

Volunteer Voice Newsletter #12

20th February 2021

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES - WEBINARS

5th December 2020: National Volunteer Event: Everyone full of smiles after listening to five volunteers, Bernadette, Niamh, Brian, Bertie and Grace on their experience of volunteering with Trócaire.

Caoimhe de Barra gave us an update on Lent 2020 and previews on Lent 2021. Alison Heron, Head of Programmes, Lebanon spoke to us about the situation in Lebanon.



Gifts training sessions on Zoom: We had 3 training sessions on Zoom in November 2020. The Limerick team session can be seen on our Vimeo page here:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7390141/video/485879068>



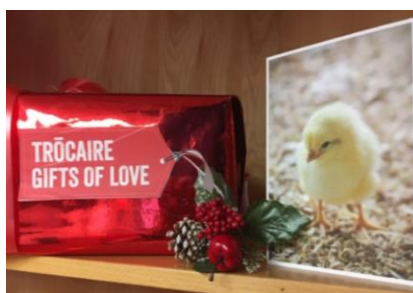
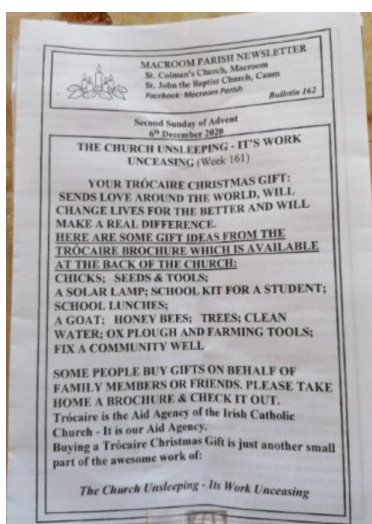
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VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES - CORK / KERRY



A huge word of THANKS to all our volunteers in Cork, Kerry and Kilkenny who supported our Gifts of Love Campaign at Christmas. You wrote articles and spoke on radio shows, set up tables and promoted and sold the gifts safely in your Parishes. The Christmas campaign raised almost €1m for our overseas work. Thank you! We couldn't have done it without you.

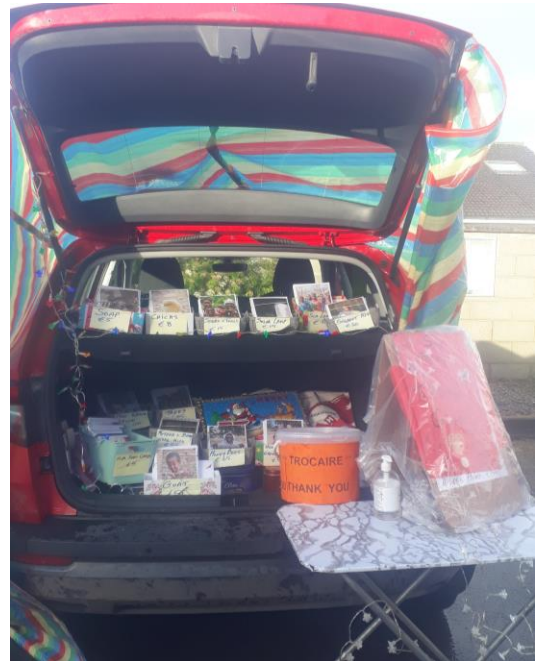


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It's not enough to be compassionate. You must act. ~ Dalai Lama

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VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES - LIMERICK



Mary O'Regan's beautiful display of Trócaire's Christmas Gifts of Love in Granagh Church, Co. Limerick. Her Car Boot Gifts Sale on the 19th December raised a tremendous €1,896.60.

Mary's local school also held a Christmas Jumper Day and raised €216.60 for Trócaire.



Newcastle West Parish, Co. Limerick.
Gifts of Love display and distribution of leaflets over the Christmas period.



Limerick Diocese stock of Trócaire Gifts of Love, ready to be collected by the volunteers.

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VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES - NORTHERN IRELAND

All volunteers and supporters in Northern Ireland worked really hard to support the Gifts campaign this Christmas.

Money is still coming in but we expect that a tremendous total of **£70,000** has been raised. This is thanks to the commitment and dedication of 31 parishes and 2 individuals. A huge THANKS to all involved.



Randalstown parish (picture above) raised an amazing **£4,037** in total with £2,964 of that from gifts sales. Thanks to James McKeown for his support on the gifts campaign.

