

J&P Update January-February 2012

## Thirst for change

### Lent CAFOD Campaign

**884 million people don't have clean water.**

Taps and toilets save lives – they're vital for health, education and dignity. The Millennium Development Goals recognise this, as have the G8 and the UK in the past. But 884 million people still lack clean water, 2.6 billion are without safe sanitation, and climate change threatens to affect millions more.

Our faith calls us to act – to let justice flow like a river. Women and children in the poorest countries spend up to eight hours each day collecting water. This robs them of their chance to earn a living, go to school, or simply spend time together as a family.

**Help CAFOD to turn the tide on water poverty - email David Cameron and call on him to lead the world in demanding clean water and safe sanitation for all.**

Find a suggested email to send to the Prime Minister at

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/thirst>

## One woman's story

**It is 5am and Esther hasn't slept. She has been up queuing for water**

Three nights a week, Esther lies awake, listening for the splash of water on concrete. This is her cue to run from her bed and get in line. She won't be alone. Esther will queue for hours – in the moonlight – to collect water before the village tap runs dry.

"I can't catch up on the sleep I miss" she says. "I'll be so tired but I have no choice... Whenever there is water I have to go and draw it as we don't know when there will be another drop."

The Zambian government cannot afford to continually pump water to Esther's village. So when the tap stops flowing, she has to draw untreated water from the river – which Esther knows could make her family sick. Her children have had dysentery and Ricy, her husband, nearly died from cholera.

**Don't these injustices make you thirst for change?**

Visit <http://www.cafod.org.uk/> to see how you can help.

"Let justice flow like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" Amos 5:24