



# 'YOUR FACE, LORD, DO I SEEK'. PSALM 27:8

## THE LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday (1 March) and lasts for the 40 days leading up to Easter. By observing the Lenten season, we reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

The theme for the Lent 2017 Appeal is *Your face, Lord, I do seek*, which is taken from Psalm 27:8. This year's Lenten theme is about encountering the presence of Christ when we encounter our brothers and sisters, particularly those in need.

The Lent Appeal is run by Caritas on behalf of New Zealand's Catholic Bishops to enable the social justice agency to continue working with poor and vulnerable communities for a world free of poverty and injustice.



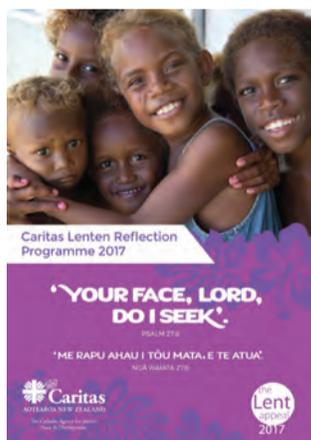
The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' agency for justice, peace and development. In partnership with communities, dioceses and parishes we undertake human development that sustains families and communities, emergency relief, education and advocating for change.

Gospel values and Catholic social teaching principles underpin our work, and we are part of Caritas Internationalis, one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world. The Caritas network operates around the world in over 200 countries and territories, supporting poor and vulnerable communities, regardless of ethnicity, religion or nationality.

[www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz) 0800 22 10 22

## Lenten Reflections



**"Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognising in them the face of Christ ... I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns ... and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family."**

*From Pope Francis' Lenten Message 2017*

For many years, Caritas has provided a study or reflection programme to support education and formation for parishes and families.

The Caritas Lenten reflection programme includes prayers, Gospel readings, reflections, and discussion materials with a focus on helping us live the Gospels. It is available in English, Māori, Samoan and Tongan from the Caritas office by calling 0800 22 10 22, or you can download it from the Caritas website – [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz)

## YOUR LENT DONATIONS

Thank you to all those who generously supported our life-changing work by donating to the Lent Appeal in 2016.



## Aleppo, Syria

Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has supported thousands of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan fleeing the destruction, and in 2016 they joined Caritas Syria's humanitarian response inside the war-ravaged country. In Aleppo, Caritas is continuing to support thousands of people in urgent need with emergency supplies, and provide vital healthcare to people in need. There is a particular focus on the elderly, an especially vulnerable group.

The Syrian army declared that Aleppo has fully returned to government control, but more than 111,000 people have been displaced.

"Most of the houses are damaged and some completely destroyed and lack basic services."

Caritas staff report from the devastated city, where they are working to meet the most urgent needs of shelter, warm clothing, heaters and fuel, and healthcare.

**Your donations also enabled us to respond to major emergencies including Cyclone Winston in Fiji and Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.**



Fiji



Haiti

## Giving at Lent

Donations to the Bishops' Lent Appeal enable Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand's work helping those who need it most and continue recognising the face of Christ in each other.



Donate throughout the weeks of Lent, or make a one-off donation using the Lent Appeal weekly or single donation envelopes distributed by your parish.

Leave donation envelopes in your parish's collection basket or post to Caritas, PO Box 12193, Wellington 6144.

**You can also donate online [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz) or call 0800 22 10 22 to donate.**

# ME RAPU AHAU I TŌU MATA, E TE ATUA.

NGĀ WAIATA 27:8



## CHANGE LIVES

The ongoing support from generous donors enables us to continue our development, emergency relief, advocacy and education work around the world, including in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Adapting to a changing climate

The effects of a changing climate are being felt across the Pacific, where increasingly severe storms, rising sea levels and other environmental challenges are being faced by peoples in the region.

