



one human family, food for all

Campaign's closing day - 10th December 2015

Notes for organising a vigil in parishes, schools and local communities

Advent reminds us of the gift of Christ's light given to help us flourish and live a life of love. We as Caritas are invited to let Christ's light shine ever brighter in our lives. We are called to be light bearers to one another bringing hope and optimism into our big confederation for our present and future work together.

We still live in a world where hunger and famine haunt some 795 million brothers and sisters worldwide. Hunger in the world is clearly linked to human causes – environmental damage, climate change, conflict, unsustainable consumption, and unjust economic and trading systems.

The need for a secure, reliable source of food is a repeated theme throughout the Bible. God is shown as caring intimately for the primary need of His people for food to survive. The Gospels show how food was central to Jesus' ministry, sharing food to build relationships with others. The imagery of bread is at the heart of the Christian faith, sustaining body and soul, such as in:

- Luke 3: 10-14: Jesus teaches about sharing our resources with those in need.
- Luke 4: 16-19: Jesus refers to the Jubilee, 'the year of the Lord's favour'.
- Luke 12: 13-21: Jesus teaches people not to hoard resources on earth for themselves.
- Matthew 6: 9-13. Jesus teaches the Lord's Prayer, with its concern that people should get their daily bread now as well as the promise of the Bread of Life in heaven.

Also the path of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem was not an easy one, but together they found strength to achieve God's plan in their lives. Our wish for the campaign's closure is that we all may give each other strength as we get ready to mark the closing of the Food For All campaign that we have been running together with you since December 2013.

To mark the campaign's closure we'd like to invite you to **hold a vigil in your parish, school, local community or town** to pray for our work in restoring dignity and reviving hope in those who are suffering from hunger and food deprivation.

To have hope is to look forward to the coming of a whole new world, where hunger, poverty, deprivation and inequality have no place and all things can be restored.

So here's why this Advent we invite you to take a moment, ideally at 12 noon in your local time zone, and join with us in prayer on **10th December 2015** (Human Rights Day) for people in our city, neighbourhood, community or country who are desperately in need of this hope.

Suggested vigil questions

- In what ways do bad or unjust relationships within and between human societies cause hunger in our world today?
- How do human actions damage our environment and lead to hunger?
- The biblical jubilee's law is based on the principle that the "land is the Lord's" and is thus given for the benefit of the whole community (see Leviticus 25: 1-19). What would you put into a Jubilee law for today?
- What actions can be taken locally and globally to help ensure reliable daily *food for all*?
- What practical actions can we commit to take as individuals and communities?

How could we be changed by this campaign?

By knowing:

- that hunger in our world is caused by human failings
- that hunger can be ended by just relationships and collective action at national and international levels

By feeling:

- that God requires us to care for the natural world and each other's needs
- that each of us can act to help ensure that all communities have food security

By acting:

- to protect our environment and help others, near and far, to have secure, reliable food
- to advocate with our leaders, policymakers and MPs for just systems and adequate planning and funding for food security for vulnerable communities

Audience – participants to be gathered for the vigil

- Staff and volunteers of Caritas organisations around the world
- People affected by hunger
- People of faith
- All people of good will who are sensitive to hunger issues

Social media tools

Social media by its nature is interactive and about seeking a dialogue or establishing connections. Using social media tools, anyone can disseminate the campaign's message to a wider audience that hunger can be eradicated by 2025.

We'd like to encourage you to use social media (blogs, Twitter, social networking) to **share** photos and videos from the vigil **with us** and post any related comments on both facebook (IamCaritas) and twitter (#EndHungerBy2025 and #Food4All).

Thank you for your support and please do keep us informed about your vigil preparations!

The CI campaign team