

### World day of the Poor 2023

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November is the 8<sup>th</sup> 'World Day of the Poor'. This year Pope Francis's message is "Don't Look Away". When we as Catholics see poverty don't just walk on by but engage in the encounter with people living in poverty as the Good Samaritan in Luke's Gospel. Attached are some resources published by Caritas Social Action Network which can be used to help us reflect on the how we live out God's mission of bringing his love to all people.

### Cost of Living

The impact of the cost of Living crisis continues to impact many people. Below are some links to resources and services which can help communities to do more supporting people.



<https://www.acts435.org.uk/>

**Acts 435** is an online giving charity, directly connecting those who want to give with those who are in genuine need of their help, through a network of local churches and charities. 07878 013 882 (Monday - Friday 9am-12pm) [admin@acts435.org.uk](mailto:admin@acts435.org.uk)

**Community Money Advice**

(CMA)

<https://www.communitymoneyadvice.com/freedom-from-debt/get-help>

CMA is a national charity committed to supporting churches and community groups who have a passion to help people overcome their money problems. CMA provides all the resources, training and support needed to establish and maintain local, free, face to face money advice services.

### Green Doctors

<https://london.greendoctors.org.uk/>

Green Doctors is a charity that offers free and impartial energy advice to help residents stay warm, save money and live greener. You can access their services online and via telephone or alternatively request a visit to your project from one of their advisors.

Groundwork London, 18-21 Morley Street, London, SE1 7QZ; 0300 365 300.  
[GreenDoctorsLDN@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:GreenDoctorsLDN@groundwork.org.uk)

**STOP LOAN SHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education IMLT

[www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk)

The IMLT investigates and prosecutes illegal money lenders while supporting those who have borrowed money from a loan shark. They work as Stop Loan Sharks within local communities, within

education, and with partner agencies including the police ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING TEAM (IMLT) 0300 555 2222 (to report a loan shark) [stoploansharks.co.uk/contact-us](http://stoploansharks.co.uk/contact-us)



<https://www.nea.org.uk/>

National Energy Action (NEA) provides advice and support to people struggling to heat their homes affordably, either directly or via community engagement projects and outreach. National Energy Action. West One, Forth Banks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3PA [nea.org.uk](http://nea.org.uk) 0800 304 7159 (energy advice), 0800 138 8218 (benefits advice)



<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>

Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis, the Money Saving Expert's website is regularly updated with useful information. You can sign up for free weekly email round-ups. [moneysavingexpert.com](http://moneysavingexpert.com)

**MAYOR OF LONDON LONDON ASSEMBLY Cost of Living Hub**

<https://www.london.gov.uk/cost-living/hub>

The Cost of Living Hub Provided by the London Assembly, but relevant to those outside the capital as well, this portal helps people access information, support and advice about claiming benefits, dealing with debt, financial management and mental health support. To explore the hub, please visit <https://www.london.gov.uk/cost-living/hub>

**stepchnage.org Step Change**

[www.stepchnage.org](http://www.stepchnage.org)

Free on-line or telephone debt advice service

## **Warm Spaces**

If your Parish set up a warm space last year and are doing so again or are thinking about doing so; Please get in touch with us. They are a great way to gather people and build community at a time when many people may find it hard to heat their homes. We may also be able to help with some funding to help you get started. Please contact: [caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk); [hipoeze@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:hipoeze@rcaos.org.uk); ☎ 0333 188 1385 Mobile: ☎ 07707213714.

## **Clothing Bin Pilot**

Attached is some information on having clothing bin in your parish or school car park. The bin is provided at no cost and recipient receive £300 per year for the clothing which is saved from it. The company managing the collections ensures that clothing is recycled and any coats are given directly to

the charity Wrap up London. Bins can be decorated to suit the venue and would also have the Caritas Southwark logo on it. If you would like to know more. Please get in touch. Caritas would like to pilot this initiative with up to 10 Parishes and school. Schools can also have a small school uniform bin. Please Contact: [caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk); [hipoeze@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:hipoeze@rcaos.org.uk); ☎0333 188 1385 Mobile: ☎07707213714.

## Food Security:

A very large number of our parishes and schools are involved in collecting or providing food to people in need in their local communities. Attached is a Caritas **Advent Giving Calendar**. Which can be used to help focus food collections and gifts in this time of preparation for Christmas. Please download the poster for display and use. If you would like hard copies then please email us and we can have these sent out to you. [caritassouthwark@racos.org.uk](mailto:caritassouthwark@racos.org.uk)

In early 2024 Caritas will host on online a gathering of all parishes, schools, groups and individuals involved in Food provision in the diocese. The aim of the gathering will be to see how Caritas can support and also what else as Church could be doing in this area of Provision. Please look out for the date in a future Bulletin.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> St Georges Cathedral Church officially opens its Community Fridge. In partnership with the Oasis Church in Waterloo this a wonderful example of cross community working for the benefit for the Common Good and those people who may be isolated and hungry.

## Migrants and Refugees

### Love the Stranger

There is significant work and activities been undertaken in the archdiocese supporting migrants and refugees. Earlier in 2023 the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales published. 'Love the Stranger' A reflection on the Churches teaching on the welcome and support of refugees and migrant people as well as insight into the justice issues which inform migration. Some seminars are being piloted in two deaneries in the archdiocese and Caritas would like to offer these more widely. At a time when the public policy climate is chilling towards the reception of refugees and migrants it is important to understand more the issues more fully but also to understand the churches guidance and insights. Please contact [caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk); [hipoeze@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:hipoeze@rcaos.org.uk); ☎0333 188 1385 Mobile: ☎07707213714.

### Refugee Hosting

**Do you have a spare room you could offer to a homeless asylum seeker, refugee or migrant in need?**

In Partnership with Housing Justice Caritas is hosting an online information session for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee.

The **session** is scheduled for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7.30-8.30 PM. There is a poster attached. **Please scan the QR code to register for the event.** Alternatively, you can email Caritas directly and we can forward the link to you.



**Caritas**  
**SOUTHWARK**

[caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk)