** Stories about our partners' work with poor communities overseas are not only available within the teachers' pages but throughout CAFOD's website, and on the young people's Big Deal site. Use the search engine to search by country or by theme. Look at the CAFOD blog where CAFOD staff share their day-to-day stories. Stories are also found in print or audiovisual resources mailed to schools, for example, in Fast Day mailings.



💡 If you need a particular story and cannot find it, email schools@cafod.org.uk and we'll try to help.

- **Film:** CAFOD often films our partners' work overseas when preparing a new campaign or for educational resources. Some clips can be seen in the Videos and Galleries section of the website. To keep up to date with latest films and other resources, sign up for the twice-termly teachers' ebulletin at www.cafod.org.uk/secondarybulletin



💡 Show a film clip from a CAFOD resource such as *Louder than words* as part of an assembly or liturgy.

If your school's copy is lost, you can request another copy from resources@cafod.org.uk

- **In person:** Ask your local diocesan office for someone to visit your school and talk about our work. Staff from the organisations we support also occasionally visit the UK to give talks. Your local office will be able to tell you exactly who is visiting and when. Alternatively, ask your pupils or their parents from a country on which you are focusing to speak to the school about it. For information about CAFOD INSET on Liturgy, contact schools@cafod.org.uk

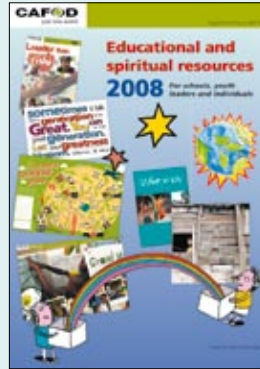
💡 Ask if any of your school staff have relevant overseas experiences to share. They may even have photographs that they are willing to show!

Prayer and reflection

- **Prayers:** Our Worship pages contain a wealth of prayers for parishes. These can easily be adapted for school use.

💡 Use one of the prayers from our worship pages, for example 'The *livesimply* creed', as a model and ask pupils to write their own version for an assembly.

- **Reflections:** A free education resources catalogue introducing a selection of free and priced publications, many of which contain reflections, is available from resources@cafod.org.uk. Suitable pieces of scripture on the topic of poverty can be found in the Worship section of the website.



💡 Take one idea from a CAFOD publication, for example the *livesimply* alphabet on p208 of *livesimply: a CAFOD resource for living*, and adapt it to your theme.

Liturgical action

- **Symbolic action:** Many suggestions are given within existing CAFOD liturgies, for example use of candles in the Advent 08 end-of-term liturgy. Actions can be as simple as standing up (against poverty), putting on a white band, anointing hands, sharing bread, adding a stone to a cairn, signing a graffiti wall or planting a seed in a pot.



💡 For a smaller group, as a symbol of solidarity, use the CAFOD candle with the Pope John Paul II quotation, "God entrusts us to one another". Give each student a taper to light from it and plant in a tray of sand.

- **Campaigning action:** CAFOD campaigns always have actions attached to them. The latest campaign actions can be found in the Campaigns section of the website. Bulk orders of postcards or other campaign action devices are available from campaigns@cafod.org.uk.

- **Fundraising action:** CAFOD Fast Day packs for schools suggest various fundraising actions, for example, Walk the World at Harvest. The majority of the latest packs are online under 'Fast Day' in the secondary pages. The actions are usually to be done outside or over an extended period. However, a commitment to action could be made within a liturgy or assembly.



💡 Visit our World Gifts section of the website to see how a visual representation of a village can be built up through a school community's fundraising efforts. This idea could be incorporated into a liturgy, with each class adding one item to the picture.

Complete liturgies

If you have no time to prepare your own assembly or liturgy, why not use one of CAFOD's? Simply visit Assemblies and Liturgies on the secondary pages and choose from the list.

New liturgies and assemblies will be added each term. To be kept informed of the latest resources, sign up for our twice-termly teachers' e-bulletin at www.cafod.org.uk/secondarybulletin

All the resources highlighted here can be found by visiting www.cafod.org.uk