

# Jubilee 2025:

Responding to poverty  
in our communities





“The condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church – on the wounded faces of the poor, we see the suffering of the innocent and, therefore, the suffering of Christ himself”

**Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te of the Holy Father 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 for the World Day of the Poor 2025*

This Jubilee Year resource, created by Caritas Salford, is for parishes, schools, and individuals to help them consider ways in which they can respond to the urgent challenge of poverty.

Rooted in the World Day of the Poor 2025 theme - “You are my hope” - this guide offers liturgical materials, ideas for action, and details of support services aimed at addressing both the symptoms and root causes of poverty.

## Introduction

2025 marks a Jubilee Year for the Church - a special time of renewal, mercy and hope.

Within this context, Caritas Salford and the Diocese of Salford have prepared this resource to help parishes, schools and individuals respond faithfully to the pressing realities of poverty in our communities.

Sunday 16 November 2025 will mark the ninth World Day of the Poor, which Pope Leo has centred on the theme: “You are my hope.”

This theme challenges us to see Christ in those experiencing poverty and to walk alongside them with dignity and love. Also, in his first Apostolic Exhortation - Dilexi te (I have loved you) - Pope Leo has urged the Church to renew its commitment to the poor by showing Christ’s love in concrete acts of solidarity, justice, and service.

The need is urgent.

In Greater Manchester and Lancashire, more than **333,000 children** are living in poverty today.

Our recent report on child poverty in our Catholic schools revealed that more than **95 per cent of respondents** had seen an increase in the number of children affected in the last three years, with **35 per cent reporting a significant rise**.

This Jubilee resource has been compiled to:

- Inspire prayer and reflection, rooting our action in the Gospel and Catholic social teaching.
- Offer practical ideas for parish action, from small first steps to larger initiatives.
- Signpost to Caritas Salford and other local services that provide direct support.
- Share stories and case studies of hope from within our communities.
- Encourage advocacy and campaigning, so together we can address the causes of poverty as well as its symptoms.

Our vision is for a society of justice and equality, where the voices of those experiencing poverty, disadvantage, or discrimination are heard, valued, and acted upon—so that all may live in peace and dignity.

We hope this resource will be a helpful companion during this Jubilee Year and beyond, enabling parish communities to put faith into action with hope and courage.

## PRAYER

God of love and compassion,

We bring before You all our brothers and sisters who live with the many faces of poverty:  
those without food, warmth or safe housing;  
those burdened by debt, insecure work or illness;  
those who are lonely, excluded or made to feel that their voices do not matter.

We pray for parents, carers and families striving to give their children hope for a better future;  
for older people who feel forgotten;  
for refugees and migrants seeking safety and dignity;  
for those who struggle in silence with mental health challenges or addictions.

May Your Holy Spirit strengthen and encourage them,  
helping them to know that they are loved, valued and never alone.

Bless all who walk alongside them—parishes, charities and communities of goodwill—  
so that together we may open pathways out of poverty and build a society rooted in justice and peace.

We make this prayer through Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who became poor for our sake so that we might know the riches of Your love. Amen.





## The Church's call to respond

As Catholics, our response to poverty is not optional but flows from the heart of the Gospel. Catholic social teaching reminds us of the dignity of every human person, the call to solidarity and the “preferential option for the poor”.

At the celebration of every Mass, we are sent out to “love and serve the Lord” in our neighbour, especially those who struggle with poverty, exclusion or discrimination.

As Pope Francis reminds us: “The poor are at the heart of the Gospel: without them we risk misunderstanding Jesus himself.”

## Justice and charity

Our response to poverty involves both immediate help and long-term change.

As St Augustine said: “You give bread to a hungry person; but it would be better if none were hungry, so that you would have no need to give it away.”

Acts of charity relieve urgent needs, while the pursuit of justice seeks to transform the structures that keep people in poverty.

Parishes are called to embrace both dimensions - compassionate service and courageous advocacy.

## Scripture for reflection

- Matthew 25:31-46 - “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
- Luke 4:18 - “The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.”
- Luke 10:25-37 - The Good Samaritan reminds us that love of neighbour requires practical action.
- Luke 1:46-55 - Mary's Magnificat proclaims God's justice and preferential love for the poor.

## LITURGICAL RESOURCES

### Sample prayer for use in the Prayers of the Faithful

For all who experience poverty and marginalisation in our world today—those without food, warmth, or housing; those who feel lonely, excluded, or forgotten. And for all who work to end poverty and injustice—charities, communities, leaders, and people of goodwill—that they may be strengthened in hope and courage.

Lord, in your mercy ... Hear our prayer.

### Child-friendly version

For people who don't have enough food, warmth, or friends and for everyone who tries to make the world fairer and kinder. May they feel God's love and never give up hope.

Lord, hear us ... Lord, graciously hear us.



