

Volunteer Voice Newsletter #13

15th May 2021

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – N. IRELAND



Belfast Volunteer Anita McNabb organised the 'Camigo Challenge' in aid of Trócaire. Friends, family and supporters walked 566 miles of the Camino Francés virtually by Easter. The £789 raised will be matched by UK Aid and bring the total to an amazing £1,578. Thanks Anita and all the walkers!



Bridie Duffy promoted the Lenten campaign in her local paper the Fermanagh Herald

All the Northern Ireland volunteers did tremendous work in promoting the Lenten campaign in their parishes and communities despite the restrictions.

Thanks to you all for your continued hard work and commitment!

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"Families are the compass that guides us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter" ~ Brad Henry

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FROM LIMERICK WITH LOVE



Trócaire volunteer Sharon Collopy coordinated From Limerick With Love.

"I was introduced to Awut & Ajak, the two mothers featured in this year's Lenten campaign. From the moment I heard their story, I was so deeply moved. The way which they came together to rebuild their lives through love, friendship, and solidarity amidst the horrors and loss of a civil war.

As God's people we know that we are called to respond in love in order to make a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people within our world.

Over Lent we walked in solidarity and as we walked, we reflected upon not only their struggles but also their strength, and it has inspired us to keep going. The challenge gathered 90 participants from all over Limerick City & County, and other places far and wide. We collectively covered the distance of 15,000 kms and we have raised €7,000. I hope that this is just the first of many more awareness and fundraising events to happen in Limerick. Within this event we received as much as we gave, it brought us all such fun, joy, community and purpose, and I truly look forward to the next one."

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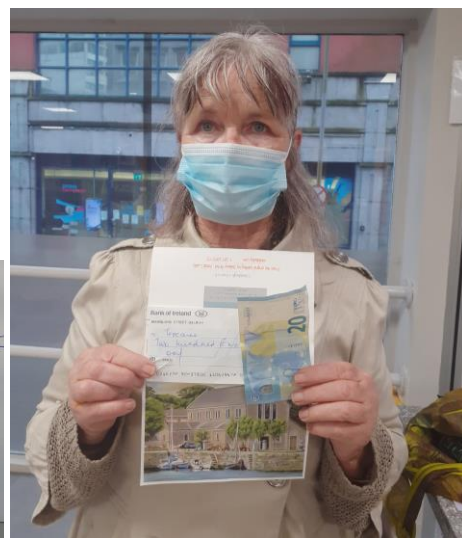
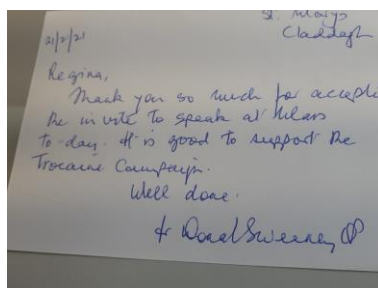
VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – LIMERICK/GALWAY



Patricia organised to place this sign on the railing of Newcastle West church on the main Dublin - Limerick - Killarney road. She also made a beautiful display in the church.

Regina (right) spoke at mass in 4 parishes in Galway city during Lent. Her presence was very welcome in the Claddagh church. She received a lovely card and a donation which she lodged on Trócaire's account the following day.

A recording of Regina's mass speaking was streamed in parishes around the Diocese of Galway.



Sharon spoke at mass on Sunday 14th February in St John's Cathedral with Bishop Brendan, to highlight the Lenten campaign and promote the 'From Limerick With Love' initiative.

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VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – CORK/KERRY



Although the Cork Centre remained closed to the public in 2021, we were kept busy behind-the-scenes supporting our volunteers with their activities to promote the Lenten Campaign.



