

Palm Sunday Bazaar at St Henry's on April 9

Caritas Finland's traditional Palm Sunday Bazaar will be held at St Henry's Parish Hall from 10.30 on Palm Sunday, April 9. There will be hot food, coffee, baked goods and a lottery and we will be selling monastery chocolates to raise funds for Caritas.



Volunteers are needed to get everything organised for the bazaar on Saturday, April 8, as well as on the Sunday. We are also looking for prizes for the raffle. Please bring things that are suitable for the bazaar (but no books, please) to the Caritas office in Kuusitie 6 at 10–17 on weekdays or by agreement no later than Friday, April 7. Please contact **Sara Nevalainen** if you can be one of the bazaar volunteers (sara.nevalainen@caritas.fi, mobile 0469614019)

Palm Sunday Bazaar at St Henry's Parish Hall on April 9th from 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Welcome!

Next Caritas Social Café in Kuusitie on April 19th

Caritas Finland launched a Social Café in its new premises at Kuusitie 6 in Helsinki in March and our Social Café opens again at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19!

One Wednesday a month our volunteers serve coffee and sandwiches at our office. During the spring season, please feel welcome to join us from 3 to 5 p.m. on April 19, May 17 and June 14!



AGM at St Mary's on April 25

Caritas Finland's Annual General Meeting will be held on the 25th of April from 4.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall at St Mary's. The address is Mäntytie 2, 00270 Helsinki. Entry to the Parish Hall is to the right of the church.

The guest speaker at this year's AGM is *Mari-Anna Pöntinen*, Secretary General of the Finnish Ecumenical Council. She will speak (in Finnish) about the ecumenical situation in Finland and, among other things, freedom of religion.

Coffee will be served at the meeting. **Welcome!**



Lenten Action Collection supports women in Tamil Nadu, India

The funds raised through Caritas Finland's Lenten Action will be used to fund a project through our partner organisation in southern India. The project supports women's groups and organic farming training for women in five villages in rural Tamil Nadu. Caste discrimination is a problem in the region, as are poverty and increasingly drought. Traditionally women have low standing and Caritas

Finland has been working with its local partner organisation to empower women since 1999.

The women are organised in groups that offer microcredit and provide training, such as helping to improve reading and writing skills, bookkeeping, health care and democracy. With the support of Caritas Finland, women can take part in organic farming workshops and learn, among other things, how to produce organic fertilisers. They are also encouraged to set up their own organic farming projects. There are also plans to improve marketing as well as the refining and processing of produce in order to improve living conditions.



Blog from India in Finnish: Caritas Finland's volunteers Sara Nevalainen and Pertti Ylinen visited Tamil Nadu last year. You can still read their travel blog (in Finnish) at www.caritas.fi/intia-blogi-2016

Caritas Account: Danske Bank FI73 8000 1270 1545 04, the reference number for the Lenten Collection is 2257.

For more information about the collection, please go to: www.caritas.fi/lent

Collection Permit: POL-2015-1542



Become an Ambassador for the Ecumenical Responsibility Week

Do you have immigrant background and consider women's and girls' rights important? Would you like to share your own experience and thus promote understanding between different cultures? You are welcome to join the Ambassadors' network for the Ecumenical Responsibility Week!

The Responsibility Week is a human rights campaign of all Finnish churches and many Christian organizations. In 2017, the campaign's topic is *"With my voice"*. The purpose of the campaign is to promote the importance of gender equality and help girls and women to raise their voices.


The objective of the Ambassadors' work is to increase understanding of girls' and women's condition in developing countries and countries affected by conflict, as well as of challenges immigrant women face in Finland. The campaign aims at creating space for mutual learning between the Ambassadors and the general public.

Ambassadors will receive a one-day training in Spring 2017, and the Campaign Coordinator will support them throughout their assignment. The Ambassadors will not be paid, but the Finnish Ecumenical Council will reimburse costs related to the visits. **Interested?** You'll find more information [here](#) and in pdf format [here](#).



Membership fee for 2017

It's that time of the year when you need to pay your membership fee for Caritas Finland: The fee for Caritas' membership is €20/year and it is paid into Caritas Finland's account **FI73 8000 1270 1545 04 using the reference number 2215.**

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