



20th
February
2022

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 16

In 2021, Trócaire volunteers went above and beyond to raise awareness and funds for the Gifts campaign. Thanks to you all for your hard work.

The campaign raised a total of €926,500.

In Northern Ireland, 39 parish gift sales took place, 20 of which were done by the NI volunteers. They raised a total of £80,000.



Carmel McCartan in Crossgar (NI) collected a cheque from St Colmcille's High School. They raised £495 from Gifts sales.



Mary O'Regan raised €1,739.85 by parking her son's van in Granagh and then Ballingarry's local shops' car parks. She said: "I had plenty of room in it and Christmas Fm on the radio all day."

Sharon Collopy raised €2,960 in St John's cathedral parish over Christmas.

Patricia in Newcastle West made a display with posters and Gifts booklets which she said went very well.

The weekend of the 4th/5th December, Noel Baragry spoke at mass in St Nicholas and in St Munchins College. He encouraged people to take one of Trócaire's gift booklets and purchase gifts by using the envelope in the booklet or to go online.



Trócaire

CHRISTMAS

Activities in the Regions

The Galway volunteers braved the cold at the Galway Christmas Market between Friday 26th November and Thursday 2nd December.

They raised €1,543.22 and spoke to many passers by.

Special thanks to Bertie, Regina, Geraldine and Máiréad. And to Joe for your visit and giving us a head start.

Galway volunteer Kevin sold gifts to friends and family and raised €230.



Mayor appeals to people of Galway to spare a thought for the people of Gaza this Christmas

BY DECLAN VARLEY

Mayor of Galway, Collette Connolly, has appealed to the people of the city and county to embrace the Christmas spirit and spare a thought for the men and women of Gaza who are living in extremely challenging conditions. Mayor Connolly said the gifts will help to support those who are most vulnerable this Christmas. "Palestinians have

suffered for too long and it is very important that we assist the people of Gaza who are living in extremely challenging conditions," Mayor Connolly said. "Trócaire's Gifts of Love include a range of sustainable and ethical gifts from emergency water supplies (€30) to mental health support for women and children traumatised by the ongoing conflict in Gaza (€20)."

Amanie Issa, who is originally from Bethlehem and is a student in Galway, urged



Mayor Collette Connolly with Marie-Anne Michel at the launch.



the people of Galway to address the mental health of the people of Gaza. Speaking at the launch of Trócaire's Gifts of Love, Amanie said: "The occupation is not

only physical impact of conflict but also about the mental and psychological fallout. The world does not often see the impact of the occupation on the mental health

and wellbeing of the Palestinians, and more awareness is needed." In 2012, the Gaza Strip saw crisis after crisis due to the longstanding blockade, recurrent

bear the brunt of these hostilities facing violence, discrimination, poverty, and trauma – every single day. Trócaire volunteer, Bertie O'Mahoney, said that the reality is that most people in Gaza are "trapped". "They cannot leave this small area about the size of Co. Louth to access healthcare or education. The humanitarian situation in Gaza is now extremely difficult with over half the population facing unemployment and a lack of access to supplies like water and medicine. I would urge the people of Galway to spare a thought this Christmas for the people of Gaza and to donate what you can to Trócaire's Christmas appeal."

You can provide a lifeline to the women of Gaza this Christmas by supporting Trócaire's appeal. The gifts can be purchased online at trócaire.org/gifs or by calling 1800 608 4009.

On Monday 29th December, International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Mayor Collette Connolly joined Trócaire to launch the new Gift of *Mental Health Lifeline* which provides women and children of Gaza access to vital mental health care and a support network.

A huge thanks to Bertie for organising the launch and taking the photos on the day.

| CHRISTMAS

Activities in
the Regions

Big thanks to all in the Franciscan Friary, Killarney for promoting *Gifts of Love* and raising €2,785 during Christmas.



Volunteer Don Ryan pictured at the Cathedral in Cobh. Thanks to Don, Sr. Emmanuel and Mary for your help this year and for raising €1,821.



Yvonne and Elaine from Cork Centre promoted Gifts of Love through the months of November and December.



