

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY



A global campaign that celebrates humanitarians - a “thank you” to the people who have committed their lives to helping others.

Find out how Trócaire responds to humanitarian crisis here:

<https://www.trocaire.org/whatwedo/humanitarian-response>

In December 2008, the UN General Assembly designated the 19<sup>th</sup> August as World Humanitarian Day (WHD). This date was chosen to mark the anniversary of the Canal Hotel bombing in Baghdad, Iraq, in which 22 people lost their lives including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN’s top representative in Iraq. Every year since then, the humanitarian community has organized global campaigns to commemorate WHD, advocating for the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, and for the survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises.

“This year, COVID-19 has been the biggest challenge to humanitarian operations around the world. The lack of access and restrictions placed by Governments around the world has resulted in communities, civil society and local NGOs being the frontline of the response”. (UN WHD webpage)

The UN’s Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2020 was published in December 2019 and is found here:

[https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHO-2020\\_v9.1.pdf](https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHO-2020_v9.1.pdf)

Interactive maps and figures: Humanitarian Insight <https://hum-insight.info/>

In the financial year 2018-19 Trócaire supported 1.9 Million people affected by humanitarian crisis. More info here: [https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/trocaire\\_annual\\_report\\_2018-19.pdf](https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/trocaire_annual_report_2018-19.pdf)



**HUMANITARIAN**

€24.8m spent

1,900,000 people supported directly

**Trócaire**

19<sup>th</sup> August: World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world.

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## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES– CAMPAIGN GROUP



### Campaign group information meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> July

Drawing from conversations with passionate volunteer campaigners and from conversations with Trócaire's campaigns team, we felt that establishing a new campaign group would be a good solution for all.

The campaign group would include volunteers from all parts of Ireland who are keen to be involved more with campaigns, so that they can join and work together, encourage each other, share their experience, knowledge, passion and ideas with each other.

Trócaire's very first campaign group meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July. It was very well attended by volunteers who were all very positive and eager to be part of the group.

The meeting was supported by Trócaire's campaigns team: Joanne McGarry (Campaigns Manager), Emmet Sheerin (Campaigns Officer in Maynooth) and Jeannie McCann (Campaigns Officer in Belfast).

Thanks to all of you who attended for your enthusiasm and commitment to this new group. We are looking forward to working with you as part of it.

If you want to be part of the group and haven't been able to attend this meeting, it is not too late. Please contact your local contact to express your interest in joining the group.

**Trócaire**

"My message to world leaders is simple. Put people first: their needs, their aspirations, their rights." UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, at the 2019 opening session of the United Nations General Assembly

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## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES– CAMPAIGN GROUP

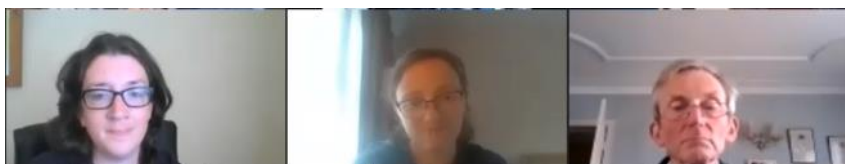


### Campaign group ODA campaign information meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Following on from the successful first meeting of the new campaign group, we invited Selina Donnelly, Trócaire's Policy Advisor to hold a briefing session on the official development assistance (ODA).

She gave us all an excellent understanding of what is ODA and how it helps communities overseas.

During the meeting, we broke into 2 groups, one held by Jeannie McCann with NI volunteers (in photo below) and the other held by Selina Donnelly with ROI volunteers.



