

GOSPEL REFLECTION.

A Prayer for CAFOD'S Harvest Fast Day

*Walk beside us, Lord, in the cool of the day,
in the garden you have created as our common home.*

*Walk beside us, Lord, as the cries of the forest pierce the dawn,
and flames rip through our common home.*

*Grant us courage, Lord, as we walk beside all those
who struggle to protect our common home.
Grant us hope, Lord, and the vision to walk dark paths
in the light of a single sunbeam.*

*Grant us grace, Lord, to put the flourishing of all people
and the wonder of your creation at the heart of all we do,
as we strive to be guardians of our common home.*

St Francis, pray for us.

COVID RESTRICTIONS.

Don't forget to check the latest guidelines and keep safe during the pandemic. Many of the guidelines, including hand sanitising and wearing face masks are still required in church. Further details may emerge soon.

AFGHAN REFUGEES – EMERGENCY APPEAL.

Please visit the CAFOD website – cafod.org.uk – to find out more. There is however another website, care4calais.org/afghan-refugees-appeal, who are directly helping the refugees who are already in this country at the moment.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS.

A number of children from our Parish schools will be making their First Holy Communion on the following dates:-

- October 2nd – Sacred Heart, Hindsford children in St. Richard's at 10am.*
- October 9th – Sacred Heart, Hindley Green children in Sacred Heart at 10am.*
- October 16th – Sacred Heart, Hindsford, children in St. Richard's at 10am.*
- October 16th – St. Richard's children in St. Richard's at 12noon.*

CAFOD'S HARVEST FAST DAY.

As we enter the last week of the Season of Creation, we are invited to give thanks to God for the gift of creation and the fruits of the earth which sustain us. Many churches and schools do this through Harvest Festivals – bringing the fruits of the earth and the work of human hands and sharing these offerings with those in need.

In the UK, for the last sixty years, the Catholic Church has marked harvest time by observing CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day on the first Friday in October. So, this coming Friday, 1 October, we are invited to give thanks by going without a meal or some form of amusement and giving what we save in this way to CAFOD. CAFOD uses our offerings to help those across the world who don't have access to the fruits of the earth because of extreme poverty, food shortages, conflicts and natural disasters.

You can find out more about this Friday's Fast Day here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

Response to the Psalm... "The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart."