

CARITAS PLYMOUTH NEWS

The first Newsletter for Caritas Plymouth

In this issue:

- Launch of Caritas Plymouth
- Community Sponsorship
- World Day of the Poor
- Transformation Cornwall
- Laudato Si
- St Petrocs

Launch of Caritas Plymouth

Bishop Mark O'Toole welcomed 104 attendees and speakers from across England to the Launch of Caritas Plymouth on Saturday 18 May. Caritas Plymouth has been established to exercise the Ministry of Charity across the diocese.

All the Catholic charities, parishes and schools have been involved in the development of a Strategic Plan for Caritas Plymouth. One of the first priorities is Community Sponsorship and Caritas Plymouth was delighted to welcome Sean Ryan, the national Catholic Co-ordinator based at Caritas Salford. Phil McCarthy, Chief Executive of the national Caritas Social Action Network, welcomed Caritas Plymouth to the Caritas family.

Angela Folland, Headteacher of St Nicholas Catholic Primary School where the event was held, gave examples of the school's social action and how Caritas Plymouth could help and support this activity in schools in the future.

“For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is part of her nature.”

Pope Benedict XVI in Deus Caritas Est



The event concluded with a Celebration Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark O'Toole. Bishop Mark prayed that Caritas Plymouth will provide fresh impetus to put the new command of the Lord into practise;

‘Love one another as I have loved you’, (John 13:34-35).



Community Sponsorship

“The Community Sponsorship scheme personalises a huge, human drama, by enabling local communities to welcome and support refugees in a real and tangible way. This scheme opens a path for people to respond with compassion, providing welcome and integration and should be taken up as widely as possible.”

Cardinal Nichols

The first Catholic Community Sponsorship Group, in the Sidmouth parish, has started work on their Home Office application to welcome a family to Sidmouth.

Community groups need to raise £9,000 for the immediate needs of their family and to find accommodation for them for at least the first two years. They are also responsible for helping the family access medical services, schools, welfare benefits and translators.



Caritas Plymouth will be the Lead Sponsor and responsible for policies such as Safeguarding and Complaints for all parishes and schools interested in applying. There are various resources available. Please contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk for more information.



World Day of the Poor

‘The hope of the poor shall not perish for ever’

This is the theme of Pope Francis’ Message for the World Day of the Poor on Sunday 17 November 2019.

Caritas Plymouth will be holding their third event looking at the causes of

poverty and its impact in the run up to the World Day of the Poor.

The event will include sharing thoughts and ideas about how parishes can mark the World Day of the Poor and looking at Pope Francis’ Message.

Saturday 12 October 2019

10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

St Rita’s Centre, Honiton

The free event includes a buffet lunch.

Limited space – booking essential.

Please contact: caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

Modern Slavery

The fourth event organised by Caritas Plymouth will look at Modern Slavery.

The event will be led by Bishop Mark O’Toole.

It will be held on Saturday 7 March at St Boniface College, Plymouth.

Please contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk to book a place.



Mini Vinnies project

The St Vincent de Paul Society, SVP, is a Catholic lay organisation which in the spirit of justice and charity helps those suffering from poverty in whatever form.

Works include visiting the lonely, elderly and isolated, soup runs, food banks, giving grants to those in need, debt counselling and assisting refugees and asylum seekers.

There are four age categories of Youth SVP, and during the next twelve months our Plymouth Central Council SVP will be engaged in a project to increase the number of Mini Vinnies, small organised groups of children in our Catholic primary schools, who will be doing good deeds suitable for their age.

Transformation Cornwall

Members of The Diocese of Truro's Mission Forum group in partnership with Transformation Cornwall and the NHS Mental Health Chaplaincy group, are planning 'A Day on Faith and Mental Health'.

The day will be held on Saturday 5th October 2019, at Truro Methodist Church.

If you require any more information then please contact Nicole Taylor on 01872 274351 (ext. 211). taylor@truro.anglican.org

Getting together

Caritas Plymouth is the 13th diocesan Caritas established in England and Wales since Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis called for the Ministry of Charity to be better organised. All the diocesan Caritas organisations are part of a national organisation, Caritas Social Action Network. Caritas Plymouth recently hosted a visit from South West members and enjoyed celebrating Mass together at Buckfast Abbey.

From left to right in the picture are Catherine Knight from Caritas Portsmouth, Stephen Hicks from Caritas Clifton, Jim Barnaville from Caritas Cardiff, Canon John Deeny and Zoe from Caritas Plymouth, Kevin Gallagher from Caritas Portsmouth and Ged Edwards from CSAN.



Apostleship of the Sea

Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) in the South West has been busy over the last few months. We continue to visit seafarers on board ships whilst they are alongside in our Ports. We take with us newspapers, prayer cards and confectionary which are received with gratitude. We continue to maintain the seafarer's room in Teignmouth and Plymouth.

