

REFUGEE RESPONSE NEWSLETTER NO.6

SEPTEMBER 2017

Editorial

The Refugee Response newsletter highlights the action that the Diocese of Salford is taking as a direct result of the call of Pope Francis's call back in 2015 that every Catholic organisation and parish should respond to the plight of refugees. Today, the Diocese of Salford is providing a refugee service to assist refugees, migrants and asylum seekers to be welcomed, helped, resettled and treated with dignity. The services owe much to the support, help and experience of our partner organisations Revive, the Boaz Trust and our national links through Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN). None of this would have been possible without the support of parishioners and volunteers and the generosity of supporters. Please continue to support this important response that will make a positive and lasting difference to the lives of many people who need to be kept safe and welcomed into our communities.



Mark Wiggin
Diocesan Coordinator-Refugee Response

Caritas Sunday Appeal 2017 feedback

Caritas Sunday raised just over £30,000 for our Refugee Response. The donations have gone to make possible the following projects :-

1. The Refugee Community Sponsorship Programme as piloted at St Monica's, Flixton is now being rolled out to 9 other parishes and adopted nationally through Caritas Social Action Network;
2. Emergency Accommodation and Day Centre support at Cornerstone are increasingly used by Asylum Seekers and Refugees with 10 accommodation pods and 4 new houses;
3. English Lessons provided by staff and volunteers assisting refugees into employment and education and supporting the integration of asylum seekers into the community;

4. Parish Asylum Seeker Drop-ins are now being run in Haslingden and Wythenshaw, with other parishes looking to move forward on this;
5. Refugee Dine with Me is due to launch soon after a successful pilot in Our Lady of the Valley Parish and
6. Two Refugee Welcome Days have been held in Clitheroe, and one is soon to take place in Irlam.



Emergency accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers

Caritas at Cornerstone, Manchester has acquired 4 houses accommodating 17 people and 8 pods (building site cabins) accommodating 18 people. Cornerstone also has the facility for accommodating up to 10 people inside the centre. The Safe Haven night shelter offers friendship, community, food, clothing, showers, haircuts, and advice - 7 days a week as well as one to one support & advice from dedicated support workers.

The Well Project at Wythenshawe

The project, a partnership with Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury and the Ivy Church was established in response to an invitation from Mike Kane MP (Wythenshawe) and following a well-attended and successful 'Community Listening' consultation event, held in October 2016. The Well offers a space to meet and practical help to refugees living in the area and support vulnerable and socially isolated refugees and asylum seekers to help them with their casework needs and encourage and improve their local social connections.

Rossendale Refugee Drop-in

The Haslingden drop in is a partnership with Haslingden Community Centre was also established a well-attended and successful 'Community Listening' consultation event, held in June 2017. The drop-in is to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing, to access support for English learning, housing, benefits, food banks, schools, and other practical needs. Our aims are also to improve the quality of life for all despite their immigration status and financial situation.



Education Centre at Cornerstone

Andres Mora, Education Co-ordinator writes: "Through the Education Centre at Cornerstone we offer English classes for asylum seekers, refugees and other non-native English speakers in the community. There is also the offer of a TESOL training course educational support and referrals for psychosocial support. The centre has also added Maths tuition to the curriculum. Currently we have 60 learners averaging over 2 hour each per week and over 20 volunteers attend on a weekly basis. The centre has a 90% pass rate for internal & external exams in Further Education".

Let's not forget the refugees from the Calais camps

A small Kent-based group, 'Seeking Sanctuary' (a member of Caritas Social Action Network – CSAN) aims to raise awareness about people displaced from their homes, and to channel basic humanitarian assistance to them from Faith Communities and Community Organisations via partnerships with experienced aid workers. Our special concern is for those who arrive in north-western France, mistakenly expecting an easy passage to a welcome in the UK.

There are now many hundreds of people sleeping in the open near Calais and hundreds of others close to Dunkirk plus yet more along the coast and near main roads. Like others in Paris, they have been living in a sadly deprived state, and remain uninformed about legal avenues for entering the UK. They need food, good counsel and clothes, which are accepted, sorted and distributed by several Calais warehouses, which also supply needs further afield. Further information can be received from Ben Bano on 07887 651117 or Phil Kerton on 01474 873802. See our latest news at www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com



Refugee Come Dine with Me hailed as a success

Refugee Dine With Me is a simple way to make Refugees and Asylum Seekers feel WELCOME! All you do is invite a family for a meal in your home! Host families invite a refugee or asylum seeking family as guests for a meal in their home.

The aim is to make them:

- feel welcome,
- adds to their understanding of England and our way of life.
- it gives the Host families a better understanding of what it's like to be a refugee or asylum seeker.



CARITAS SALFORD & REVIVE has created a toolkit for other churches and religious organisations, community groups and refugee charities and agencies to implement this simple idea in their communities.

Refugee Welcome days

On July 15th, Our Lady of the Valley parish, Clitheroe through Tom and Kathryn Clay with friends and supporters organised the 2nd Refugees Welcome Day in Clitheroe. If you want to know more about how to go about organising a day please contact Tom Clay at

tomclay48@hotmail.com



Irlam welcomes refugees

On Saturday 16th September the local community in Irlam, Salford together with the local mosque, primary school, St Teresa's and the parish church will host a fund day out for refugees and their families. Events planned include:

- Henna tattoo by Eccles Mosque
- Bulb/planting session.
- Music workshop
- Ti Kwon Do demonstration by Eccles Mosque
- Sports on the school, Football, cricket, cycling etc

Entertainment will also include some former Refugee Beat Box artists giving some songs. The day will end with 'Afternoon tea' and some local children giving a concert along with Malaysian Singers performing.