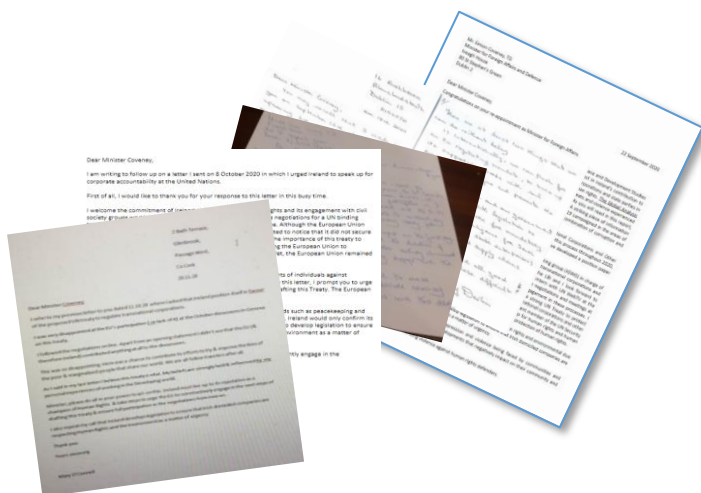


Thanks to your support over Christmas and throughout the year, little girls like Joy Faith can wash their hands to prevent the spread of Covid. Joy Faith was on the Trócaire box last year and as you can see on this photo taken on Sunday 14th February, she is now thriving.

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VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGNS GROUP



The volunteer campaigns group is growing from strength to strength.

After sending multiple letters to Minister Coveney on the Treaty on Business and Human Rights, the volunteers contacted their local TDs to successfully postpone the CETA vote in December 2020.

10th February 2021: CETA briefing with Selina Donnelly.

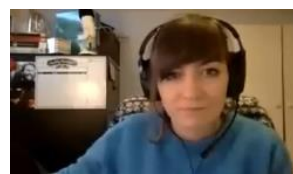
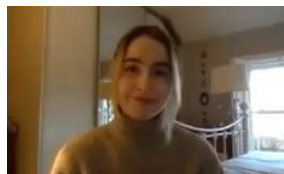
Campaigning against ISDS/ Investment Court Systems



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At the meeting, Eimear Magee (Northern Ireland) took on her group coordinator role and Niamh Collins (Cork) took on her secretary role for the group. We wish them and the 32 members of the group the best of luck in their activities.



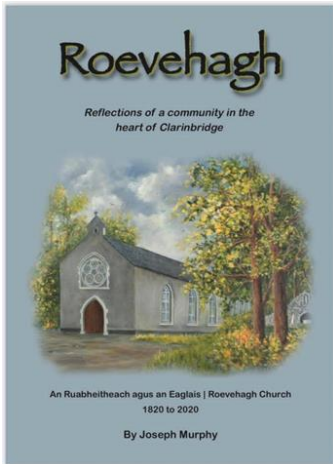
We also listened to the amazing song 'Stop CETA' by group member Maeve O'Gorman (Limerick) and friend.

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Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE – JOE MURPHY



Joe in shock just after receiving the Volunteer Ireland award for his campaigning

'I first took an interest in the work of Trócaire in the mid 1980s when I was a Training officer in the youth organisation Macra na Feirme. Trócaire did a partnership with Macra in a development education project, I enjoyed and learned a lot from participating in this programme. I came to appreciate Trócaire's approach to supporting people in developing countries by working through voluntary and church groups and began to realise the importance of understanding development issues and campaigning for change in policies that adversely affect these countries.

Since appointing a Volunteer Officer in Galway in 2018, Trócaire has developed a strong volunteer group there. I have participated in many interesting initiatives, the biggest of which was attending the UN sessions in Geneva in October 2019 to campaign for a Treaty on Business and Human Rights. This was an eye-opener to the important role Trócaire plays in campaigning for international action to protect human rights. It motivated me to do more and to become part of the Trócaire campaigns group.

At home, I have taken part in a range of Trócaire activities such as representing the organisation at the National Ploughing Championship, the Galway Christmas Market and Bloom Festival. I have found great support and interest by the public in Trócaire's work at these events. Last year was the bi-centenary of my church in Roevehagh, Clarinbridge. I published a book on our community and its heritage to mark the occasion. I got support from the committee to donate the proceeds to Trócaire which amounted to €4,384.