Izz Café in Cork launches the 2021 Christmas Campaign for Trócaire.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Campaigns group

Campaigns briefings: Useful or not?

Yes it is useful to have insight and background information on the campaign before getting started into the action taking.

Yes. But if there was a synopsis at the end. Sometimes it can be a little too detailed during the presentation

Yes, very useful

Yes useful and insightful

Yes, useful

The Whatsapp group is a great way to keep updated. Im happy with frequency of meetings :)

There are often acronyms which are only familiar to the professionals

Sometimes the information is complex & needs to be simplified for some of us who are often not experts in the relevant field

Yes, I find it quite useful, to get further explanations of the background and actions.



campaign briefings were fine for me. Sometimes if there is a lot of info, maybe to go a little slower

It's great to have practical background information, especially before speaking to politicians etc. Potentially having a 'cheat sheet' with key points would be good!

Campaign briefings were very useful. Good to get as many people as possible participating. It works well when you have someone from the field who can give personal experience of issues on the ground in the 3rd

Yes very helpful

Campaigns: Fully equipped to take action or not?

QUESTION... are briefings helpful?

ANSWER

Yes briefings are very helpful.

Q: Are u happy with your campaigning...A: yes, happy with the campaign! I was involved with

Q: "Apeirgon" book recommended...I didn't read it

REMARKS FROM JOE AND BERTIE

Joe and Bertie made very sensible remarks about tech problems for some, and about importance of letters being our own and not part of an orchestrated campaign...and Bertie's remarks on his campaigning or

Remarks on replies from TDs...I didn't do follow-ups to my letters to TDs...which I should have as some didn't even acknowledge the letter. I found that writing a separate letter and posting it to several TDs and

Thanks to Joe and Bertie for great suggestions

maybe a very short postcard (using an eye-catching card) is best way to get TD's attention at first

Usually after the briefings yes. Could do with a little bit more advice on follow up afterwards (e.g. sometimes I hear back from TDs or such, and not sure where to go from there). But in general after briefings I'm...

I usually find the instructions really clear. The craftsmanship especially was straightforward and well thought out.

The briefing is normally fully sufficient. It's always good to keep it short and simple so that we can use our own words. Briefing should allow us to make individual representations and if possible to have...

Yes preparation and notes given to help up take action are always very useful

thanks Marie Anne for great tip with all these campaigns

The briefings are brilliant but maybe rush along a bit fast

Campaigns: Do you feel you contribute to campaigns?

Northern Ireland campaigning probably needs separate management

Yes, I am happy with my contribution so far and feel well supported to participate in them from Trocaire

Yes, I believe in the Trocaire message and it is great to be part of a big team. I think people respond well in general to Trocaire campaigns

I try to, but sometimes I feel that I do not have enough knowledge on the subject to do so effectively.

Yes, I think we've seen some progress, especially with Ireland being the first EU country to declare Israel is involved in 'de facto annexation'

Yes - there are fewer campaigns in NI, but I try to take part in as many as possible

yes I contribute when I can

Yes I contribute but I don't know how effective I am

Yes. Am happy and feel it's effective

Yes and I believe it is worthwhile



What percentage of Africa's population do you think has been fully vaccinated? Just 7% of Africa's 1.3 billion population!

Trócaire is a member of the People's Vaccine Alliance Ireland campaigning for vaccines for all, calling upon the World Trade Organisation to change the rules so supply of vaccines can be increased to meet demand. The most effective way to end the pandemic is to ensure that everyone, everywhere has access to COVID-19 vaccines. We want for what's called the Trips Waiver to be lifted. The EU is currently blocking the lift and so is Ireland! The Trips Waiver allows C-19 vaccines to be copyrighted so that other manufacturers can't make generic Covid-19 vaccines. The Trips Waiver is blocking the ability for supply to meet demand for vaccines, especially in developing countries.

LENT CAMPAIGN

Volunteer Lent Briefing

Yvonne Muto (right) has been working with Trócaire in Zimbabwe for 3 years. On the 9th February, she shared with us the Lenten story of Thandekile.

