



CARITAS PLYMOUTH PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES 2022-24

'Love One Another as I have Loved You' John 13:34-35





CARITAS STRATEGY 2022-24

At a meeting in November 2021, the Caritas Committee agreed to continue with the priority areas outlined in the 2019 strategic document. *Caritas Plymouth* will continue to be an enabler of social action rather than delivering projects. Charity is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine and our main focus will be on promoting projects delivered by our catholic charitable partners, our parishes and our schools, founded on Catholic Social Teaching. Everything has its origin in God's love. The values and principles, overarching aims and objectives in the original strategy remain the same. This document sets out the updated activities in each priority area which Caritas will seek to deliver from 2022-2024.

Education, Formation and Development

'Faith without works is dead.' James 2:14-18

Principal Activities

- ◇ To share information across the Diocese and coordinate key dates and events
- ◇ To offer education and resources on Catholic Social Teaching recognising that Christ is the first and principal factor of development. *Caritas in Veritate #7*
- ◇ To provide signposting to information and support to address local social challenges and liaise with other agencies
- ◇ To develop a central source of information on community sponsorship
- ◇ To share good practice on social action among parishes
- ◇ To provide practical formation on Caritas initiatives and its link with evangelisation

Children and Family Life

'The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church's.' Amoris Laetitia #31

This is a lead area for the Catholic Children's Society, Plymouth, with its grants and parenting programmes. Caritas Plymouth will work in partnership to promote and supplement this work.

Principal activities

- ◇ To continue to advocate for a fair living wage
- ◇ To fundraise for and support the Community sponsorship scheme
- ◇ To deliver the intergenerational project and encourage continuation of sustainable links
- ◇ To offer crisis grants for food/poverty working in partnership with schools and parishes
- ◇ Liaise with charities and agencies supporting vulnerable life in the womb.



Refugees and Migrants (including seafarers and modern slavery)



'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' Matthew 25:35

Principal Activities

- ◇ To hold an annual awareness-raising event on the Feast of St Bakhita
- ◇ To promote Community Sponsorship with the aim of one new group welcoming a family each year
- ◇ To explore how Diocesan properties could be used for Community sponsorship
- ◇ To support the work of Stella Maris.
- ◇ Identify how to provide more support for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking in conjunction with the Santa Marta group.



Elderly and Isolated

'The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.' Galatians 5:6

This remains a lead area for SVP. Caritas will support SVP conferences and parishes with a focus on all who may be isolated – not just the elderly but also other groups e.g., those with disabilities, LGBTQ+ etc.

Principal Activities

- ◇ To run an annual event for World Day of the Poor and empower parishes to take forward initiatives
- ◇ To support SVP groups
- ◇ To share good practice from our parishes
- ◇ To create new connections with five parishes to develop projects to tackle loneliness
- ◇ To run two events in 2022 to bring together groups supporting isolated and lonely people
- ◇ To promote positive messages about the value of human life and dignity and respect for older people
- ◇ To provide guidance on how parishioners might identify and look out for older and isolated people



Homelessness

'The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.' Luke 4:18

Principal Activities

- ◇ Identify properties belonging to the diocese that may be used for the homeless e.g. former presbyteries etc. Encourage parishes to consider accepting a social rent for properties.
- ◇ Organise an annual event in partnership with St Petrocs, Cornwall about practical advice and support for homelessness.
- ◇ To develop a new project supporting the homeless or vulnerably housed with a particular focus on unused Diocesan properties
- ◇ Share good practice e.g. Vinnie packs/Dignity packs given to homeless from parishes and SVP.
- ◇ Help parishes work with homelessness charities to broker positive activities
- ◇ Encourage parishes which don't have a food bank collection to start one.

Awareness

To raise the profile of *Caritas Plymouth* so that people understand its role as an umbrella agency supporting and promoting other Diocesan organisations and charities and our close relationship with CAFOD. To promote the work of partner charities through our newsletters and events.

Principal Activities

- ◇ To visit all parishes in areas of priority need to recognise and encourage social action
- ◇ To develop stronger links with parish secretaries in order to improve communication and signposting for the vulnerable
- ◇ To hold a Caritas joint Mass with Stella Maris/SVP/CCPS
- ◇ To pilot the idea of parish Caritas representatives to help raise awareness and be a catalyst for social action within and between parishes

Prayer to St Oscar Romero

Saint Oscar Romero Pray for Us

O Lord Father of Mercy, who through Jesus Christ and the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace and the action of the Holy Spirit, has bestowed on Saint Oscar Romero the grace of being an exemplary shepherd at the service of the Church, especially giving preference to the poor and need. Grant, Lord, that I may also learn to live according to the gospel of your Son, glorify your Saint Oscar Romero and concede, through his intercession, the favour I ask of you... Amen.



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