In response to these challenges, Caritas is working with vulnerable communities across the region, including in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Kiribati, to help them adapt to the changes and mitigate the effects. These programmes include ensuring people have reliable access to clean water and nutritious foods, are able to provide for themselves and their families through sustainable livelihoods, and are better prepared for future emergencies.

Kiribati is one of the countries most affected by these changes. Caritas partners with the Diocese of Tarawa and Nauru through several small Catholic groups to deliver programmes focused on climate awareness and youth leadership, training for women,



developing sustainable livelihoods and agricultural training for youth.

One of Caritas' partners is the Caritas Kiribati Youth Group, a small group of Catholic youth in South Tarawa who are committed to increasing their knowledge and the awareness of others on the issues of climate and human impact on Kiribati.

Youth participate in training on climate concerns and learn how to present key issues and mitigation approaches. Young people then travel in small groups to outer islands to share their learnings with remote communities.

## Advocating for change

In continuing to work for a world free of poverty and injustice, advocating for change at all levels in both Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world is crucial to achieving this aim.

From our environmental advocacy highlighting the impacts of climate change on communities in Oceania, to the experiences of migrant workers in our own neighbourhoods, we are working to change hearts and minds.

Our annual *State of the Environment Report for Oceania* drew attention to widespread hunger and thirst across the Pacific in 2016, and shows extreme weather events, combined with ongoing climatic changes, are contributing to a severe loss of food and water supplies in the region.

In our communities, we highlighted the unfair treatment of migrant workers



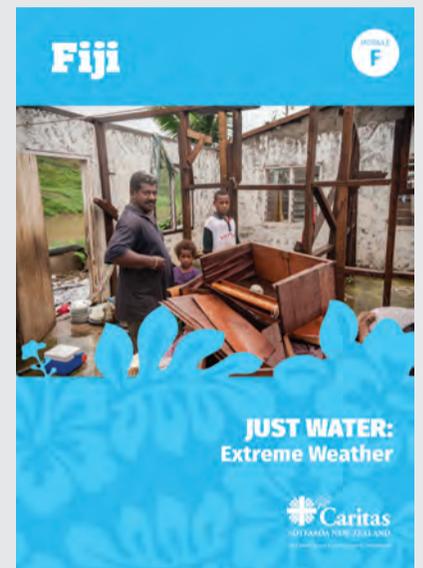
in Aotearoa New Zealand through a report based on our small-scale, qualitative research undertaken in the Wellington Archdiocese, which called for communities to 'stand up for what's right' and support this vulnerable group. The situations we heard related to taking up employment below legal minimum work conditions, facing bullying and harassment, and being discriminated against in the workplace.

## Lent in Schools

*Just Water: Climate Change in the Pacific* is the title of the Lent 2017 education resource which features many stories from Pacific communities highlighting the climate-related challenges they face.

*Just Water* is a relevant title, as many of the issues involve either not enough, or too much water. More importantly, access to sufficient, safe, fresh water is a human right and a matter of social justice.

For 2017, a wide range of resources have been designed to integrate country-focused modules with the Lent module.



## Caritas Challenge 31 March-14 May 2017

The Caritas Challenge is a 24-hour event for schools and youth groups around New Zealand to demonstrate solidarity with those living with poverty or injustice.

During the Challenge, youth are encouraged to undertake an activity for 24 hours that brings them closer to the living conditions of those less fortunate. There are four challenges to choose from: Move It, Live It, Sweat It and Stop It.

This year the focus is on our neighbours in the Pacific and the challenges they face as a result of climate change. All funds raised will go towards supporting the people of Kiribati.

## Justice Leadership Days

Caritas Justice Leadership Days are whole-day workshops for senior secondary school students, focusing on social justice issues around the world, including in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Students learn in a fun and interactive environment how to be a social justice leader within school communities, and every Catholic secondary school in New Zealand is invited to bring up to 12 senior students (Years 12-13).

To register your interest or for more information, please contact Michael Stewart at [michaels@caritas.org.nz](mailto:michaels@caritas.org.nz) or visit us online at [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz)