

Caritas

Diocese of Salford



The principal domestic social action agency of the Catholic Diocese of Salford

Update for Primary RE Leads

January 2026

Thank you!

For any of the following....

- Your prayers
- Your donations
- Your fundraising efforts
- Your awareness raising
- Your help with campaigning
- Your engagement with Caritas
- For your Caritas Ambassadors
- For holding a Big Sleep Out



FREE online webinar

TUESDAY 10th MARCH 4pm

[Webinar: Autism-Friendly Resources for Parishes and Schools | Caritas Salford](#)

Mark Paine, a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, is autistic and has produced autism-friendly prayer resources for schools and parishes. This webinar will cover:

- Learning how to use visual schedules, social stories, sensory audits, and AAC prayer starters.
- Understanding how to adapt sacramental preparation without lowering expectations or compromising reverence.
- Discovering how these guides place belonging, dignity, and encounter with Christ at the centre of catechesis.
- Asking questions: Engaging directly with the author.
- Building a culture where autistic children are not accommodated as an exception but welcomed as a gift.

Caritas Schools' Team

[Caritas School Service OFFER A4.pdf](#)

Improves access to learning by working directly with pupils, their families and the school community.

Integrates therapeutic, psychological and social work interventions from Early Years through to Key Stage 4.

Directly commissioned provision offering an integrated, tiered approach to well-being support that is:

Bespoke - We create a partnership with schools and develop support tailored to the needs of each individual school.

Holistic - Encompassing pupils, staff, caregivers, and the wider school community.

Evidence-Based - Measured using the validated and ethical Warwick Edinburgh Mental Health and Wellbeing Scale and Outcome Star tools.

Responsive - Support is offered at the time it is needed. Caritas support often 'bridges the gap' between universal and statutory services when waiting lists and thresholds are at an all-time high (e.g., CAMHS, Children's Social Care)

Inclusive - Catering to Early Years, Primary, Secondary, and SEN.

Advent #BeeThere campaign

A huge thank you!

Circa **30,000 items** of toiletries were collected by our schools.

Schools also raised **over £7,000** through their *Stars in their Hives* talent shows, non-uniform days, concerts, parties and big sleep outs.

Please share with pupils and parents the impact stories of local people, like Kevin who was sleeping in his car when he came for help. www.caritassalford.org.uk/thankyou



St Joseph's Penny Lenten Appeal

Was established to encourage children to donate one penny to others who were in need.

Our schools should be really proud that you're part of this legacy which is 122 years old.

We have been asking people across the diocese to share their memories of it, so you might want to link up with your parish and do the same.

You can find prayer resources and so much more on our special web. page www.caritassalford.org.uk/lent

More than 25,000 boxes have been handed out across the diocese already.

Or you can set up a [JustGiving page](#) to try to end local poverty and homelessness this Lent.

Why not set a target as a school or class to try to raise enough that could pay for one of the items in our [virtual gifts catalogue?](#)

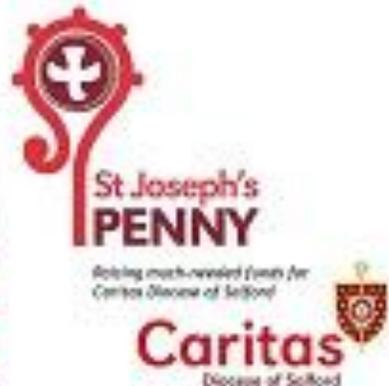
Or join up with your parish to do the same.



Will
you

make a
change

to
change
a life?



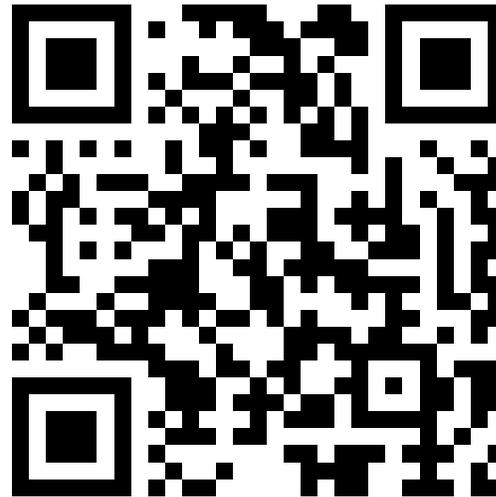
Lent Thought for the Day

If you would like your Caritas Ambassadors and other pupils to take part in this year's Caritas TFTD please contact Kath asap for details k.ansley@caritassalford.org.uk

It is easier than ever this year to take part!