Trócaire offers volunteers a great opportunity to develop themselves and their skills, while helping those in greatest need and fighting against injustice. I am very impressed by the dedication of staff and volunteers to Trócaire's ideals. I enjoy taking part in the wide variety of activities the organisation is involved in. And in the process we have great craic!'

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE – TONY DEVLIN



'My experience of being a Trócaire Volunteer, which began in 2015, has been one of comradeship and solidarity. It is a continuing pleasure and a source of inspiration to have contact and dialogue with people who share my perspective on life and on issues of faith and justice. I've been especially encouraged in my volunteering by Pope Francis' teaching on caring for our common home as brothers and sisters, linking as it does the concern for environment and for human flourishing in a world where forces of selfishness and exclusion are always at work.

Trócaire offers a virtual smorgasbord of opportunities to support their work. I have taken up almost all of them over time. The campaigns on issues of human rights, ecology and justice are what I find most energising. Participating in the trip to Geneva in 2019 to push for a UN Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights was a definite highlight of recent years. I think all who took part retain an affectionate bond and vivid memories of the long journey shared over sea and land, the daily attendance and note taking at the formal UN sessions, the participation in side events and meetings where the reality of the struggle in threatened and abused communities around the world stood out in stark relief. It's a memory tinged with real sadness too, for the recent passing away of our great comrade on that Geneva expedition, Jim Cremin. His quiet and deep intelligence and his warm humanity left a deep impression on us, and I think of him often.

Back home, persistently communicating, lobbying, and letter-writing in support of Trócaire campaigns has absorbed most attention during the new COVID reality. Online communication has become a vital channel and I was pleased to be able to use my newly acquired Zoom skills to run the Laudato Sí Book Club for my Parish (St. Brigid's, Blanchardstown) in May and June 2020. Last month I co-presented a Webinar on Business and Human Rights in nearby Hartstown Parish. I'm looking forward now to supporting a local Trócaire themed Sacred Space initiative for Lent and to doing some Mass talks in the rather surreal atmosphere of an empty St. Brigid's Church!

If you want peace, work for justice ~ Pope Paul VI

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LENT BRIEFING - 20TH JANUARY 2021

Over 40 volunteers attended our National briefing on the upcoming Lenten Campaign 2021.

Tom Delamare (second row below in the middle), South Sudan Programme Coordinator, was present to tell the Lenten story of Awut & Ajak.

Volunteers were informed of everything they can get involved with this Lent and how they can contribute to the campaign through their parishes, schools and communities.



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To view the recording go to: <https://vimeo.com/503408323>

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LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2021 : SOUTH SUDAN

Awut and Ajak, the two mothers featured on this year's Trócaire box, live in the community of Malek, in Lakes State of South Sudan. These two remarkable women are helping each other to survive and thrive despite facing enormous adversity. They are the epitome of resilience. Violence in Awut's home territory forced her to flee with her family. They arrived in Malek with nothing. The local community helped her get back onto her feet and Trócaire's local partner provided seeds and tools so that she could start farming. In time, she rebuilt her family's life. When Ajak and her children arrived in the village, Awut knew that this was her opportunity to support Ajak just as others had supported her. Today Awut and Ajak are neighbours and the closest of friends.



Awut says, 'We share everything we have. We farm together and make sure our children stay together and live in harmony. It is good to join hands and work out ways to survive together.'



Ajak says, 'I am thankful for her. She lifted me when I was in need, and when she is down, I lift her up. She is a very dear friend.'



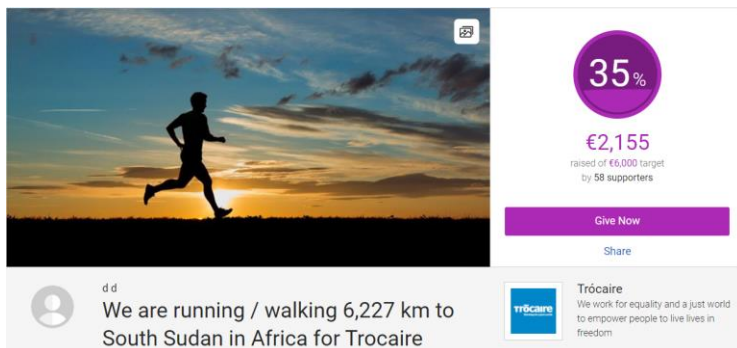
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GET MOVING FOR TRÓCAIRE

Ireland to South Sudan Lent Challenge!

