

Our Ref: CH/JC

2nd March 2023

Parish Priests

Dear Father

Re: Catholic Care Annual Appeal 2023

This year Catholic Care's Annual Appeal in parishes across the Diocese of Leeds will take place over the weekend of **18th & 19th March 2023**.

Just when we hoped that the worst was behind us as we emerged from the Covid pandemic, we were faced with the war in Ukraine and the resultant *Cost of Living Crisis*. In my 10 years at Catholic Care I have not seen such a level of need in our communities. For many families they have exhausted every avenue of trying to stay afloat and are sinking deeper into despair.

In 2023 we held an early Christmas Appeal for food and toys for our Christmas Pantries. Due to the amazing generosity of parishes across the Diocese we held 24 pantries and reached over 800 families. Our staff, volunteers and supporters have continued to serve those facing the greatest difficulties.

But, the crisis is still here, the need has not gone away and families are still in despair. The donations raised through the Annual Appeal are vital to the Charity supporting those in need in the community and will be used to support our food poverty projects including community markets and pantries, and holiday hunger for children.

We are asking for donations via the second collection plate, however, if people are able they can make regular donations via a standing order. All donations made by a UK tax payer can be gift aided. Further details are available from Finance@catholic-care.org.uk

Prior to the Annual Appeal Weekend I will email out to you 'A *Celebration of Our Year 2022*'- a review of the year highlighting the work of the Charity. I would ask you to please share this with your parishioners via your parish website, notice board in church, or by whatever means you have available. I will also send out by post leaflets which can be handed out on the Appeal Weekend summarising the work of the Charity.

As is usual, Bishop Marcus will issue a Pastoral Letter to be read out in parishes over the Appeal Weekend.



Catholic Care
A service you can believe in

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This year we are using the raising of the Charity's profile over the Appeal Weekend to:

- Recruit more **Catholic Care Parish Representatives**. Catholic Care would very much like to work closer with parishes so we can deliver our services at the heart of the community to give support to those who need it most.
- Recruit more **Catholic Care Trustees**. We are looking for volunteers to join its active Board of Trustees.

I would be very grateful if you could advertise these roles in your Parish via any platform you have available.

On behalf of Catholic Care I thank you most sincerely for your parish's most valuable continued support.

Yours sincerely



Carol Hill
Director