

Jesus said, I was hungry, thirsty and cold. I was sick, frightened and unhappy, but YOU cared about me.

Dear Friends,

You will have read in the Newsletter recently about the terrible drought in many parts of Africa. Sometimes we can get overwhelmed by the enormous needs of the world. It all seems bad news. It's all too much. But the good news is we're not expected to fix the whole world today! Little do-able things can make an enormous difference. Things like Cafod's shade nets - brilliant project!

The Justice and Peace group wanted to respond to Mary's Meals' urgent appeal to our parish. You'll remember this charity from last year. It's a school feeding programme where every child gets a meal every day in school. From money donated by us, local nutritious food is bought from local farmers, cooked in school by local mothers. For many children this may be their only meal of the day. When they go home after school, often there is very little more.

But these school meals really do bring hope. They encourage the parents to send the children to school regularly. They give the children energy to learn. This means that even in this most difficult of times, these children can make the most of their education and help break the cycle of poverty. By buying in quantity, Mary's Meals can give each child a nutritious, filling midday meal for as little as 10p a day. So £20 can feed 200 children! Isn't that wonderful? This is a little do-able thing which will make a real difference.

You can see the children's happy faces online www.marysmeals.co.uk on YouTube.

So how can our parish help?

How about our Free Easter Raffle with all proceeds going to Mary's Meals?

How does the FREE Raffle work?

The J and P will raffle whatever you donate. For the next few weeks of Lent, there will be a box labelled *Easter Raffle* at each church door for donations. You could also leave stuff in the porch at 28, Bushbys Lane. Or ring 876038 (Leave a message) and we will be happy to collect.

What sort of "stuff"?

Anything that's suitable for a raffle. If *you* would be happy to win it, we'll raffle it! We would definitely need the usual bottles, chocolate, fancy

toiletries etc. We would also be grateful for baskets, gift bags, bottle bags etc. to put the prizes in.

Can we buy tickets?

No. This is a *free* raffle. Just fill in and return the little brown envelope attached to this Yellow Letter. Remember to add your name and phone number so we can call you if you have won a prize. (add age for a child) If you are able to put a cash donation for Mary's Meals inside the envelope, that would be very welcome. Thank you.

Could anyone have a brown envelope? What about friends and family?

Of course. Help yourself to envelopes from the table by the church entrance. Just remember to fill in the details and return them (asap) to the labelled baskets in church.

When would the Raffle be drawn?

Hopefully on Easter Monday in the back garden of the Rectory at the Easter Egg Hunt. Good luck everyone! It's a bit of fun and it could buy a lot of meals!

Prisoners of Conscience

Each year *Christians against Torture* provides the J and P with details of people currently being held in prison for political reasons. *They have done nothing criminal*. Later this Lent, you will be offered a photo of a prisoner with details of how to help. We know it gives prisoners great comfort to realise that they are not forgotten. Sometimes their treatment can even improve when the prison authorities understand that their names are known in other countries. Receiving a card can give great hope to someone locked up, tortured and deprived of family and friends. Please help if you can.

Unwanted glasses and Cases

Have you got any old glasses (including sun glasses) and cases *of any sort*? The J and P are collecting all through Lent and there will be a box in the back of church. Thank you.

Consider joining the J and P? Ring Viv 870311 or Terry 07849927937? or any of the J and P members. You would be very welcome

Thank you for your prayers and the wonderful support you always give.