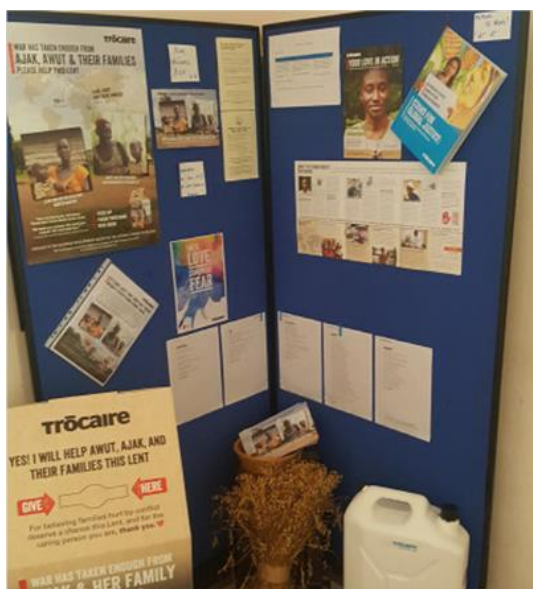
Con from Macroom set up a collection point in his parish for boxes.



Kathleen from Kilkenny did a 24 Hour Fast during Lent and raised €500 for our work. Thank you Kathleen!



Mary set up this engaging display in her Church in North Cork and arranged a prayerful Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.



Church display set up by Declan in his church in Killorglin. Declan spoke about the Lenten Campaign on Kerry Radio. <https://www.radiokerry.ie/horizons-february-28th-2021/>

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"There is no such thing as the perfect family. Only by the daily exercise of forgiveness can a family grow" ~ Pope Francis

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VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – CORK/KERRY



These amazing children are from the Parish of Carrigtwohill in East Cork, pictured (left) with their grandmother, Kathleen. They organised a cake sale on a sunny Easter Saturday and raised €2,000 for the Lenten Campaign. The children baked and iced all the cakes, and even chopped the apples, with adult supervision. The event was carried out safely and socially distanced. Pictured (left) are the children presenting proceeds to Fr. Winkle in the Church.



Fr. Eugene Baker of Buttevant and Lisgriffin Parish (left) organised a virtual walk from North Cork to South Sudan in solidarity with Awut, Ajak and their community. Over 250 parishioners got involved, from as far as Lebanon where Stephen and Cathal (above) participated.

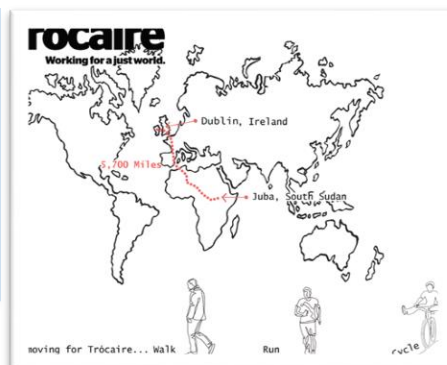
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GET MOVING FOR TRÓCAIRE

Tommy McKee (right), aged 6 from Lisburn in Northern Ireland, set out to walk, run and cycle 26 miles over Lent to have fun and raise funds at the same time. He raised over £3,500 and was a regular guest on Q Radio throughout Lent. He was joined virtually by 93 year old Jim Davis (below left) from Dublin who walked 100 km!



The Leinster volunteer team, led by Deirdre Davis and joined by volunteers (including Paul) and supporters from all parts of Ireland and the world, collectively walked/ran over 6,000 km and raised €6,875.



Bertie Ó hAinmhire

Feachtas Bhertie le haghaidh Trocaire i rith an Charghais 2021

Tá mé ag siúl 3km in aghaidh an lae don Feachtas for Trócaire because is féidir leis an ngrá an eagla a chur faoi smacht

Bertie Ó hAinmhire walked 3 km a day for Trócaire. He raised funds and awareness on the Lenten campaign in the Gaeltacht by speaking at mass, on the radio and translating Trócaire materials into Irish.

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VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGNS GROUP

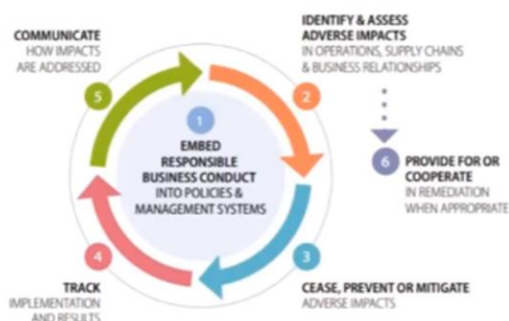
28th April 2021: Business and Human Rights briefing with Siobhan Curran.

