

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

3rd – 18th May



Fair Trade – Linking communities around the world

Food prices are rising fast and many more people are struggling to find what they need to eat. In countries from Haiti to the Philippines to Egypt there have been food riots as people demand their right to food. The rise in prices may not have been so dramatic if more of the world's farmers had been allowed to stay on their land. Buying fairtrade provides tangible benefits for small-scale farmers and workers. The Fair Trade Association estimates that over 7 million workers, farmers and their families in 58 developing countries benefited from the better return made on the fair trade market. The fairtrade premium used for local development adds to the benefits for their community. They have better health care and education as well as technical and marketing assistance. Fairtrade encourages farmers to be more environmentally sustainable by using integrated farm management systems which minimize pollutants, pesticides and herbicides and rely on organic techniques.

Globally the fairtrade market is expanding as people realize how it benefits those who need it most by beginning to address some of the inequalities in global trade. From 2006 to 2007 the fair trade market increased by 42%. Since Fairtrade Certified and Labelled products were first launched in Australia and New Zealand in September 2003, retailers have sold goods worth over AU \$25 million. Each year buying fairtrade is becoming easier as more shops, cafes and supermarkets build on the groundbreaking work of Trade Aid. It is a choice that many of us can make even if it is only by deciding to buy one item fairtrade. CWS is encouraging churches to take that step and commit themselves to buying their tea and coffee fairtrade every Sunday.

Fair trade ensures a better deal for impoverished producers in developing countries through:

- A fair and stable price for their products
- Security of long term contracts
- Investment in local community development
- Improved working conditions
- Environmentally sustainable farming methods
- Support in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to operate successfully in the global economy



Preparation

CWS has additional resources including DVD material, a FairTrade Association PowerPoint presentation on coffee and a short CWS PowerPoint on fair trade. The DVD Black Gold is available or you might also like to invite a speaker from your local Trade Aid shop (www.tradeaid.org.nz), CWS or a local farmer who might reflect on growing food.

If you are planning to serve fair trade tea and coffee you may need to organise extra coffee plungers or similar. Someone in the church might be interested in making something special for morning tea using the fairtrade range of food products which include cocoa and spices. Make a simple sign saying, 'We serve fairtrade tea and coffee' to let everyone know what they are drinking.

Setting up the Worship Centre

You may like to provide a central focus with a basket of coffee beans or some fair traded goods or even a supermarket trolley.

Fairtrade Coffee

The Asosiasi Petani Kopi Lington Organik Association (APKLO) is a Fairtrade Certified coffee cooperative in Sumatra, Indonesia. Smallholder coffee farmers formed the cooperative to be free from exploitative middlemen who fixed prices that kept them marginalised.



“When I was young, I had to look for work in the cities. Now because of Fairtrade we are living together to make a good living right here in our own community.”

Gani Silaban, APKLO

They have set aside a proportion of their Fairtrade Premium for a student scholarship programme dedicated to helping farmers who cannot afford to send their children to college.

Children’s Talk

Make placards as below and find some fair trade chocolate—perhaps enough to share. Ask for a group of volunteers, who can act the part spontaneously. You will need:

- Cocoa worker (who also has some camouflaged chocolate, perhaps with a few lines to read out as below)
- Cocoa farmer
- Cocoa purchaser
- Cocoa Exporter
- Cocoa Importer
- Chocolate Producer
- Chocolate Importer (New Zealand)
- Chocolate Seller (eg shop or supermarket)
- A child from the congregation.

Tell the congregation that it is Fair Trade Sunday and you need some chocolate. Now ask the child to ask the chocolate seller if they could please have some chocolate. Pass it down the line as in Chinese Whispers. When it gets to the cocoa worker, he/she can say “I worked long hours to grow the cocoa beans that are in this chocolate but I may never get to taste it. Enjoy.” The next person can say, “Here is some chocolate” and pass the whisper and chocolate along the line for all to share.

Biblical Reflection

The readings have been chosen from the lectionary for Pentecost Sunday and show the bonds of humanity that link life on the planet across boundaries and through history.

“when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.” Psalm 104:28 b

Acts 2:1-21

For the Jewish people the Feast of Weeks commemorates the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai and a celebration of the harvest. For those who are Christian it is also the time of the birth of the church when people (Jews and proselytes or converts) gathered from as far away as Africa and Asia and heard the Gospel in their native languages. The richness of the human family must have been palpable. It was into this gathering that the Holy Spirit came in a way that they had never before experienced. It is also the setting for Peter’s first sermon when he makes reference to the Day of the Lord (v20), thereby signalling the beginning of the new age.

Psalm 104:24-34,35b

This is a hymn in praise of God’s creation—from the sea to the trembling earth and smoking mountains (v32) and for all that lives on it. God is the source of all life and it is on this which we should meditate (v34).

John 7:37-39

The festival referred to in v37 is the festival of booths or tabernacles (Sukkoth). It involved ceremonies where water was poured out and great lights were lit in the temple. Jesus suggests that he is the source of the life giving water (v37-8). In the verses not read v40-52 John records how people responded to his words. In v41 some ask whether a person from the Galilee can be the Messiah. Galilee is not region from where leaders come. Obviously Jesus’ listeners were impressed by what he has to say and the temple police reported back to the Pharisees. Nicodemus (v50-51) tried to defend Jesus but eventually acquiesced to his colleagues.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

In the first century gifts came with strings attached. Goods given required repayment in some way or form. Accepting a gift from God requires our response and loyalty. The gifts are not for the individual but the group (v7). Paul (in v 12-13) offers the powerful symbol of the church as the body in which all members have their function whether Jew, Hellenist Jew, slave or free. The essential unity and equality of the Christian community is at the heart of Paul’s message. To respect each member means that we have a responsibility to ensure that all people are fed and have what they need for a life with dignity. This is a challenge to us today.

