

CARITAS DORSET DEANERY NEWSLETTER

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TERESA MAGUIRE, CARITAS DEVELOPMENT WORKER



The theme of the Jubilee Year is “Pilgrims of Hope”. It will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The logo shows four figures, representing humanity coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all people. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is a sign of faith and hope. Life’s pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope.

The image illustrates the pilgrim’s journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal. My role as Caritas Deanery Development Worker is to support social action across the deanery, informed by Catholic Social Teaching and to bring people together in community to reflect on local needs and how we can respond. There are many ways to support this work so please get in touch if I can be of any help - teresa.maguire@prcdr.org.uk.

Banner Project

I am currently organising a Deanery banner project to create a Deanery banner for the year of hope and, more importantly, to bring people together to reflect on one of the jubilee social action themes and create a panel that will then become part of a banner.

Each group that meets will be encouraged to reflect on a Jubilee theme and to create an image to enable others to reflect on that theme. There is great enthusiasm from the parishes that have decided to take part



but we need more groups to create a panel. Please contact Teresa.maguire@prcdr.org.uk if you would can join us in this work.

The **six social action themes** for the Year of Jubilee are set out below. Caritas Plymouth is preparing resources to guide us through the themes as we prepare for the opening of the Holy Door and the Jubilee.



Foodbanks

For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

1 Timothy 4:4-5

I thought I would share with you an excerpt from one of our parish newsletters, which I find very inspiring. Key points for me are: the generosity of people both in items and money & the direct request for specific items. This has allowed Hope for Food to direct their response in a prudent and wise manner.

Our collection crates have been overflowing recently due to your generous giving. Thank you also to everyone who has made cash donations via our Deacon, some have been very generous. This generosity has allowed Hope for Food to purchase extra food. Last, but by no means least, to the person who donated warm winter socks. You are a star! Your socks are already out on the streets. This week's request! Rice pudding and tinned vegetables would be particularly welcome please. Thank you, one and all and please pray for the amazing volunteers who give so cheerfully.

A recent networking group meeting suggested that other parishes might adopt a similar model and bring the items to the altar as a physical offering during mass. This can help us to connect both spiritually and physically with those in need. Donating to foodbanks is a way in which we can fulfil our mission of charity. Trussell Trust is one of a number of charities that provide to those in need. It has an incredible mandate 'to cease to exist' but with every sign that it is increasingly needed.

Figures showing the growth of foodbanks in the South West South West (source Trussell). The figure below is the number of food parcels given out.

TOTAL	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
South West	122,371	133,983	163,247	202,329	174,891	248,926	254,974

Networking and Faith

What a great turnout to our last Caritas Deanery networking meeting! 8 parishes were represented, and 5 new people joined us. A question was raised before the meeting - 'what do I want to get out of the meeting?'

Caritas is here to support faith in action, we want to support people and existing groups to work within their parishes to undertake activities that are supported and in collaborative ministries within the church. We have a shared purpose. We are here to help find resources and volunteers to support your work.



The group agreed to meet together again to support each other. We agreed that for new people coming into the parish, there might be a leaflet about what charitable work is happening and how people can join in. This could be included in parish welcome packs. Some parishes already have this in place so please share your pack if you have one.

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.” Joel 2:28

Retiring Well

A focus group on ageing and retiring well met this month. We would like to hold a day of reflection and discussion under the themes: ageing well and succession planning for volunteer roles. The succession planning is needed to keep the parishes growing and allow people to step back when they need to. We agreed the need to be looking at more ways that people can volunteer either for a short time or over a longer period. We need to target our volunteers skills to what is needed. Discerning need and recognising parishioners who have some seeds to sow is so important for the church's mission of charity. We need sufficient people to cultivate and develop volunteering within the community.

Would you be able to respond? Please get in touch to offer ideas for action or to join our group working on this topic.

