Pope Francis appeals to Catholics in England and Wales to open their eyes and hear the cry of human trafficking victims

*Day for Life* is the day in the Church’s year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The theme for this year’s *Day for Life* is human trafficking.

In his latest Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis calls on all Catholics to see the holiness in others by recognising their dignity: “Our defence of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred... Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection”.

On 17 June, in England and Wales, there will be a *Day for Life* mandatory second collection. Proceeds will go to the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other Church supported life activities. In 2019 Caritas Salford Anti-Trafficking will be bidding for grant money from the collection to resource much needed human trafficking awareness raising in churches, schools and elsewhere.

In Salford Diocese we are giving out cards, with the signs of human trafficking, to every parishioner who attends Mass on June 17. We are also offering Medaille Trust prayer cards. Other resources are at [www.dayforlife.org](http://www.dayforlife.org).

On this day for Life, we pray for the victims of human trafficking, that their dignity is respected, and that they may be helped to rebuild their lives.

We pray that we, as the Church, will continue to defend victims of human trafficking and promote the dignity of each human life.