

# Poor Clares Sisters Back CAFOD Power to Be Campaign!

A group of Nottingham religious sisters living an enclosed life are still making their voices heard after backing a campaign to promote renewable energy.

The Poor Clares Sisters devote their life to prayer and have pledged their support to CAFOD's Power to Be campaign.

The sisters live at the Poor Clare Monastery in Bulwell and have decided to promote Power to Be, which focuses on how support-

ing cleaner, renewable forms of energy can help people living in poverty around the world. Sister Francis Linuscotieno is one of the Poor Clares nuns, who usually live in the same Monastery their whole life.

She said: "We are delighted to get involved with CAFOD's Power to Be campaign, as we are well aware of the devastating effects climate change is having.

"We know that CAFOD can make a real dif-



Power to Be promotes the use of renewable energy



ference and we hope that our small contribution can help them on their way. As we are neighbours of CAFOD Volunteer Centre, we are kept up to date of all fundraising and campaigning activities".

CAFOD representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "We are delighted that the Poor Clares Sisters have joined forces with CAFOD and together we can make a big impact.

"The sisters are incredibly devoted to their life of faith and contemplation – everybody can learn an awful lot from them. We enjoy being neighbours!"

## Ad-Venture

Taking time to reflect on the plight of Christians unable to practice their faith freely was the modest plan during Advent for a Parish Justice and Peace Group in Leicester.

At the ordinary Saturday morning 'Open Church', carried on after the successful Door of Mercy project throughout the Year of Mercy, Blessed Sacrament Church parishioners gathered to pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world. On each of the four Saturdays of Advent, they heard a different short testament of challenges facing Christians today. Prayerful reflection followed by a little discussion, and praying of the rosary brought some helpful perspective to Christmas.

Organiser, Theresa Alessandro said, "We wanted to take time out from the frantic pace of 'commercial' Christmas preparations and think about those who are unable to safely live and practice their faith."

"To think that it is so dangerous for some of our sisters and brothers around the world to live as a Christian is something that makes me feel very thankful for my freedom," said one participant.

A visitor, who was not a Catholic, also called by to join in, compelled to offer thanksgiving.

The Parish Priest, Father John Joe Maloney was also on hand, as usual on a Saturday morning, for spiritual advice and the Sacrament of Confession. He, and those coming together for the Ad-Venture, enjoyed home made mince pies and a hot drink after each session. Altogether four hours during Advent but a welcome haven of prayerful quiet away from the otherwise noisy lead up to Christmas 2017.

## 'Fascinating' Floral Art Afternoon in Eastwood

There was a 'fascinating' afternoon of floral art in Eastwood to raise money for communities in Ethiopia.



There was some impressive floral art

The event was held in Eastwood Town Council offices by the Our Lady of Good Counsel CAFOD Group in aid of Connect2.

Connect2 is built on CAFOD's values of solidarity and partnership, where parishes in the UK are able to stand alongside communities overseas to fight against poverty and injustice. Through Connect2, the CAFOD group at Our Lady of Good Counsel is linked with groups in Sebeya, in the dry, arid north of Ethiopia.

Elaine Oliver said: "The title was Christmas memories and the demonstration given by Maria Kirk, a member of the parish CAFOD group.

"As she told fascinating stories of her Christmases past, she worked on the arrangements, much to the delight of the audience, many of whom were not parishioners. For some it was a time of meeting old friends whom they had not seen for some time.

"There was also a table of hand made gifts, made by Maria and a selection of books by our local author, Angela Rigley. After the demonstration the arrangements became raffle prizes."

The evening raised an impressive £244 for communities in Ethiopia, where around a quarter of the population live in extreme poverty.

CAFOD representative in Nottingham, Maggie Mairura, said: "The Our Lady of Good Counsel CAFOD group have done some amazing fundraising for Connect2 and this



Money raised went to CAFOD's Connect2 scheme

is another example of an original and innovative idea.

"As always, I can't wait to see what they come up with next!"