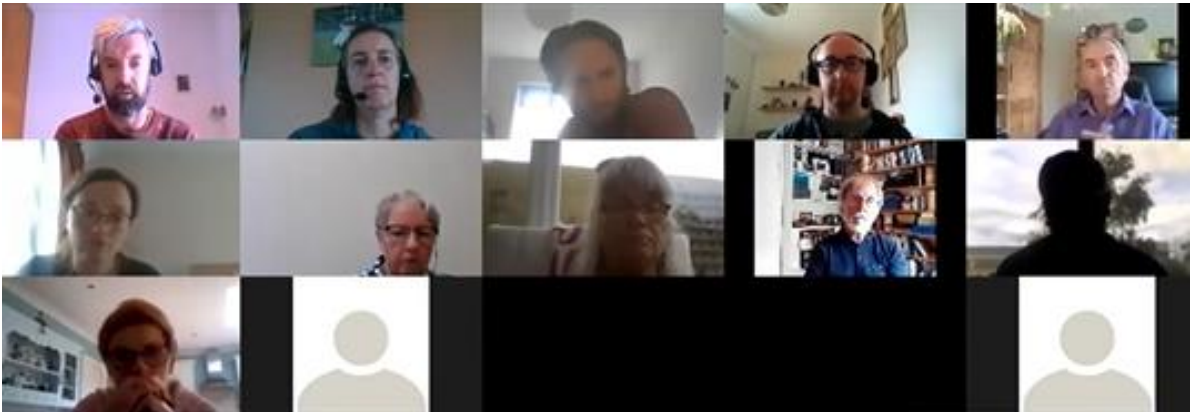
**trócaire**

"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings." - Nelson Mandela



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## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES– WEBINARS



### OPT session with Eoin Hamil – 29 July

Eoin Hamil (top left above), Programme Manager for Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories based in Maynooth, spoke about Trócaire's work with Israeli and Palestinian partners and the challenges faced by people on the ground. He said: “the day to day life of Palestinians is extremely difficult, particularly in areas that we take for granted”. The 53 year old occupation leaves very little hope for people, however “despite this very difficult set of circumstances there is resistance and there is hope”, there is a “resilience and resourcefulness that Palestinians have and that’s what we’re trying to support as Trócaire, non violent resistance”.

In supporting the work of our partners “ we want to achieve an end to the military occupation of Palestinian land and to achieve Palestinians’ right to self determination.”

Eoin also spoke about the Occupied Territories Bill (OT Bill) introduced by Senator Frances Black which would ban trade between Ireland and Israel’s illegal settlements in the West Bank. Eoin shared a message that Senator Frances Black sent to all our volunteers who have supported the Bill. In that message she said: *“Thank you [...] from the bottom of my heart and I know from speaking with Palestinians from the occupied territories that this Bill has given them great hope that they have not been forgotten by the International community”*.

To watch the recording of the session please email your local contact.

Cork volunteer, Jenny Byrne kindly edited a video of Eoin Hamil which you can view here: <https://youtu.be/-gUHii44fDo>

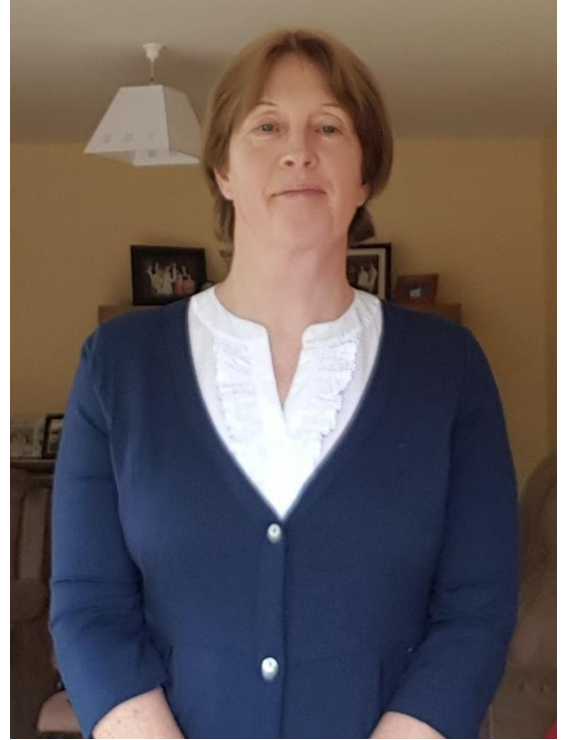
**Trócaire**

“When we live in a world that is very unjust, you have to be a dissident.” -  
Nawal El Saadawi

