

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ST JOHN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL, PORTSMOUTH**

#### **RELEASE IMMEDIATE**

**Date of release: 1 April 2005**

Michelle McGannon spent two years working in Africa on a palliative care distance learning programme for Hospice Africa Uganda. On returning to her native Portsmouth, Michelle spearheaded this year's Lenten Appeal under the direction of the Justice & Peace Group of St John's Catholic Cathedral to raise money to comfort people in Africa suffering from AIDS and cancer. Over the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter 2005, £3366.62 was raised for palliative care in the Salima Catholic Diocese of Malawai.

## **STARTS**

### **COMFORT AMID SUFFERING**

Portsmouth's own Michelle McGannon spent two years working in Africa where she suffered from acute malaria while working on a distance learning programme for Hospice Africa Uganda to bring comfort to those suffering from AIDS and cancer.

On returning to her native Portsmouth, Michelle spearheaded this year's Lenten Appeal under the direction of the Justice & Peace Group of St John's Catholic Cathedral to raise money to help comfort those continuing to suffer. 'We take so much for granted,' Michelle pointed out, 'yet for these people who are so poor, even a little financial help can go such a long way.'

Over the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter 2005, £3366.62 was raised at St John's for palliative care in the Salima Catholic Diocese of Malawai.

Canon David Hopgood, Parish Priest and Cathedral Dean, commenting on the success of Michelle's appeal, said: 'We are pleased at the Cathedral to be bringing relief to those who suffer. I applaud Michelle's efforts and the generosity of our congregation who care and are prepared to show they care.'

## **ENDS**

Notes to Editors

For further information and photo opportunities please contact:

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