

## 2007 BACKPACK APPEAL

Dear Head Teacher,

Firstly, thank you for all your help over the years with the shoebox appeals which have gone to needy children in many countries.

Like last year, our Partners this year are SIR, another Medjugorje inspired charity, who have come up with the BACK PACK project, where rather than a shoebox the children fill a backpack or school bag with the items listed overleaf.

The lack of items we take for granted like pens and pencils and notebooks are the main obstacle in preventing children in Africa from getting an education which in turn could enable them to escape poverty. SIR combine this with their "Mary's Meals" initiative where-by they ensure every child gets at least one meal whilst at school, its hard to learn on an empty stomach!

Last year SIR collected in some 20,000 backpacks from schools in Scotland which went to Malawi. This year, with your help we hope to help them extend this project in England too and help give the children in Africa a future.

As in previous years please give £1.50 to £2 per bag/pack for our transport costs etc.. please collect this in for us and issue a cheque/cash to cover the appropriate number of boxes to our account name "Manchester Medjugorje Appeal". We would also ask that each child adopt the child who will receive their backpack in their hearts and pray for them every day.

The deadline for this years appeal is mid-November to accommodate the likely shipping schedule. A few schools last year didn't participate as it was quite a lot to ask of parents so, perhaps we could suggest that each class could make a few backpacks "collectively" say one backpack between 2 pupils (or more) to limit the costs for parents to give everyone the opportunity to take part.

Thanks & God Bless you all,

Steve Clark

### **A few facts**

- There are 300 million chronically hungry children in the world - most don't go to school.
- But research shows that basic education is the single most effective way of escaping the poverty trap.
- Mary's Meals encourages poor children to go to school
- Just £5 provides Mary's Meals for a child in Malawi for one year

### **Delivery Point:**

St Alphonsus Parish Centre (behind the church), Powell St, Old Trafford, Manchester.  
Call 0161-881-5664 to make arrangements or 0791-379-4430 in Coventry



# 2007 BACKPACK APPEAL WANTED ITEMS

Please fill the Backpack with the following items, indicating whether the pack is for a boy or girl and the age range. Please give £1.50 to £2 per bag/pack for our transport costs etc..

- TOWELS**
- SHORTS**
- T-SHIRTS**
- SUMMER DRESS/SKIRT**
- FLIP-FLOPS/SANDALS**
- SMALL BALL (E.G. TENNIS BALL)**
- SOAP**
- TOOTHBRUSH**
- TOOTHPASTE**
- SPOON**

- JOTTERS/NOTEPADS**
- PENCILS**
- PENS**
- CRAYONS**
- ERASERS**
- RULERS**
- SHARPENERS**
- PENCIL CASE**

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