These rooms are vital to the seafarers as they can access the internet and talk to their loved ones, as well as relax away from their vessel for a short while. The weekend of July 13th/14th is Sea Sunday. During mass we remember all seafarers and the hard life they endure in order to bring us 95% of our goods.

On July 3rd Hannah Forrest (Ship visitor Plymouth) received the overall youth award "Pope Francis Award" for her voluntary work with AoS. This award was presented to her by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

‘Laudato Si’, mi Signore’

Praised be to you my Lord (Canticle of St Francis)

On the 29th June 2019, a group of people from the Dorset Deanery came together to review the message of the Encyclical Letter entitled “Laudato Si’”, published in May 2015 by Pope Francis. No one who has seen the Blue Planet can be in any doubt of the risks our planet is in and the option of doing nothing is not available to us.

We heard from Ellen Teague, Writer, Activist and Media Desk person for the Columbans, who has written on this topic extensively and has travelled to places where the climate crisis will have its first permanent impact beyond strangely variable weather.

David Wells presented concisely on the Pope’s suggested - See, Judge, Act - Celebrate - and those present considered with suggestions from Ellen what they might do in their parishes to begin to make a contribution to dealing with the situation.

The urgency denoted by the word ‘crisis’ demanded action and action now - by individuals, parishes, communities, towns, cities and countries. No one was exempt.

As Christians, we have a particular responsibility for God’s creation because our faith depends upon it. For Caritas, love in action, everything we do from now must be seen through the lens of its impact on creation, both immediately and consequentially as a result of what we do. We have seen. We can now judge and we must be acting, at all levels, without delay.

Deacon Nick Johnson, St Mary’s, Poole

St Petrocs launch a book of poems by clients, volunteers and staff.

St Petrocs’ work in Cornwall to assist the homeless continues. As fast as they re-house people, more people flow on to the streets behind them. Last year they were involved in re-housing 581 people. The number of people sleeping rough on a typical night in Cornwall was reduced from 68 to 53.



Every client has different needs and aspirations, so they reflect this in their services by having a wide variety of opportunities. Last winter they offered clients, staff and volunteers the chance to take part in a series of poetry workshops and a poetry competition. The response was so positive that they have published a book containing some of the work entitled “Stones in Our Hands”.

The book was launched at the Royal Cornwall Show on the 6th June where readings of some of the poems were delivered by clients, staff, board members and funders of the project, to a moved audience. Copies of the book are available through their website.

They remain committed to offering those who have been forced to sleep rough, good quality services where they are not only safe, but also given the opportunity to prosper.

Find out more at: www.stpetrocs.org.uk

The Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) appoints a new fundraiser

The Board of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth), which has 10 volunteer trustees from across the diocese, is pleased to welcome Vicki Dunstone to its small team based at St Boniface House in Ashburton.



Pictured left to right: Caroline, Vicki and Lydia

Vicki Dunstone is our new Fundraiser and Communications Officer replacing Claire Warren, who for the last 8 years did a wonderful job raising funds and increasing the charity's profile across the diocese. Having worked in a local CAST school for the last 6 years and with a wealth of marketing and fundraising experience, Vicki is looking forward to continuing the great work undertaken by her predecessor, and to finding innovative and fun ways such as linking with our schools in the diocese to help raise much needed funds for the charity.

Vicki joins Lydia Keogh, who is responsible for our Grant Essentials Programme to relieve the urgent material needs of children, young people and families through the provision of financial assistance to those in dire need. Last year, CCSP raised £50,000 and was able to provide over £33,000 in grant funding and we hope to be able to support even more families over the next couple of years. One in five children living in the South West are living in poverty and in some areas of the region, poverty is even more severe. Many parents and carers, despite working, find their income does not meet their basic needs such as providing a working cooker, warm clothes in the winter or a proper bed to sleep in. And then when circumstances change suddenly, life can become even harder as they have no cushion of savings to fall back on.

We deliberate long and hard over each application we receive and for every grant we are able to approve, we do have to turn away about the same number too. We would love to be able to do more fundraising every year and increase the financial support and generosity we already receive so that we can assist more families in time of great financial need.

"We can not thank you enough!" is a common theme of feedback we receive from those parents and carers we have been able to support.

Vicki and Lydia will be working alongside Caroline Hambly, who has been providing our Patchwork Parenting programme throughout the diocese for the last 5 years, supporting over 60 families in 2018.

Summary of Grants provided in 2018

- 21 washing machines
- 22 cookers
- 20 fridge freezers
- 25 beds and mattresses
- 25 grants for essential furniture such as tables and chairs
- 59 grants for school uniform/shoes
- 13 grants for new baby equipment
- 8 grants for educational purposes (residentials, courses and books)
- 3 grants for pilgrims going to Lourdes