Siobhan gave the group a better understanding on the need for a European Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence law. This would make sure that European companies respect human and labour rights overseas. The meeting led by group coordinator Eimear Magee went on to a discussion on what we can do next. All members of the group present were very eager to take action on the issue.

You can watch the recording of the meeting on our volunteer Vimeo page here: <https://vimeo.com/543557970> (please ask us for the password).

Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence

FIGURE 1. DUE DILIGENCE PROCESS & SUPPORTING MEASURES



(Source: OECD Due Diligence Guidance)



Since the beginning of the year the group have been very active in their lobbying work:

- They contacted their MEPs in early March to ask them to support the Corporate Due Diligence and Accountability legislative report
- They took action on the Energy Charter Treaty
- They contacted their local politicians to raise concerns regarding the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada (CETA)

They also attended numerous meetings, webinars and symposiums, did a lot of sharing of information on the WhatsApp group and did a lot of reading too. All this to increase their knowledge for their campaigns work.

Well done to you all!

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE FERGUS LAMBE, N. IRELAND

I have volunteered for Trócaire for over 10 years. I was motivated to get involved in volunteering because I wanted to help others, particularly to help give children in other parts of the world access to better education, healthcare, food and clean water.

I want to do good and to help others fulfil their potential – a refugee today might be a doctor or nurse in the future. I'm also interested in women's rights and Trócaire's work in Guatemala. The stories of human rights defenders there stood out for me.



One of my favourite memories as a volunteer for Trócaire was attending a talk given by Izzeldin Abuelaish, a doctor who carried out medical and humanitarian work in I-OPT and who wrote the book "I Shall Not Hate". I was very motivated to do more after hearing this talk.

Over the years, I have done a variety of activities in County Down including street collections and helping to promote the Lenten and Christmas Appeals in my parish of Warrenpoint. I'm always keen to provide local people with more information about the work of Trócaire.

Volunteering makes me feel good. I am very passionate about it. In my time as a volunteer, I have learned to listen to people more. I also learned a lot more about Trócaire's work over the years.

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE – DON RYAN, CORK



Pictured is Don Ryan from Cobh, Co. Cork with Elaine Hill of Trócaire's Centre in Cook Street, Cork City.

Don supports us through his Parish of St. Colman's Cathedral in Cobh.

We set up our Trócaire sale of gifts table at Cobh Cathedral in a storm last December. All our gifts had to be secured down as we were outside in the elements. It reminded Mary (Maguire), Sr Emmanuel and myself how families around the world struggle with extreme weather conditions in their attempts to maintain secure housing and a food supply.

Education is the greatest gift we can give to every person and for me Trócaire's work in this area is so important. Human rights are constantly abused and disregarded in many regions throughout the world and Trócaire, like one's conscience (we know instinctively what is happening is wrong) engages locally to assist. The use of starvation as a weapon by rogue authorities in particular areas is indefensible. The submissions made by Trócaire on Climate Change are excellent and it's encouraging to see our politicians recognising how important this area is. In addition, the work highlighting the responsibility of large multinationals and exposing the connection with activities based in localities of people with little support is commendable.

Trócaire's work creates a ripple effect and will multiply the good that does exist in our fragile world. It is for these reasons I volunteer with and support Trócaire.

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

BERTIE Ó HAINMHIRE, GALWAY



Sharing a joke at mass in Leitir Móir for Lent 2019 (left), at Bloom 2019 (right)



Years ago I worked in the Department of Foreign Affairs. As Private Secretary to various Ministers I dealt with issues of poverty and human rights. I travelled to many developing countries particularly in Africa and Latin America. The famine in Somalia and the war in South Sudan stand out in my memory. I saw at first hand the great work that Trócaire does with these communities. I promised then to volunteer with Trócaire on my retirement.

I have been volunteering with Trócaire now for almost 3 years. I already have many great memories. The Bloom Gardening festival was special, mass talks were a fantastic experience as was our attendance at the UN in Geneva in October 2019. My motivation includes the fantastic colleagues I work with, the high regard the people of Ireland have for Trócaire and especially to be able to help people less well off. I relished my 3km per day walks during Lent as part of the campaign.

