

Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024

The Time is Now!
Ko Tēnei tonu te Wā!



Lent Parish Resource Kit 2024

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GUIDANCE NOTES FOR SPEAKING

These are intended only as a guide. Feel free to adapt to your own purposes and style.

Thank you [parish priest and parish] for the opportunity to speak for a few minutes today. [Introduce yourself].

Lent is a time of fasting, praying and almsgiving. The theme for the Caritas Lent Resources for 2024 is **The Time is Now! Ko Tēnei tonu te Wā!** The question that follows this is, "Time for What?"

It is time for preparation, time for encounter, time for justice, time for love, time for sacrifice, and time for hope. As we focus on the three pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent, we naturally connect with God and look to serve others. It is indeed time to renew our relationship with God, and to consider practical ways we can be bearers of God's love to those around us.

During Lent, New Zealand's Catholic Bishops invite us to provide for the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal helps to fund both development and emergency relief work around the world. [Share examples of Caritas work around the world, below (choose as many as you see fit)].

You can donate to the Bishops' Lent Appeal using giving envelopes which we have provided to your parish. These can be returned through your parish's weekly collection or posted freepost directly to Caritas. Please include your contact details such as your name, address and email details so that we can send you a tax receipt. Alternatively, you can donate online by visiting www.caritas.org.nz and pay by credit card or make a direct transfer to Caritas' bank account.

To pray with the Gospels, you, your parish or family may want to use the Caritas Lenten Reflection Booklets which can be found online. These booklets include prayer and reflection guides incorporating case studies of some of the programmes that funds from the Lent Appeal have helped to support. Translations of these booklets are also available online.

If you haven't already collected your giving envelope for your family, please make sure you do so before leaving today. If you have any questions or comments, please come and see me after Mass and I'll be happy to help you. Thank you for your continued support in enabling lives of dignity and hope.

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

In **Cambodia**, Caritas has a five-year programme which supports indigenous people to improve their farming techniques, adapt their crops to a changing climate, and protect their forests against illegal logging. This is done through Caritas' partnership with Development and Partnership in Action (DPA), and together with DPA Caritas helps to support the development of small-scale farmers' groups and cooperatives in 36 indigenous villages in north-east Cambodia.



In **Fiji**, Caritas supports young people to become self-employed farmers through non-formal training at the Tutu Rural Training Centre. Tutu supports rural training programmes for young farmers and also provides students with the skills, opportunities and tools to run their own small businesses. They train farmers in water and soil management using resilient seed and seedlings, land and crop stability, and organic pest control and fertilisers. Tutu also teaches storm-resilient building and construction.

In **Kiribati**, Caritas' partner Teitoiningaina (the Catholic Women's Association) empowers families to make healthy food choices, improve nutrition and strengthen food supplies in the face of climate change and natural disasters. Teitoiningaina hold community awareness events on good nutrition and food preparation using local sources, and these are done through schools, church groups across denominations, and other community organisations across 19 of Kiribati's inhabited islands.

In **Papua New Guinea**, Caritas' work focuses on sustainable livelihoods, improving health, disaster preparedness and education. Through partnership with Caritas Papua New Guinea, Caritas has provided an integral human development programme to achieve development that improves health and wellbeing and develops more diverse and resilient livelihoods. These programmes are underpinned by a climate change, gender, and inclusion approach, in water and food security, and disaster resilience.

In **Solomon Islands**, Caritas works with both Church and community partners to respond to key needs across the education sector, as well as water and sanitation needs within the community. Rural Training Centres are vocational training institutions that offer agricultural, carpentry and mechanical life skills to empower young people in countries with high youth unemployment and a growing young population, and Caritas works closely with its partner, the Solomon Islands Association of Vocational and Rural Training Centres, to improve trades and training skills and income-earning opportunities.

In **Timor-Leste**, Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI) works with over 600 members across seven provinces to enable women to grow and process food to provide for their families and access small loans to support their business endeavours. Through partnership with HAFOTI, Caritas helps to provide agricultural training which in turn supports women as household decision-makers, productive small business owners and community leaders.

In **Tonga**, Caritas is assisting people to improve their own livelihoods and adapt to the effects of climate change in Tonga through partnership with Caritas Tonga. Caritas helps with emergency preparedness, and during natural disasters such as the 2022 Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption, teams on the ground are able to quickly distribute Caritas pre-positioned emergency supplies to affected communities as soon as possible. These supplies include tarpaulins for shelter, hygiene kits, first aid kits and kitchen sets.



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PARISH NEWSLETTERS

Keep parishioners informed through weekly bulletin notices:

- You can use the Lenten Reflection Programme booklet for ideas relating to the theme (<https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent>).
- Keep it brief and simple.
- You can use material from the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Annual Report to identify where donations were used. Other information related to Caritas projects can be found at www.caritas.org.nz.
- You could thank people for their generosity in recent years.
- You may wish to mention the amount of donations collected from your parish in the previous week.