Yvonne says that everyday she is motivated by the work Trócaire does in the communities. "I am driven by all the efforts made by the ordinary men and women to overcome hunger and be food secure through practicing sustainable means of agriculture."



During the session we heard from various volunteers around the country who shared their experiences and involvement in previous Lent Campaigns – from Mass talks to school visits to Get Moving for Trócaire.

We also heard from long-time volunteer Padraig Fitzgerald, who gave us an insightful input on his visit to Zimbabwe with Trócaire in 2014.



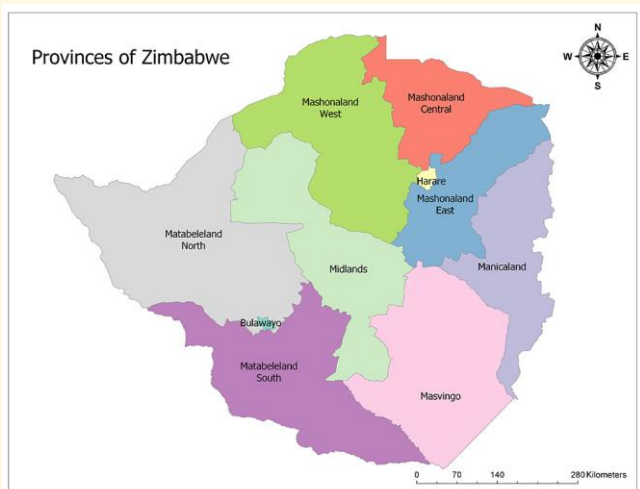
We want to say a **BIG** thank you to everyone who attended the session and to everyone who spoke and shared their experiences with the group – this level of peer sharing is a great way for other volunteers to learn how they can get involved!

To watch the recording, follow this link (ask your local contact for the password):

<https://vimeo.com/677062425>

LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Zimbabwe



Zimbabwe, previously known as Rhodesia, achieved independence in 1980.

It is a landlocked country located in Southeast Africa, bordered by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique.

The capital and largest city is Harare. The second largest city is Bulawayo.

The population is 15 million people, roughly 3 times that of Ireland. English is the country's official language yet Shona and Ndebele are the most widely spoken.

Trócaire has been working in Zimbabwe since 1980 in areas such as humanitarian aid, food security, women's empowerment and human rights issues.

Trócaire's work is focused primarily in the drought-affected areas of Matabeleland South and Masvingo in the south of the country, as well as the Eastern Province of Manicaland.

Approximately 70% of people in Zimbabwe rely on agriculture. Climate change is making it harder to survive. Rising temperatures and worsening droughts are leaving many farmers without harvests.



LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Thandekile's Story

Trócaire's 2022 Lenten Appeal is focusing on the challenges facing people in Zimbabwe who are facing the twin threats of drought due to climate change and Covid-19. The face of the appeal this year is Thandekile (31). Her story is one of an empowered and resilient woman.



Even before Covid-19, Thandekile, her daughter Nomatter (11) and son Forward (8) were facing hunger as droughts and heavy rainfall caused their plants and crops to fail. The family would often go nights without eating as food was not always available in their community.

In November 2020, Thandekile's husband Donovan (35) passed away from Covid-19 while he was working in South Africa to earn an income to provide for his family. Left widowed, Thandekile struggled even more to provide food for her family. Grieving for her husband meant that she couldn't engage in farming activities which delayed the planting of crops and made them even more vulnerable to heavy rainfall.

Thandekile said: "Following Donovan's death [...] I did not have the means to pay school fees for the children, to buy uniforms and all our other basic needs because I had no source of income."



Thandekile (31) prepares melon inside her home in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze



LENTEN CAMPAIGN

How your
support helps



Yvonne Muto spent the week with Thandekile and her family in their household. She said: “Thandekile has not lost hope, but has displayed hard work and determination to provide for her two young children Nomatter and Forward”.

Thandekile began buying and selling women’s clothes in order to make money. “My wish is to be able to provide for all their needs, so I hope that my business will grow. My hope is that my children will be able to continue in school and be successful in life.”

