



# We're All For Fairtrade!

**How Mass approval or renewal celebrates 30 years of social justice action**

*"The Church's social doctrine is a too little-known resource. This needs to be addressed. Local churches are invited not only to make its contents better known but to foster its reception through practices that put its inspiration into action... There can be no synodality without an ecumenical dimension."*  
In A Synodal Church in Mission Synthesis Report October 2023.



**Inspiration into action was what drove CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Traidcraft, the World Development Movement and the National Federation of Women's Institutes to found the UK Fairtrade movement in 1992.**

**In September 2024, there'll be a special Fairtrade Fortnight** to celebrate 30 years since the first products were certified. So it's an ideal opportunity for parishes to emulate the thousands of towns, schools, universities and businesses in showing the familiar sign of social justice solidarity – by applying for or renewing a Places of Worship Award. En masse.

**The Places of Worship Award is ecumenical:** *"Churches, mosques, synagogues, and other places of worship across the UK have been at the heart of the success of Fairtrade – putting faith into action by using and promoting Fairtrade products and leading public conversation about justice for the farmers and workers we rely on.* The Fairtrade Foundation provide lots of support material. Surprisingly, few UK Catholic parish websites show the familiar sign on their websites or newsletters.

**Getting the Award can be a sign of synodality in action – by parishwide approval.** The Award is not a tough financial or administrative call. Application is on-line, simple and free. Parishes just commit to: use Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar); share information about FairTrade products with the wider congregation; integrate Fairtrade into the life of their place of worship, at Fairtrade Fortnight or other times of the year. The idea might be sown by a PPC or Justice & Peace team, but grown by approval with a show of hands en masse by the parish at Mass – perhaps recommitted annually. That would be something really good to say in any application.

## Some simple other ways to show you're all for Fairtrade

- One idea 'to integrate Fairtrade into parish life' is to display the familiar sign on websites and in newsletters, as an instant sign of social justice commitment - to parishioners, newcomers, visitors, returners, and schools.
- If you're looking for a present for a priest or deacon, how about a Fairtrade clerical shirt from specialists such as [www.fairtradeclergyshirts.co.uk](http://www.fairtradeclergyshirts.co.uk).
- Parishioners might help compile a list of Fairtrade retailers in the area.
- Maybe make a We're All For Fairtrade sign outside the church for the Fortnights.
- Invite a Fairtrade School or other community to share their ethos and experience.



**This suggestion comes from Hugh Gibbons** Conductor of Just1 who has long been a Fairtrade user & enthusiast – and was on the working party that saw Portsmouth become one of the first Fairtrade dioceses, in 2005.

More at [www.just1.org.uk/fairtrade2024](http://www.just1.org.uk/fairtrade2024)

Overleaf is a simple talk to get Mass approval for the Places of Worship Award





# We're All For Fairtrade

## A suggestion for a talk to seek Mass approval for getting the Places of Worship Award

NB1 Use a big Fairtrade logo or other prop – eg inflatable banana

NB2 The presenter might be from another Place of Worship



**The familiar Fairtrade symbol shows a figure with a hand in the air.** And the hope is that you'll do the same in approving an action by the parish in support of Fairtrade.

- The UK Fairtrade movement was founded in 1992, and CAFOD playing a leading role. The first products were certified in 1994.
- You can buy over 6000 products with the Fairtrade mark in all sorts and sizes of retail outlets selling coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, cold drinks and juice, honey, cotton, wine, clothing, chocolate, flowers, beauty and wellness products spices, gold, bananas – and shirts for parish priests
- Its appeal continues to grow strongly despite pressure on family budgets. In the 2022 Fairtrade Report, sales were up 14%. So it's been a way for people to feel good about themselves.
- In September 2024, there'll be a special Fairtrade Fortnight to celebrate 30 years since the first products were certified. So it's an ideal opportunity for Churches, mosques, synagogues, and other places of worship to show that they've joined with the thousands of towns, schools, universities and businesses displaying the familiar sign of social justice solidarity.
- **Parishes can apply for a new or renewed Places of Worship Award –** to show they're all for Fairtrade – and celebrate 30 years of public support for its social justice action.
- The Award is not a tough financial or administrative call for parishes. To get the Award, we need to show simple commitment. In our application for the Award, we want to be able say that we asked our parishioners to approve, and the great majority were in favour. So...
  - Do you agree that in parish events we should use Fairtrade products wherever possible – such as tea, coffee and sugar? If Yes, just raise a hand like the Fairtrade symbol.
  - Do you agree that we should share information about other FairTrade products with parishioners? (We've done that in listing some!) Yes?
  - And do you agree we should integrate Fairtrade into the life of the parish - at Fairtrade Fortnight or other times of the year? Yes?
  - One way we can achieve that is to put the Fairtrade symbol on the parish website and a note in our newsletters -for the benefit of newcomers and visitors. So do you agree to that? Yes?

Many thanks for being all for Fairtrade.



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