A suggested parish newsletter notice for the 11 or 18 February 2024 (depending on which Sunday your Parish chooses to distribute the giving envelopes) is below:

The Time is Now! *Ko tenei tonu te Wā!*

The time is now to empower vulnerable families to thrive. Lenten Giving Envelopes for the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024 have been distributed today at Mass. This year, we are using a single giving envelope. By reducing costs, we ensure more of your donations go to those in need. You can give once or weekly, as is your preference. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection or send them to Caritas directly using the freepost option with the envelope. NZ Post specifies that cash must not be sent through the post.

Donations received by Caritas in these envelopes by 31 March 2024 will be sent receipts for the 2023/2024 tax year. Donations received by Caritas after April 1st will be sent receipts for the 2024/2025 tax year.

Thank you for your generous support.

ALMSGIVING
FASTING
PRAYER



LITURGICAL RESOURCES

IDEAS FOR HELPING FOCUS ON THE MEANING OF LENT

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As it is such a significant time in the liturgical calendar, we are aware that most parishes will have their own arrangements and traditions for liturgical celebrations during this time.

As you plan for Lent, you may like to incorporate some of the following suggestions and ideas to continue to remind parishioners that Lent is a time when we reach beyond ourselves to assist people in need, particularly the most poor and vulnerable members of our local and global communities.

Suggestions:

PowerPoint – a Lent PowerPoint on the Caritas website. Some parishes use this as a background for quiet reflection before or after Mass, and others use it as a reflection after Communion, accompanied by quiet music. Individual slides from the PowerPoint can also be incorporated into your own parish PowerPoints, to help highlight the links between the Lenten Gospels and the selected programmes which feature in this year's Lenten Reflection Programme.

Sacred space – some parishes create a sacred space in the Church during Lent to highlight our concern for people in need; this provides an opportunity to light a candle and offer prayers for our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Others might prefer to dedicate a special space on the parish notice board or in the Church foyer that highlights information about how the parish's donations are being used to support Caritas projects and programmes.

Prayers of the Faithful – please consider including a prayer for the project or programme featured on the Lent Appeal envelopes within your Prayers of the Faithful each week. A list of prayers is attached as a starting point – please feel free to adapt and rewrite these to match your own parish expectations and guidelines.

Symbols – you may wish to display different images, objects and symbols that reflect a theme of the Gospel reading for each week of Lent. For example, some parishes may have a bowl of sand on a table in the first week of Lent to symbolise the wilderness and desert.

Opportunity to respond – during prayer, have an opportunity for parishioners to respond to the theme of Lent each week, e.g. light a candle to symbolise the igniting of our hearts and turning again and again to the voice of God.

Music – include relevant hymns and music during prayer and reflection time.



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Please consider including a prayer for the Caritas project featured in the Bishops' Lenten Appeal materials within your Prayers of the Faithful each week during Lent. You may wish to consider incorporating the following prayers. Please feel free to adapt or rewrite according to your parish's own guidelines and expectations.

Week 1: Time for Preparation Te Wā mō te Takatū

E te Ariki, Lord Jesus, as we start our Lenten journey this year, help us to open our hearts and minds to hear Your voice in new ways. Water the seeds of faith to prepare us to help bring Your kingdom here on Earth. Even in challenging times, help us to proclaim the Good News and stand as Your witness at all times and in all things, and in all places.

E te Ariki. *Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

Week 2: Time for Encounter Te Wā mō te Tūtaki

E te Atua o ngā Maunga, God of the Mountains, we stand in awe of You! Sometimes life is tough and Your plan for us is not clear. We choose to follow Your instruction to listen to Jesus more. Let us be transformed by Your light, so that those we encounter will draw closer to You.

E te Ariki. *Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

Week 3: Time for Justice Te Wā mō te Tika

E te Ariki, te Reme o te Atua, Jesus, Lamb of God, help us to see the things we need to change in our lives to be more like You. Give us courage to act justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly even when it may challenge the status quo.

E te Ariki. *Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

Week 4: Time for Love Te Wā mō te Tūtaki

E te Atua o te aroha, God of love, thank you for Your unending love that we experience as Your sons and daughters. We know that You loved us so much that You were prepared to give Your only Son so that we could have life everlasting. Reveal how love could become a common language for us all to understand one another and to share together.

E te Ariki. *Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

Week 5: Time for Sacrifice Te Wā mō te Whakahere

E te Atua o tēnei Wā Tonu, God of the Present moment, help us to see You through Your word and time with others today. Draw us closer to You so that we will hear Your voice and recommit ourselves to serve and follow You.

E te Ariki. *Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

Week 6: Time for Hope Te Wā mō te Tūmanako

E te Atua o te Tūmanako, God of Hope, as we remember the events of Palm Sunday and the Passion of Christ, we are reminded to welcome Jesus into our hearts and choose to follow You. Help us to fix our sight on you and the hope of the resurrection.

E te Ariki. *Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