One challenge that I undertook was to bring more of the Irish language to Trócaire activities. Trócaire welcomed this aspiration and helped me in every way. I really enjoyed talking to Gaeltacht communities here in Connemara in our own language during Lenten campaigns. I am looking forward now to expanding on these activities as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions abate. I will also look forward to meeting all our wonderful friends in the Galway group who inspire me in so many ways. Go raibh maith agat Trócaire.



Galway Christmas Market (with my granddaughter)

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE

DEIRDRE DAVIS, LEINSTER



I have always felt very strongly about issues of justice and human rights. I was taught from childhood to always stand up for what is right. Also, my Christian faith is very important to me and that motivates me to stand up for justice and do what I can to alleviate suffering.

I am a member of the Green Party and feel very strongly about taking care of the environment. I believe that this is something all Christians should

be committed to. For me it's also about personally committing to live in a more simple and sustainable way, or at least do the best I can to do that.

What keeps me motivated is my sadness about the huge level of injustice, poverty and suffering in the world and the fact that it is unnecessary when there is so much wealth. What I like about Trócaire is that it focuses on the root cause of the problems that people in developing countries experience, and addresses them. Doing this can make a real difference. Doing this can change the world! I want to be part of a group that is helping to create a more just world! That is exciting for me!! I believe Trócaire is doing that.

The sad thing is that a lot of my time in Trócaire has been during lockdown. So, I didn't get to do the things I wanted to do, especially speaking in churches for the Lenten campaign (just got to do one church) and Christmas gifts and also help at the Trócaire garden during the Bloom festival. I am looking forward to doing these things in the future when the Pandemic finally ends!

I am also looking forward to meeting the other volunteers again.

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TRÓCAIRE VOLUNTEER THANK YOU EVENT

All at Trócaire here and far continue to be enormously grateful for the passion and dedication from all our volunteers again this Lent. So it's time for us to say a proper thank you on behalf of Awut and Ajak. Let's all have fun and enjoy a virtual quiz together! Please register here:

https://trocaire-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpde6rqTMjE9Oitm9RE-QFU9CH8_bRIL18



VOLUNTEER WEBINARS

You asked for more sessions to learn more about Trócaire's work, so please attend our series of volunteer webinars over the summer:

- Wednesday 23rd June: Trócaire approach to Humanitarian Action
- Wednesday 28th July: Syria conflict: an update on the conflict and refugees in Lebanon
- Wednesday 25th August: Season of Creation
- Wednesday 22nd September: Development Education, what it means for Trócaire

All four webinars will be on Zoom at 5pm for an hour. Please register here:

<https://trocaire-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpde-srDMuGt169tvV3tprbreu6UVU6x2q>

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"Rejoice with your family in the beautiful land of life" ~ Albert Einstein

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LAUDATO SÍ

Laudato Si' week will be celebrated by the global Church from 17th to 24th May. It will be a time for us think about our environment in a special way, to reflect on the Covid-19 crisis and look forward with hope in our hearts.



If you would like to mark this event in your parish community, please visit <https://laudatosiweek.org/events/> or read the many Laudato Si' resources on trocaire.org. Get in touch with any ideas you have!

During Laudato Si' Week, the Vatican will launch the **Laudato Si' Goals**. This is a very exciting initiative, a roadmap towards sustainability for church institutions over the next seven years. There are 7 Laudato Si' Goals (LSGs) to achieve in 7 years. 50 steps per goal for a Parish / Diocese; School; University; Business; Family; Organisation.

For more information visit: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>



"Truly, much can be done!"
Pope Francis, LS 180

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

The International Day of Families, on the 15th May, was founded by the United Nations (UN) in 1994.

Families—both traditional and non-traditional—are the foundation of society.

In Trócaire we help families around the world to live happy and healthy lives together. Here are two families you may be familiar with.



Patricia, Uganda – Lent 2019

Thanks to your support, Trócaire has been able to get little Patricia's family back on their land. Patricia is safe and well and the family's fortunes are looking up.

Left: Patricia and Evelyn in February 2020, after their land was returned to them

Madris, Kenya – Lent 2020

Madris struggled to feed her family because of the effects of climate change. Now life is looking up.

"I want to thank Trócaire very much. You really saved me and my children's lives. If it wasn't for your support now we would not even be here smiling. God bless you" said Madris.



YOUR LOCAL CONTACT

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