- Come together with friends, family and clubmates to walk, run or cycle the distance to South Sudan over the 40 days of Lent and help raise vital funds to help change the lives of people living in conflict.
- It is roughly 5,700 miles from Dublin to Juba, the capital city of South Sudan.
- That's 143 miles per day over Lent or 1,000 miles a week! It's a big challenge but the more people who take part the better.
- Help make a difference to the lives of people in South Sudan while enjoying a fun, healthy activity that can bring your club, family and friends together this Lent.
- You can let everyone know about your challenge and keep them updated on your progress through social media, your local press and across your community.
- Start your own page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/trocaire/raisemoney>



35%

€2,155
raised of €6,000 target
by 58 supporters

Give Now

Share

dd

We are running / walking 6,227 km to South Sudan in Africa for Trocaire

Trocaire
We work for equality and a just world
to empower people to live lives in
freedom

Join the journey with the Leinster team and get people to sponsor you on the Just Giving page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/d-d7>

Join the journey with Rose & Tyson who will walk 1km per day.

Contact the Limerick Diocese or fromlimerickwithlove@outlook.com

Get sponsored on the page:
<https://gofund.me/d9deb4d6>

Get Moving with Trócaire!

To help the people of South Sudan,

Will you walk with Rose & Tyson?

Help us reach 6,241km, the distance from Limerick to South Sudan, in the 40 days of Lent!



Walk, run or cycle, every km will count!
Please observe COVID guidelines and stay safe

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#fromlimerickwithlove

Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fromlimerickwithlove>

Donations: <https://gofund.me/d9deb4d6>

Millions of people lost their homes to the civil war in South Sudan. Your support will provide vital help to them as they try to create better futures for their families.

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How to support Trócaire's 2021 Lenten Campaign

PROMOTE

- Like and share Trócaire's posts on social media
- Encourage friends and family to get creative and fill any container at all for a Trócaire collection...a biscuit tin, a milk carton...?
- Display Trócaire Lenten campaign posters around your locality to raise awareness of the campaign.
- Organise a safe Trócaire box distribution day.

FUNDRAISING

- Take part in our sponsored walk/run/cycle challenge from Ireland to South Sudan.
- Host a virtual coffee morning or lunch fundraiser with your friends/family.
- Host an online 'Trad for Trócaire' gig to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
- Hold an Easter hamper raffle with family and friends.

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Working for a just world.



Get moving for Trócaire... Walk

Run

Cycle



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How to support Trócaire's 2021 Lenten Campaign

PARISH

- Contact your parish priest to discuss mass speaking options.
- Contact your Parish Priest or Parish Office, to ensure Trócaire boxes and other Lenten resources have been received. Offer your support to safely help with box distribution.
- Create a Trócaire-themed sacred space in your Church, or another community space using a Giant Trócaire box, campaign posters, etc.
- Attend our webinars and the annual Lent Lecture.
- Pray the Trócaire Stations of the Cross alone or organise a virtual prayer group with friends or family.

SCHOOLS

- Familiarise yourself with the Development Education Lenten resources.
- Contact your local schools and offer them your support during the Lenten period.



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CONTENT FOR YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER

Local newsletter article - Lent

Every year Trócaire asks for your help during Lent to fund lifesaving programmes around the world. Families like Awut and Ajak's in South Sudan need your support now more than ever. Trócaire are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on www.trocaire.org and donations can be made to the Lent campaign in the following ways:

1. By collecting a Trócaire box (insert relevant information for your parish here)
2. Online at www.trocaire.org
3. By phone: 1850 408 408 (ROI) or 0800 912 1200 (NI)

The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

Social media post idea

Donations to Trócaire's Lenten Appeal will help to build new lives for people who lost everything to war. Your support this Lent will bring relief and support to over two million of the world's most vulnerable people.

Visit trocaire.org or call 1850 408 408.



YOUR LOCAL CONTACT

Cork/Kerry: Janet Twomey – janet.twomey@trocaire.org

Northern Ireland: Roisin O'Hara – roisin.ohara@trocaire.org

Dublin/ North Leinster and Galway/Limerick: Marie-Anne Michel – marianne.michel@trocaire.org

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WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Since 2009, every 20th February has been the United Nations “World Day of Social Justice”. For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of their global mission to promote development and human dignity.

The purpose of the day is to focus on the plight of social injustice throughout the world and to press for improvements and solutions. World Day of Social Justice recognises the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, employment, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality, or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.



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