MANCHESTER RESIDENTS CELEBRATE ONE YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

Baroness Williams of Trafford joined charities Caritas Salford, the Salvation Army and a range of other organisations in Salford today (Tuesday 18 July) to celebrate the one year anniversary of a scheme enabling communities to support the resettlement of refugees fleeing the war in Syria.

Last year St Monica's in Salford became one of the first groups to welcome a Syrian family. Samir, who came to the UK with his wife and three children, is a trained chef and is now cooking for other refugees at a night shelter at Holy Name Church, part of the Manchester Chaplaincy.

Baroness Williams of Trafford said, "I have been so inspired by the people of Manchester who have volunteered their time and expertise to welcome refugees to the community. The scheme empowers communities to take on the challenging but rewarding role of supporting refugees who are looking to create a new life and who bring real benefits to the places in which they will live and work".

St Monica's parish was supported by Caritas Salford in their community sponsorship application and they recently appointed Sean Ryan as Caritas Community Sponsorship of

Refugees National Coordinator. Sean Ryan, said: "Community Sponsorship offers ordinary people a unique opportunity to play the lead role in our welcome and resettlement of refugees into our communities. This same approach has been transformative in Canada, and the level of interest here to date shows we are well-placed to follow their shining example".

Community Sponsorship is just one way that the UK government is helping to support refugees. The government remains on track to meet its commitment of resettling 23,000 of the most vulnerable refugees through the Vulnerable Person and Children's Resettlement Schemes by 2020. Over 7,000 refugees have already been resettled in the UK under the schemes.

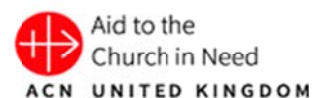


Talk English

The Talk English project is aimed very specifically at Muslim women who have been in the country for over 12 months with very basic written or spoken skills. To find out more contact, Suzannah Redmond, Project Co-ordinator (Talk English) on 0161 232 888 or email s.redmond@cornerstonecds.org.uk

Aid to the Church in Need - Syria's Christians Search for Peace

Salford Cathedral (8-9 July) hosted an exhibition of artworks inspired by the Syrian conflict and included moving drawings by Syrian children of all faiths sharing their experiences of their hopes and anxieties for their homeland. Artwork by Farid Georges, a Syrian Orthodox painter from Homs, chronicling the destruction of his beloved city was the focus of the exhibition.



Khalil Alhaydr, pictured here with Bishop John Arnold, was the interpreter for the visit of the artist. Khalil, himself a refugee from Syria said, " It was fantastic to stay with Farid. I spent a lovely time with him and the organisers of the Aid to the Church in Need exhibition".



Share the Journey ✱

#sharejourney

Join the global Caritas campaign on migration "Share the Journey" that will be launched on **27 September 2017 by Pope Francis**. Caritas Internationalis is delighted to invite your parish, diocesan and national Caritas organisations to help Pope Francis launch our [Share the Journey](#) migration campaign on 27 September 2017. In this way, we hope to create an opportunity for all Caritas organisations and others of good will to join together with migrants and refugees physically and virtually as one human family.

Pope Francis repeatedly reminds us that the life of a Christian is one of reaching out to others, *"not just seeing, but looking; not just hearing, but listening; not just passing people by, but stopping with them"*.

You can join Pope Francis to launch Share the Journey on **27 September 2017** in three simple ways:

1. Our Share the Journey campaign invites Caritas organisations and communities Invite migrants or refugees to share their stories at your Caritas centre, in your parish or in your community.
2. If and where appropriate, take photos of the event, record comments and post on social media with the hashtag **#sharejourney** when the campaign launches. We also invite all participants in the campaign to photograph themselves in the symbolic "reaching out" pose and post on social media with the **#sharejourney** hashtag when the campaign launches, i.e. on or after 27 September.
3. Invite Bishops from all countries to sustain momentum of Pope Francis' gesture to show their support by taking a photograph of themselves in the symbolic "reaching out" pose to inspire the communities and help their members to promote the culture of encounter by posting on social media with the **#sharejourney** hashtag when the campaign launches, i.e. on or after 27 September.

Please find [here](#) some useful materials in English, Spanish and French (and modifiable in other languages) which you can use to promote the campaign in your communities. These include: a campaign action guide to mobilise communities, an invitation from Cardinal Tagle to join our campaign, frequently asked questions, posters, a flyer, an email banner, a document on myths and the causes of migration, a campaign prayer and a theological and pastoral reflection. A website in three languages, a video clip and social media resources will

be available in August. Wishing each and every one of you a fruitful migration campaign and looking forward to your support on 27 September!!

Partnerships

Caritas Diocese of Salford is working closely with our partners nationally through CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) and members of the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. Locally we are collaborating with partner organisations such as Revive (Refugee and Asylum Seekers) and the BOAZ Trust.

Caritas Diocese of Salford is a member of CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) the domestic social action arm of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. CSAN comprises over 40 Catholic Charities which work across England and Wales supporting children living in poverty, homeless people, disabled people, Travellers, migrants, refugees, prisoners and other marginalised groups. More information can be found at www.csan.org.uk

member
caritas
social action network



boaztrust
serving destitute asylum seekers

Support and donate

[You can donate to our Refugee Response here](#)



All donations Caritas receives will be used in Salford Diocese by Caritas and our partners

To find out more about Refugee Response contact us at Caritas Diocese of Salford

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