

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Third Sunday of Lent 2022

Dear People of St Mary's

CAFOD has sent out to parishes a very welcome thank you for all the donation support they have received the last two Sundays.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to CAFOD, took part in the Walk Against Hunger and supported the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Your support means CAFOD responds in crises such as Ukraine. It also means CAFOD will be there in the long-term and continue to respond to crises around the world, including in Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

Your donations now go directly to CAFOD rather than through the parish, but I know from past years when it went via the parish bank account how generous St Mary's has been to CAFOD, averaging over £500 since 2016 on a single CAFOD Sunday.

You can also donate to the British Red Cross as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee, and their Ukraine Crisis Appeal. This will be the second collection this Sunday. Red Cross: 'If we raise more than can reasonably be spent on relief work for a specific appeal, we'll use your donation to respond to humanitarian disasters elsewhere.' More details on the bulletin and at Mass.

Contrary to what I said at Mass last Sunday, text giving donations go to the charity via your mobile network provider, of course, and get added to your monthly phone bill. Online donations to the charity go directly and immediately.

50+ people stayed behind after the 10am Mass last Sunday to pray for the conversion of the Russian Security Council, and also 50+ after the 5pm Mass. Keep praying! The link for the prayer is on the website homepage.

Unlike a lot of parishes St Mary's has no administrator, secretary or other paid staff and is run entirely by parishioner volunteers. If you would like to offer your skills and services, from admin to maintenance, from music to IT skills, or anything else that you think might be helpful, I'd love to hear from you.

Happy Sunday!



Third Sunday of Lent, 20 March 2022