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES— FUNDRAISING

My name is Kathleen Byrne, I live in Kildalton, Piltown, County Kilkenny. It has been an ambition of mine for a long time to become a volunteer with Trócaire as I feel there is a huge imbalance of living standards in the world the very wealthy and also the people who, through no fault of their own, do not have the basic human needs of food, clothing and a comfortable environment. In the village of Piltown, where I live, I coach a Karate club, people of all ages train twice weekly in the basic skills of self defense, and also raise their fitness level in a fun environment. I decided during the Covid 19 lockdown to do a fundraiser for Trócaire. We had changed our classes to Zoom because of the lockdown so I asked my club members if they would take part in a twelve hour training marathon to raise funds for Trócaire. They were all happy to take part. On June 10th we began at 8am: each member of the team had a time slot that they would train for, some did an hour, the older ones did two hours, then the next person took over. The photographs and videos of their training were sent to our Piltown Karate Club Facebook page during the day, where we requested sponsorship. I had set up a Fundraiser for Trócaire on my Facebook page so everyone was able to donate directly into that account. We raised a total of **€854**, everyone involved really enjoyed the experience.



**Trócaire**

"My true religion is kindness." - Dalai Lama

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES– FUNDRAISING IN NI



### Mickey Bradley Memorial Walk by Fr Eddie Gallagher for Trocaire

Fundraiser for Trocaire by Eddie Gallagher · 🌐

Donate to Charity

✉ Invite

➦ Share

⋮ More ▾

€20,851 of €17,561 raised ⓘ

Fr. Eddie Gallagher PP is our Diocesan Representative for the Derry Diocese, based in the parish of Greencastle, Co.Tyrone. He did a fundraising memorial walk for Trócaire in Mickey Bradley's name. Mickey, who died in September 2018, had been hoping to fulfil one of his wishes which had been to spend some time helping in a developing country. His family wanted to do the next best thing by helping an organisation which does just that. The recent pandemic situation has badly affected Trócaire's income yet the need in these developing nations remain and also the threat of Covid-19 in these countries has yet to recede.

The memorial walk took place on Sunday 28th June from 1pm from St. Patrick's Church Greencastle to Our Lady of the Wayside Church, Broughderg via the Bradley residence in Teebane East and back again. Supporters could contribute on the Parish Facebook Page and the event raised an amazing **€20,851**.

A huge thanks goes to Fr. Eddie, the Bradley family and all those who supported this fundraising walk.

**Trócaire**

"The destiny of world civilization depends upon providing a decent standard of living for all mankind." - Norman Borlaug



# Volunteer Fundraising ideas

In our latest editions of the newsletter we have highlighted some brilliant fundraising initiatives from volunteers and supporters. Below are some suggestions we hope may inspire you if you wish to take on your own initiative in supporting some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Sharing our website for donations and news  
[www.trocaire.org/donate](http://www.trocaire.org/donate)  
[www.trocaire.org/news](http://www.trocaire.org/news)

Through WhatsApp, email, text

Through your preferred social media



Invite your friends for tea and chat virtually and ask them to make a donation or suggest a fee to join. You can tell them about your work as a volunteer, about an area of Trócaire's work which you are passionate about or what Trócaire is doing in response to Covid 19.

Ask friends and family to dress up as a Trócaire hero or their favourite hero by making a costume out of what you have around the house. Ask people for a donation for each and pick a winning costume! You can host an online hero party or create a gallery of all of the costumes.



Host a co-video party. Have some friends 'over' for a movie – stream together and chat throughout or afterwards. You can ask everyone to donate a suggested fee to take part.



Trad for Trócaire – Do you know a trad musician who might host an online concert to raise funds?