Opening Prayer

Leader

Come Holy Spirit
Come as the fire that enlivens a winter night
Come as the tongue of truth that teaches us
understanding
Come as the rushing wind that blows the warmth of
your love

People

We come

**To worship and praise your holy name
Seeking new hope in our life together
With open hearts and minds.**

Amen

Fair Trade hymn

Tune: ST DENIO
(Special thanks to Shirley Murray)

Good neighbours, forgive us –
we do not play fair;
those marketplace forces
determine our share,
 in trading, in aiding
 economy's role
 we've had to exchange
 dollar notes for our soul.

Good neighbours, remind us
of just how you toil –
the long hours of labour,
the working of soil,
 the profit from harvests
 that you never see,
 so we can keep drinking
 your coffee and tea.

Our own trade agreements
leave no time to heed
the cost of your labour,
your hunger and need,
 your children who swelter
 in poverty's lap,
 your people's enslavement
 in poverty's trap.

Good neighbours, allow us
deep feelings of shame,
with ways to recapture
our country's good name –
 consumers with conscience,
 respecting your role,
are brokers of justice
to save our own soul.

Prayer of Approach

God who created the earth and all that lives on it
We give thanks for what we have:
Food to eat
Water to drink
Friends and family
Response: Help us to share them with others.

We give thanks for what you have given us:
The Spirit that warms and leads us into new places
The Word that wraps itself around our lives
The Hope we have in Jesus Christ, your Son.
Response: Help us to share them with others.

We give thanks for what you continue to offer us:
A faith that is bigger than we can imagine
A hope that leads us towards a better world for
everyone.
And a love that offers mercy and forgiveness to
those in need.
Response: Help us to share them with others.

For the sake of your people.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen

Prayer for Others

Loving God
We come together aware of our brokenness and our
failure to make your love and concern for the whole
world visible.
We pray for those who do not have food, who suffer
because our world has lost sight of our common
humanity, where the rich gobble up the world's
resources leaving not even crumbs for those who
have been made homeless by greed.
**Response: Lord teach us to act justly, sharing
with those in need.**

We pray for those who are pushed to the corners of
the earth, forced to work in dangerous conditions for
long hours, children who are enslaved and cannot
go to school, older people who struggle to
contribute, young people who feel compelled to
leave their home and families to work overseas. We
pray for those who grow the food we eat, make the
clothes we wear and provide the services that we
need. These are the chains that link us to every
person on the planet in the circle of creation.
**Response: Lord teach us to act justly, sharing
with those in need.**

We pray for your church, on this the anniversary of
its birth. Inspire us with your Spirit to live more
boldly, supporting those who seek to make trade fair
and who speak out when justice is not done.
**Response: Lord teach us to act justly, sharing
with those in need.**

In your name we pray
Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Creator God, we give thanks for all that you have given to us:
the food that nourishes our body,
Friends and family who nurture our spirit and
Your love that binds us together.
We offer ourselves and our gifts in your service to
our broken world.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

May the God who burns like a fire, who speaks through the many tongues of humanity and who blows through the cobwebs of our lives, guide us and strengthen us as we seek to reach out to others with the love that nourishes us with food and hope.
Amen

Take Action

- Pray for the millions of small farmers and workers struggling to make ends meet and for those supporting the Fair trade movement.
- Invite someone to speak to your parish or have a discussion about fair trade and food prices.
- Hold a special morning tea for **A Fair Cuppa** on one or all Sundays through Fair Trade Fortnight May 3—18. It can be as simple as serving tea and coffee or you may like to use other fair-trade ingredients to make special food. Further resource materials (including posters) are available from CWS. You may like to hold a special offering for the campaigning work undertaken by CWS or for an emergency appeal.
- Become a Fairtrade Church, by serving fair-trade tea and coffee after services. For more information, including how to get a certificate, contact CWS.
- Order supplies from Trade Aid for your parish. You might like to work as a cooperative, with one person taking orders for the congregation or hold a sales table using the proceeds for a fundraiser. CWS partners all work with poor people and through the Good Neighbours programme you can support one partner and receive regular news of their work.
- Support the Supermarket Campaign. Check out: <http://www.checkoutfairtrade.org.nz/>
- Join the international campaign to change international trade rules and practices. Contact CWS for more information.



Are you a Fair Trade Church?

Make your commitment to fairtrade year round by becoming a Fair Trade Church. So far there have been nearly 30 churches who have registered through the joint CWS and Trade Aid scheme. It is quite simple. The church needs to make a formal agreement to support the Fair Trade movement by purchasing Fairtrade certified tea and coffee (hot chocolate and sugar are optional extras) and by promoting fair trade especially during Fair Trade Fortnight. For an information kit check out: <http://www.cws.org.nz/> or contact CWS.



For further information:

Trade Aid:
<http://www.tradeaid.co.nz/Home>

Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand:
<http://www.fairtrade.org.nz/>

From the Fairtrade Foundation, UK
Ideas for churches:
http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_ideas_for_churches.htm
http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_faiths.htm

Global Exchange, USA
<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/>



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