“What gives me hope is that I am still alive despite all that we have been through as a family. Whatever the problems you have been through in life, it is important to dust yourself off and move on, have hope and work hard for the children even if it’s very difficult. I thank the people of Ireland for all the help you give to us, please do not tire.”

In Thandekile’s community, Trócaire operates community gardens (right) with its partner Caritas Bulawayo in which locals can plant vegetables, store seeds and learn about watershed management and planting methods.



LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Your help



Last year the Lenten campaign raised over €10 million (including £3.2 million raised in NI) and this is thanks to all the hard work that volunteers have put in nationwide.

Of their involvement, volunteers said:
 “Grab their attention in the first 30 seconds” – Don on speaking at mass
 “Keep your email personal to connect with them” – Lucy on contacting schools
 “It kept you thinking of how blessed we are” – Deirdre on walking to South Sudan
 “We were together as a community in our quest to make a difference” – Sharon on virtually walking together to South Sudan with almost 90 people in the Limerick Diocese.

For Lent 2022, there will be plenty of ways for you to contribute. We already have mass speaking weekends booked in several parishes and are hoping to get more invitations. Schools are going to be receiving packs through the post and regular emails with activities that they can get involved in. Some volunteers have already expressed an interest in speaking at mass, visiting schools and walking/running collectively to Zimbabwe.

Please take photos, make short videos of your activities and send them to us and/or post them on social media tagging @trocaire (Twitter), @trocaireIreland (Facebook). You could take a picture of the Large Trócaire box at your local church's altar and thank the parish for their support.



LENTEN CAMPAIGN

Resources available

Trócaire's parish resources (right) can be found on:

<https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/working-in-ireland/parishes/lent-2022/>

Our church team have put together a resource for use in any parish setting, a prayer service for those in Ireland and Zimbabwe affected by Covid-19, reflections on the Way of the Cross, scripts for use during mass, homily notes and a religious education resource for children.



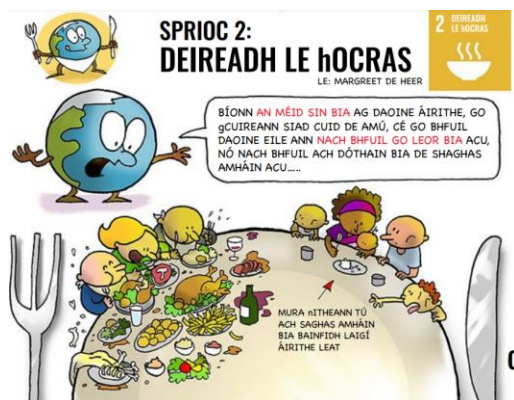
The Development Education resources (left) are here:

<https://www.trocaire.org/our-work/educate/brighterfutures/>

These resources are for use in Early Childhood, Primary, Post Primary and Youth educational settings. They explore the impacts of Climate Change and Covid-19 on food security through the lens of SDG2 – Zero Hunger.



There are games and activities in both English and Irish



Content for your local newsletter

This year's Lenten campaign highlights how Covid-19 has impacted communities in Zimbabwe who were already facing significant challenges due to climate change and food insecurity. We hear the story of Thandekile and her two children, her daughter Nomatter and son Forward, and how Covid-19 has had a devastating impact on their family. We also hear how Thandekile shows courage, hope and strength in the face of these challenges.



"In the spirit of faith and in the spirit of humanity, I want to appreciate the support of the people of Ireland. And I would say that we have nothing much to give you back, we are always grateful to you, and every Sunday, when our people gather, we can assure you of our prayers for your generosity. I can only encourage you all to keep this partnership in the spirit of our faith." (Archbishop Alex Thomas - Archdiocese of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe)

This Lent the UK government will match all public donations in Northern Ireland to the Lenten Appeal pound for pound, doubling the impact you can make.

To find out more about the appeal or to make a donation visit www.trocaire.org

Matching your
donations with
UKaid

In 2021 over £3.2 million was raised, far surpassing the UKAM target of £2 million and ensuring that an additional £2 million in funding was given by the UK government for our programme in South Sudan.



"The Lord's prayer gives me strength to look after my children and face life challenges head on"
Thandekile



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