## Cycle/run/walk/steps challenge

Can you collect enough people to walk to Kenya or Honduras in the month of May? You could do this challenge as a collective – ask friends and family to help share the goal. Each person involved could pledge an amount to complete the challenge. (Turkana 6757 Km away = 100 people doing 3,000 steps per day)

Host an online class – Could you or a close friend or family member host a class online? Dance, cooking, yoga, knitting, painting, exercise, etc. – You can suggest a fee with all proceeds going to Trócaire



Create your own fundraiser

<https://www.justgiving.com/Trocaire>



Hold a Project Honduras game competition with members of a club or school class. Each participant could pay to enter and do a screen shot of their result at the end of their game that they share with the lead fundraiser – the winner could win a virtual token or some privilege when the club gets back in action (in school it could be a homework pass). Find the game [here](#)



Use our games to hold fundraising games sessions. You may also decide to enter our competition – more info [here](#)



# Trócaire

“Don't look for big things, just do small things with great love....The smaller the thing, the greater must be our love.” - Mahatma Gandhi

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## SEASON OF CREATION



Season of Creation celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment.

The theme for our Season of creation from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October is **Cultivating Hope** and forms part of this special Laudato Sí anniversary year announced by Pope Francis in May.

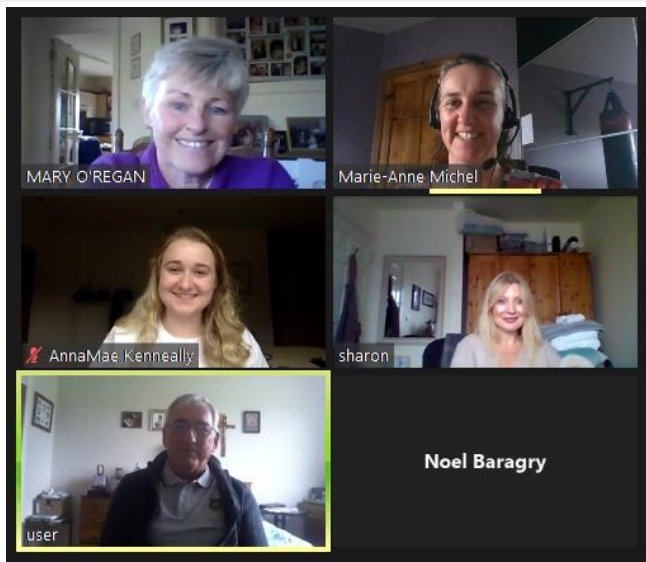
This year volunteers can create a Sacred Space in their local parish if it is something that you feel is safe to do.

We also have a book club resource on Laudato Sí, reflecting our work on climate change and care of the natural environment both locally and globally. You can read about Tony Devlin's experience of holding a book club in Blanchardstown next and you can go to:

<https://www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes/laudato-si> for the resources.

More resources are available here:

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020>



At the end of July, we had a consultation session with the Limerick team of volunteers who are real experts in how we can do outreach in our local parish for this Season of Creation.

Thanks for all the great insights and ideas.

**Trócaire**

"To say that on a daily basis you can make a difference, well, you can. One act of kindness a day can do it." - Betty Williams



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## LAUDATO SI BOOK CLUB by TONY DEVLIN



The **Reading Laudato Sí Together** initiative took place in St. Brigid's Parish Blanchardstown and was conducted over 6 successive weeks from the end of April to mid June. The sessions were delivered using Zoom and there was a steady attendance of 21 people.

The slide set provided by Jane Mellett was used as a base and augmented with additional images, background material and links to other resources. The sessions were delivered by me with active (and invaluable) support from the St. Brigid's Parish Pastoral Worker Mairin Keegan. Each session had the format of 30 min presentation followed by 20-30 min Q&A and discussion. By the end of the 6 weeks people had got to know each other and had become very engaged in the issues raised by Laudato Sí. Many were keen to do follow up actions and these included participation in the EcoParishes initiative, participation in Trócaire lobbying and campaigns and interestingly, the idea of 'twinning' with a Parish in an area affected by Climate Change. Liturgically there will be further emphasis on Laudato Sí in the Parish in the upcoming Season of Creation, while in terms of activity I will be trying to engage those who have expressed strongest interest in some practical activities.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of getting to know Laudato Sí at a deeper level; so as to lead the sessions, and I've since enrolled in the Global Catholic Climate Movement Laudato Sí Animators Course. I'd be very happy to support any Volunteer who wishes to do something similar with a Parish or other group.