Pension Credit

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth is currently running a campaign to encourage people to check if they are eligible for pension credit. Your parish should have received a leaflet to put at the back of the church.

This is an opportunity to help those pensioners most at risk of financial hardship so please encourage people to see if they might be eligible for support. <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Support-for-older-people-.pdf>

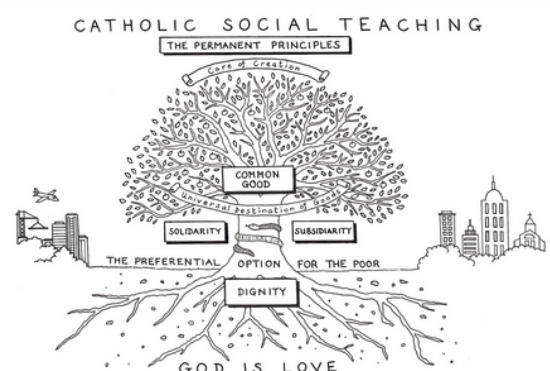
Seeking Out Those in need

Many GP practices have **Social Prescribers** who reach out to our SVP groups, community cafes and link people in who may be experiencing isolation, loneliness, or would like to meet people for friendship. Social prescribers reach into the community to support individuals but also need to know what our churches have to offer, in order to match an opportunity to a need.

If you have a pastoral group why not reach out to GP practices and connect with their social prescribing team?

Catholic Social Teaching

Preferential Option for the Poor. Caring for those who are less well off is everyone's responsibility. Preferential care should be shown to vulnerable and marginalised people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God's eyes. Poverty is defined by CST as being prevented from living a life worthy of the dignity of a human being because of one's inability to provide for basic needs. Extreme inequality causes many people to suffer varying conditions of poverty with wider negative impact on the whole of society. For this reason, CST puts the poor, the marginalised and the vulnerable in society as a top priority



Picture courtesy of Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN)

World day of the Poor

The Eighth world day of the Poor is on Sunday 17 November. In his message, the Holy Father reiterates that "the poor hold a privileged place in God's heart" and invites everyone to learn to pray for the poor and to pray together with the poor, with humility and trust. We know that poverty is a significant issue both in the UK and globally. In the week running up to World Day of the Poor, we are all encouraged to pray, reflect and engage in concrete actions against poverty by deepening our encounter with the poor in our communities and considering how we can respond to their needs. We can all take small actions that together make a big difference.

One of our Dorset SVP groups advertise in the parish newsletter each week and also put a list of what is needed in the porch the week before. They ensure donations are high quality and also give significant sums of money donated by people who have forgotten items or prefer to donate cash.

You can find the Pope's message here www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/wdp2024-3/

Care for our Common Home

On 24 October, Sr Margaret Atkins OSA from Boarbank Hall gave a presentation to the parish at Marnhull and Gillingham about Laudato Si' and how we as Christians are called to respond to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. Parishioners from Marnhull and Gillingham shared their plans for integrating Live Simply Principles

Lcafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award into the life of the church. If you would like to run an event in your parish on care for creation please contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk



Working With Others

Faithworks Wessex offered a second in the series of 'What happens Monday to Saturday' The used lego to allow us to dream about what living in the BCP area could feel like and how we can create better links to develop and foster community work and evangelisation. 'Imagine what we could have built if we had more time together and the right pieces to do it' Faithworks



Deanery Networking Meeting - 19th November at St Catherines Church hall, Wimborne from 10am

There is great work happening across Dorset Deanery and the networking meeting is an opportunity to come together and meet people from other parishes and charities and take inspiration from their work. My role is to celebrate the good work already happening and to support parishes and schools to reflect on new opportunities for social action as well as sharing Catholic Social Teaching. Come and join me on 19th November.

If you would like to find out more about our work or would like to invite me to visit your parish, school or group please contact me on 07938 908915 or email teresa.maguire@prcdtr.org.uk. Thank you.

Caritas Diocese of Plymouth

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