



Caritas is coming!

An invitation

Nottingham Diocese is joining Caritas, the Catholic Church's worldwide ministry of charity
Soon we'll be part of one of the biggest humanitarian organisations on the planet
Find out how you can be part of it

"The Church's charitable works are a response to the Word of God in the scriptures, and a living out of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. [Here] we encounter Christ in word and sacrament. He invites us to allow him to form us into a community of people where love of God and love of neighbour are so entwined that we strive to unite prayer with action, praise with justice, and adoration with social involvement."



Bishop Patrick's Pastoral Letter, October 2019

God is love, and he calls us to love – generously and joyfully. Here in the Diocese of Nottingham an opportunity is emerging to respond to that call afresh. We're developing a 'Caritas' office to boost social action and foster missionary discipleship.

The name says what it does – *caritas* is charity, or, simply, love. Globally, the Caritas family is the second biggest provider of humanitarian service in the world. CAFOD is the agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales which works overseas. The Justice and Peace Commission is now leading the initiative to establish its counterpart here at home.

In Nottingham Diocese, Caritas will continue to offer ways to share in work for justice, peace and care of creation. It will also have a new role to encourage practical charitable service—not only the many wonderful things already going on in our parishes, chaplaincies, schools and Catholic organisations, but also new initiatives.

This is a moment of opportunity for our diocese, and Caritas is only part of the picture. Bishop Patrick is inviting us to encounter Christ anew, grow as disciples and look outward in mission, and he is leading discernment on a strategy for the diocese to 2030. With new pastoral structures in the diocese come new opportunities to harness the faith, commitment and know-how of the whole people of God. And, as ever, the Holy Spirit is equipping us for loving service in the world.

Overleaf we invite you to consider: what is the ministry to which God is calling you and your Catholic community? And how can we work together to reveal God's kingdom in our midst?

Even if we cannot meet in person, get in touch and join the conversation, in one of the ways outlined on the back page.



Caritas in Nottingham Diocese is being developed through the Faith into Action project by the Justice and Peace Commission with additional funding from the national Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) and CAFOD





A menu of ministries: which calls to you?

Here we outline six diocesan 'ministries' in which you or your parish might like to share. Or let us know if we've missed something you want to do.

Our aim in this founding period to 2024 is both simple and ambitious, and is inspired by Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Caritas in veritate*. Caritas in Nottingham Diocese will unleash God's love, that "extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace."

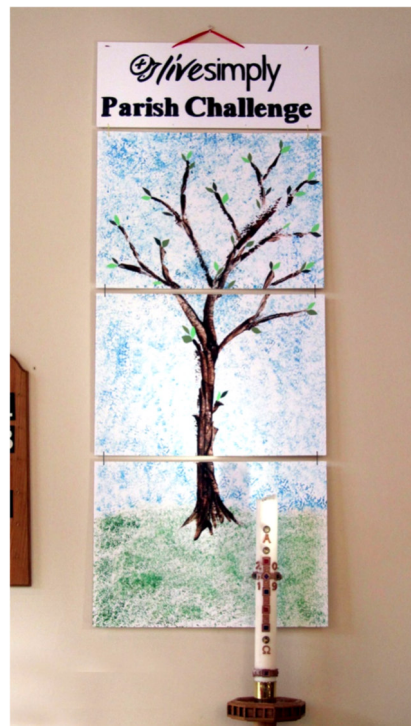
Here is a sample of what we propose to aim for in the next five years:

- help parishes, schools, chaplaincies and Catholic organisations to develop practical initiatives on the six ministries opposite
- launch diocesan projects on at least some of these ministries, with additional external funding
- help parishes develop missionary outreach and gain new vibrancy, and update their pastoral plans, with support from a new Parish Outreach Development team
- form a community of practice to help you grow spiritually and practically in the work you do for the common good
- explore ways to promote, structure, fund and sustain Caritas in the longer term

Love in action: Catholic in the diocese working for the common good (clockwise from top left)

The Friendship Group at St Patrick's, Leicester reaches out to people in the wider community at risk of social isolation. Volunteers at the nightshelter at St Mary's, Derby cook dinner for overnight guests

SS Peter and Paul's parish in Lincoln has taken up the Livesimply challenge to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor



Building communities of missionary disciples

You are salt for the Earth

Environment and global responsibility

Preach good news to all creation

Poverty and dignity

Hear the cry of the poor

Modern slavery and human trafficking

Let the oppressed go free

Refugees and asylum seekers

Welcome the stranger

Tackling social isolation

Heal the brokenhearted

Our plans for the diocese

Every parish is a community for **mission**. We are developing **study guides and workshops** based on Scripture and Catholic social teaching to help you discern your call to mission, and forming a **Parish Outreach Development Team** to help you do so.

We are preparing a Diocesan **environmental strategy**, so that we can reduce our carbon footprint to 'net zero' well ahead of the 2050 statutory deadline. We can help parishes buy environmentally friendly products, and support their *Livesimply* journey with CAFOD.