For more information on holding a Laudato Sí Book Club, please go to: <https://www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes/laudato-si> or get in touch with your local contact.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"  
Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights activist and clergyman

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### PAT MCQUAID IN NORTHERN IRELAND



My teaching career began in 1973, the year Trócaire was established. Throughout my thirty-four years of teaching, I have always promoted and supported the work of the organisation. Over a decade ago, I became a volunteer for Trócaire. Baby steps were taken initially. Due to overwhelming interest, goodwill and generosity, support in my locality and beyond grew from strength to strength. My mission was always to raise awareness and funds. I firmly believe that awareness leads to empathy which, in turn leads to action.

It all began through selling gifts in my local shopping centre in Dungannon. During the course of one weekend, I sat for three days in the foyer whilst interest and support alongside socialisation grew. The following year a few students from one of the local schools joined me. The kindness was overwhelming and there were many humbling stories such as the little girl, whose mum was a past pupil, who donated all her Confirmation money. In the next years more pupils, who were involved in the John Paul II Awards, joined me, distributing leaflets and using collection boxes. In the last couple of years dozens of volunteers undertook bag packing.

Around 17<sup>th</sup> March there wasn't much happening in our locality. With the help and advice of musicians and other talented people, we managed to organise a Trad for Trócaire evening for many years that generated a lot of funds. This embraced three generations performing together with the majority of artists coming from less than a five mile radius from the venue.

Whether talking in schools, collecting cheques, speaking as a guest on prize giving, talking at Masses, in community groups... it is good to say that fundraising is the oxygen of the organisation... it is the heart beat and life blood of every cause.

My Trócaire journey so far has been amazing - how rewarding and inspirational it has been to meet such wonderful people, particularly the late Sally O'Neill. The dedication, commitment, sincerity and hard work of everyone who works in Trócaire is so heartening and impressive. I thank God for the support of my family and for all the friendships I have made in the Trócaire Family.

**Trócaire**

"If you can't feed a hundred people, feed just one." - Mother Teresa

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE LIAM FAHY IN LIMERICK



I always felt close to women and children overseas from seeing Trócaire's advertisements on the TV. The Trócaire box is on the worktop for all Lent and it's always there to be looked at. It is a constant reminder of the people that Trócaire supports and a great help for the organisation.

I have been volunteering for Trócaire for over 3 years now. My highlight is doing mass talks during the Lenten campaign, they are very rewarding. People come to talk to you at the end and give very positive feedback, they have lots of questions and I usually give them the Trócaire number if they want to know more. I also look after the church altar decoration that focuses on Trócaire and get some flowers sponsored by a local shop.

One thing that keeps me motivated and gives me great confidence to be involved and talk on behalf of Trócaire is having meetings with other volunteers. I love to hear what other volunteers have to say and get ideas from them. At the annual National Volunteer Event in Dublin, we hear all the stories from Trócaire and from the volunteers. In October 2019, there was a great crowd, a lot of information shared by all the other volunteers, and the staff gave us all aspects of Trócaire (video and input from staff).

I'm delighted to be involved because it's a great organisation. As volunteers we know that we get great support in our volunteering. I also get great support from my daughter Karen who works for Trócaire. When she went abroad, she told me all about it and I learned a lot from it. She also gives me that little bit of extra support, she keeps me up to date on everything.

**Trócaire**

"Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others." - Brian Tracy



# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE NIAMH DARCY IN LEINSTER



I have always volunteered since being a teenager, in several different organizations including ten thousand villages (fair trade), city year, Fáilte Isteach and Special Olympics. I have worked in International Development for over 15 years, in health, education and democracy and governance in several countries and I like to blend volunteer work with my career work. I love the outdoors and enjoy engaging with people from different backgrounds and different age groups.

I have been volunteering with Trócaire since Autumn 2017 after I returned to Ireland from living overseas. I was interested in their Lenten school visits which focus on sharing information about developing countries particularly with younger children. I am a firm believer that once younger people are aware of the challenges in developing countries, they can develop a lifelong interest in improving the human condition in these countries.

