



Terminology:

- “fair trade” refers to the concept as used by the wider fair trade movement.
- “Fairtrade” (ie one word) refers to the specific labelling system.

What is Fairtrade?

Fair trade is an international movement which ensures that producers in poor countries get a fair deal. This means a fair price for their goods, one that covers the cost of production and guarantees a sustainable livelihood; long-term contracts which provide income security; and, for many, support to gain the knowledge and skills that they need to develop their businesses and increase sales.

The Fair trade system also means more environmentally sustainable farming practices and improved community services through the Fair trade premium that enables communities to build a health centre, buy desks and books for the local school or set up a micro-credit scheme to help farmers diversify their sources of income.

Australia is the fastest growing Fairtrade market in the world with Fairtrade coffee sales rising around 50% from 2006 to 2007.

What can you do?

You are encouraged to hold a “Coffee Break” for Fair Trade Fortnight (3–18 May). It’s as simple as organising a Fairtrade morning or afternoon tea in your workplace, community, school or home. All you have to do is invite your colleagues and friends and buy more Fairtrade coffee and tea if you need it. Fairtrade coffee and tea are available at health food stores, Oxfam shops and other retailers. You might like to add some other treats to your coffee break such as cakes, scones or Fairtrade chocolate.

You don't have to organise an event to be part of Fair Trade Fortnight. Below are some great ideas that you can carry out yourself that will get you and your friends and family involved.

- **Bake it!** add some Fairtrade ingredients to your recipes.
- **Taste it!** Invite family and friends to your own fair trade coffee and chocolate tasting event.
- **Kick it!** Have a soccer, rugby or touch match using Fairtrade sports balls or substitute your teams balls for Fairtrade balls.
- **Watch it!** If you can't make it to a screening of Black Gold.
- **Change it!** Swap the coffee, tea and sugar in your workplace to fair trade.

Visit the following site for further information:
www.oxfam.org.au

“The economy should work for people, and not the other way around” (Economic Justice for All: U.S. Catholic Bishops). For many years, the Catholic Church has confirmed that the “constitutive purpose” of the economy is to serve the common good. When we make the conscious decision to purchase Fair Trade items, we are putting the values of Catholic Social Teaching into action, and working to realize our vision of economic justice.

The trade pledge prayer *(Peter Graystone/Christian Aid)*

I dare to pray: Lord, let the world be changed,
for I long to see the end of poverty;
I dare to pray: Lord, let the rules be changed,
for I long to see trade bring justice to the poor;
I dare to pray: Lord, let my life be changed,
for I long to bring hope where good news is needed.
In the strength of your Spirit
and inspired by Your compassion,
I make this promise to work for change,
and wait confidently for the day
when You make all things new.
Amen