Short survey

- Please complete our short [follow-up survey](#) about child poverty and mental health needs to help us understand how the situation has developed over the last year.
- Your responses to the first survey enabled us to influence and call for change in a variety of contexts, including with MPs and councillors.



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“If not us, then who?”
A report on child poverty and mental health needs in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Salford



Supporting people experiencing poverty, isolation, homelessness, discrimination and disadvantage. caritassalford.org.uk

[Caritas Salford’s 2025 report](#)

Advocacy and campaigning toolkits for schools ~ September 2026

In the autumn term, we will be launching new campaigning toolkits for primary and high schools.

The toolkits will guide Caritas Ambassador groups through the process of discerning the change they want to see before planning some campaigning activities and taking action, all rooted in Catholic Social Teaching.

Recommendations

1. An end to the two-child limit.
2. Free school meals for all primary-aged children.
3. Increased funding for mental health and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in schools.
4. Provision of temporary accommodation near to children's schools, and a duty on local authorities to notify schools when a family is placed in temporary accommodation.
5. Further research into the impact of child poverty.

Caritas Ambassadors going from strength to strength!

- Encourages and develops pupil leadership and engagement in social action/social justice/CST.
- Training/formation takes approx. 90 minutes.
- Delivered in your school.
- Option for your school's priest chaplain to commission new CAs.
- We request that the staff member who will be accompanying CAs going forward, also attends the session.
- Currently delivered free of charge. Donations welcomed.
- For downloadable resources. [Caritas Ambassadors | Caritas Salford](#)
- For enquiries or to book please email k.Ansley@caritssalford.org.uk



Please share with us what your Caritas Ambassadors are doing

- It helps us to know what impact the CA programme is having.

Eg, one primary school has shared with us a letter the CAs wrote to their MP regarding treating people seeking refuge with dignity and kindness.

- It helps us to celebrate and publicise what your pupils are achieving.
- Going forward, we want to be able to share stories from our CA teams more widely.
- It helps to inspire others to do the same.

COMING SOON: Advocacy toolkit for Caritas Ambassadors!

Intro to CST for School Staff

- Can be delivered on the same afternoon as pupil Caritas Ambassador training.
- Takes approx. 90 minutes.
- Provides an Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching for staff teams.
- Is food for thought on how to embed the principles of CST as part of your schools' Catholic Life & Mission.
- Encourages a cross-curricular, whole school approach.
- Governors are welcome to attend too.
- Currently delivered free of charge although a donation is very much appreciated.
- Has received very positive feedback.



For enquiries and bookings please email Kath k.Ansley@caritassalford.org.uk

New session for school staff

Accessibility, Disability and Inclusion

Dr Minna Moffat-Feldman

- 90 minute session free of charge
- Challenges thinking about Disability and Accessibility
- Accessibility awareness activities to help our understanding
- Equality and Equity - what's the difference?
- How can we consider the needs of others?
- CST and accessibility

For enquiries and bookings, please email Minna

m.moffatt-feldman@caritassalford.org.uk

Citizens UK

Caritas is proud to play an active part in Citizens UK, a grassroots alliance of communities uniting to challenge injustice and drive change through community organising.

Actively supported by Bishop John, the Diocese of Salford and Caritas are leadership team members of both Greater Manchester and Lancashire Citizens chapters.

The time is now right for our diocesan schools and colleges to find out more about the exciting opportunities Manchester or Lancashire Citizens can offer you.

Contact Matt now to find out more: m.yates@caritassalford.org.uk

A reminder about Caritas' Bishop's Crisis Fund

Crisis grants for families and individuals available for up to £500.

Applications via Head Teacher, Parish Priest, Caritas social worker, Caritas Parish Rep.

Quick turn-around time.

For eligibility details and to request an application form, please go to:

[Bishop's Fund Family Crisis Support | Caritas Salford](#)

Caritas Trophy

Thank you to all schools who are making great use of your Caritas trophy!

Please continue to publicise what your winners have achieved - we love to hear about it, so don't forget to tag Caritas in on social media.

NB: Replacement trophies can be ordered. Cost c £50 inc P&P



Check out Caritas' resources coming soon

- **Feast of St Joseph the Worker: Friday 1st May**
- **Deaf Awareness Week: Monday 4th - Sunday 10th May**
- **Volunteers' Week: Monday 1st - Sunday 7th June**
- **Refugee Week: Monday 15th - Sunday 21st June**

Please engage with us on social media and
sign up for our newsletter:



Caritas Diocese of Salford



@CaritasSalford



caritas_Salford

Website: www.caritassalford.org.uk



A final thought from Pope Leo XIV...

“The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel.”

Pope Leo XIV ~
World Day of the Poor 2025



Leo P.P. XIV