I have been involved in the Lenten school's campaign, events with teenagers focused on refugees and the sustainable development goals and several events like the Dublin City Festival and Africa Day where help with generating awareness about what Trocaire does. I have greatly enjoyed all the volunteer work and getting to know the other volunteers and staff.

**Trócaire**

Below-average rains and crop production compounded by persistent insecurity have driven an additional 1 million people in Somalia into humanitarian need (GHO 2020).

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### JEREMY MEEHAN IN CORK



Late in 2019 I was looking around for something voluntary to do in the Cork area with some free time, and I saw that Trócaire welcomes volunteers. Having learned some more about what it involves from the very friendly staff in the Cork office, I attended a training session. These are held periodically for anyone who is new to volunteering. They are very informal and a nice way to meet others coming to volunteering. The training is also an eye-opener to the breadth and depth of Trócaire's work around the world. Much of this does not often make the mainstream media, and so one important aspect of what a volunteer can do is to help spread the word and educate the public. This is also part of Trócaire's core mission.

It was unfortunate that Covid-19 descended just early enough to force the cancellation of some talks in churches during Lent. However, I was able to deliver some slide show presentations to schools. For these, Trócaire provides plenty of audio-visual material. The talks are focused on the Lenten theme of the year, and it was good to see the interest that the students took in the lives of other children whose circumstances are very different to theirs.

There are many other ways of working with Trócaire as a volunteer, and I would encourage anyone who is interested to contact them for a chat.

**Trócaire**

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## COVID 19: CORK CENTRE



Lovely Elaine Hill at reception in Cook St on a Wednesday morning late July 2020.

We are coming back to normality here in a Covid world.

Our Cork Centre is open Monday to Friday from 10am until 5pm and Saturday from 10am until 4pm.



Brian Murphy from Blarney in Cork has been a loyal supporter of Trócaire for many years. He visits the Centre on Cook Street on Friday afternoons to pledge his donation and to chat with staff. He likes the personal connection rather than making an online or phone donation. Brian always tells us that he trusts us to spend his donations wisely. He is a committed supporter and we are always happy to see Brian coming through the door.

**Trócaire**



# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #9

## CONTENT FOR YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER

### Local newsletter article – Season of Creation

During the Season of Creation each year, Christians around the world unite to renew our love for each other and the home we share. This year's theme is "Cultivating Hope." We cannot but also think of the threats and challenges that exist now for all humanity, not least our brothers and sisters living in developing communities where Trócaire works, who live with the daily reality of climate change having a substantial impact on their lives.

Through your support we are cultivating hope for families and the natural environment around them. We are Building Back Better post COVID-19 based on a just transformation that tackles the climate and biodiversity emergencies, and protects the planet from further harm.

Solar water pumps are an innovative and environmentally friendly solution for communities in remote areas in the East of Kenya where there is no electricity and climate change brings drought. God's Word has always been a source of cultivating hope in troubled times and remains steady, constant, and true. We thank God for supporters like yourselves who give hope to this community in Kenya and to all our programmes of work overseas.

The global health crisis has confirmed how interconnected we all are around the world. We can make a difference at our local level and cultivate hope today by taking little steps such as planting food, trees and avoiding plastic. Resources for parish groups who would like to do something practical and take action locally and globally, for the season of creation can be found at the following links;

- (1) <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020>
- (2) <https://www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes/laudato-si>

## YOUR LOCAL CONTACT

Cork/Kerry: Janet Twomey – [janet.twomey@trocaire.org](mailto:janet.twomey@trocaire.org)

Northern Ireland: Roisin O'Hara – [roisin.ohara@trocaire.org](mailto:roisin.ohara@trocaire.org)

Dublin/ North Leinster and Galway/Limerick: Marie-Anne Michel – [marianne.michel@trocaire.org](mailto:marianne.michel@trocaire.org)

**We would like to wish the best of luck to our wonderful colleague Sinead Hayes who has left Trócaire to go back to working in education.**