Poverty is a scandal against human dignity. We're proposing a Caritas **resource network** to provide projects in the diocese which serve vulnerable people with mutual support, contacts, expertise and advice, on things like funding, project development and governance.

Modern slavery is a hidden crime in our towns, cities and countryside. We're planning **training and publications** to raise public awareness.

We're working with ChurchMarketPlace, the buying group for parishes, to help parishes and schools buy **'slavery-free' products**.

Refugees and asylum seekers are amongst the most vulnerable people in society. We're working with Faith in Families to help parishes host a Syrian refugee family under the **Community Sponsorship** scheme.

We'll produce locally-tailored information for parishes about agencies supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

Social isolation has emerged as a big concern in our parishes. We can put parish **drop-in and friendship projects** in touch to help each other, and also parishes developing new projects.

We'll explore the potential for parishes to offer **listening posts** and signposting to support for vulnerable people.

Ideas for your parish—contact us for help!

We can help your parish run a *Here: Now: Us* workshop to plan for mission and develop lay leadership.

You could update your parish's pastoral plan for mission with a tailored package of support from us.

Why not hold a film night of *Global Healing* and *Global Caring*, about how Catholics can care for the Earth?

We can send you a simple audit of your parishes environmental footprint.

Sign your parish up for the *Livesimply* Award.

Observe Peace Sunday in mid-January with resources from Pax Christi, and also Creationtide which runs from 1 September to St Francis' day.

The Diocese is now a Real Living Wage employer—make sure your parish buys from suppliers who are too.

Collect gifts for projects which support people who are homeless, in debt or in hardship.

Mark Homeless Sunday (mid-October) and World Day of the Poor (mid-November).

Let us know if your parish would like to host a workshop to raise local awareness of modern slavery.

Mark the day of prayer for victims of trafficking on 8 February, St Josephine Bakhita's feastday.

Find out about local charities which support refugees and asylum seekers, and mark Refugee Week in late June with a fundraising event.

Could your parish offer a home to a Syrian refugee family, perhaps with neighbouring churches?

How can your parish help to break down social isolation, perhaps working with other churches and local charities and agencies? What support do you need to take action?

Take a look at *Reaching Out*, the Caritas 'how to' guide for parishes at csan.org.uk/embrace.

Who is Caritas? You are!

All of us are part of Caritas: **parishioners** young and old, **chaplains**, **Catholic organisations**, **clergy** and **religious**. We can achieve far more if we collaborate, for instance with other local churches, friends from other faiths, and partners in the public, voluntary and private sectors.

Volunteers will be the lifeblood of Caritas, both at parish and diocesan level. We want Caritas to help you grow in faith, skill and confidence through faith **formation** and opportunities for **peer-support** and **reflection** on the service you offer – please let us know what would help you.

We are building up a Parish Outreach Development Team to help **parishes** grow as confident, outward-looking missionary communities and nurture the gifts of their people. We can offer workshops and guides for parish groups, and help you develop a **parish profile** and **pastoral plan**.

As the strategy for Caritas becomes clearer, with your help, we will develop a **budget** for 2021/22 onwards, for both staffing and expenditure. We will help the diocesan staff make the best use of the Church's **property**, and plan to raise external **funding** for specific projects, as part of a wider diocesan development strategy.

We will develop new print and online media for Caritas, as part of wider improvements to **communications** in the diocese. We will help the Diocese ensure that it has the **policies and procedures** to ensure that everyone, especially those most excluded, can play their full part.

Justice and charity: two feet of love

In our diocese, Caritas will build on a commitment to tackling injustice, led since the 1970's by the Justice and Peace Commission. As Caritas we will be able to advocate for justice with the authority which comes from first-hand encounter serving those in need.

We will focus our advocacy on the ministries set out overleaf, seeking structural, legislative and cultural change. Our advocacy work will evolve over time, and we'll work closely with Caritas Social Action Network the National Justice and Peace Network, and through them the campaigns of their member organisations.

Get involved

There are plenty of ways to get involved, in the parish and the diocese, as we get Caritas going. It's all on the diocesan website at:

dioceseofnottingham.uk/caritas

Sign up there our quarterly magazine ***Just Now*** and other updates and invitations

You are welcome anytime to contact **Paul Bodenham, Programme Leader for Social Action** for a conversation about anything you read here: email caritas@dioceseofnottingham.uk, or call 07470 907656



Follow us on Twitter @SaltForTheEarth and the Facebook page at /NottinghamJusticeAndPeace

Ready to go further with your parish?

Invite one of our team for a weekday meeting, a Saturday workshop or to speak at Sunday Masses.

We hope each parish will have at least one **representative** for Caritas or even a group—if you'd like to know more, get in touch.

We can run a one-day **Here: Now: Us** workshop in your parish to help you reach out to the wider world and invest in the leadership of lay people.

Salt for the Earth will be a brochure and discussion guide, published later in 2020, to help individuals and parish groups hear God's call to mission in Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching.

With thanks to Sr Elizabeth at the Poor Clare convent, Bulwell for the cartoon on p2. Below: Children at Our Lady and St Edward's School, Nottingham, celebrate their diversity