# Action in parishes

**NB:** Please consider and adhere to Diocesan Safeguarding policies and procedures and consult your parish safeguarding representative when organising parish events involving young people under 18 and/or adults at risk.

What can you do in your parish to support people experiencing poverty?

## See - Judge - Act

Before beginning any new initiative, it is vital that we first listen and understand. Every parish is different and so are the challenges and opportunities around poverty. Using SEE, JUDGE, ACT, a familiar format within the Catholic Church, we encourage parishes to:

- **See:** Observe what is happening in your parish and local community. Who is struggling? What are the realities facing families, young people, or older people?  
As part of this reflection, it is important to look at what is already happening locally to address need - whether through other parishes, community groups or churches of other denominations, so that we avoid duplicating efforts and instead build partnerships that strengthen and extend the support available, for example by working alongside existing foodbanks or warm space initiatives.
- **Judge:** Reflect on what you have seen in the light of the Gospel and Catholic social teaching. What is God calling us to notice? How can we hear directly from those experiencing poverty?
- **Act:** Discern together what practical steps you can take to address need - whether starting something new, partnering with existing groups, or supporting diocesan initiatives.

You can read more about the See Judge Act method here:  
<https://grassroots.caritas.eu/see-judge-act/>

## Share what you are already doing

Many parishes across the diocese are already engaged in grassroots action to help people experiencing poverty. This might be through a food bank, breakfast morning, or by opening your parish space as a warm space - our social action map highlights key activities happening in communities across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. It would be wonderful to have your project on the map, take a look here and contact us with your project details:

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/in-your-parish/](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/in-your-parish/)

## Set up a project in your parish

Starting a social action project in your parish is a powerful way to live out your faith through action.

Whether it's setting up a food bank, creating a warm space during winter, supporting refugees, or addressing social isolation, Caritas Salford can support you with resources and guidance.

By working together with your parish community, you can create practical responses to local needs and make a lasting impact - we see social action projects across our diocese making a positive impact on people's daily lives, from providing them with a source of company to helping them access food.

Caritas Salford is here to walk alongside you to help turn love into action.

Take a look at our resources here:  
[www.caritassalford.org.uk/resources](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/resources)





## Become a community organiser

Caritas Salford is on the leadership team of Greater Manchester Citizens and Lancashire Citizens, a national community organising movement that brings together local institutions to act on injustice and to make change for the common good.

By joining our Citizens team, you can work collaboratively with others across Greater Manchester and Lancashire to influence change on everything from inequalities around health and wellbeing support, social security and discrimination to make a real difference to the lives of local people.

It's a chance to amplify your voice and join a broader movement for social justice. If you are interested, email [info@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:info@caritassalford.org.uk)

## Volunteer

Volunteering with Caritas Salford is an opportunity to help people experiencing poverty in our communities while gaining valuable skills and experiences.



Whether you can offer time weekly, monthly, or in your parish, there are many ways to get involved - from supporting homeless services and refugee programmes to helping drive our van or representing your parish as a parish representative or accessibility advocate.

Every volunteer plays a vital role in building a more just and compassionate society, and your time could make a real difference in someone's life.

Take a look at our volunteer opportunities here: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/volunteer)

## Use our signposting resources

Caritas Salford offers a wide range of signposting resources to help individuals and families find the right support at the right time. Whether you're a parishioner, priest, or someone seeking support, these tools can guide people to services related to housing, mental health, benefits, food support, and more. Easily accessible and regularly updated - access the resources here:

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/filter-files/parish-resources/](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/filter-files/parish-resources/)



# Calling for change!

“It is my hope, then, that this Jubilee Year will encourage the development of policies aimed at combatting forms of poverty both old and new, as well as implementing new initiatives to support and assist the poorest of the poor. Labor, education, housing and health are the foundations of a security that will never be attained by the use of arms.”

*Pope Francis*

Our vision is for an equal and just society, where the voices of people experiencing poverty, homelessness, discrimination and disadvantage are heard, valued and acted upon. We believe that everyone has the right to flourish, and policymaking must enable this.

Therefore, we're committed to calling for lasting and meaningful change, and we campaign for changes to policies, systems and attitudes. We do this in a range of ways, including engaging with policymakers such as MPs and local councillors, conducting research and publishing reports such as “If not us, then who?”, and raising awareness about the changes that are needed.

We call for a number of changes to address both the causes and effects of poverty, and you can read more about these on the campaigning section of our website:

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaigning](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaigning)

However, we cannot do this alone, and seeing change requires all of us to stand together and speak up on behalf of those who need it most.

**“Poverty has structural causes  
that must be addressed and  
eliminated”**

*Pope Leo, World Day of the Poor 2025*

## Pledge your support as we call for an end to child poverty

One simple way you can join us in calling for change is by signing our pledge card to add your voice to ours as we call for an end to child poverty.

With more than one in three local children going to school with empty tummies, we're calling for urgent action to end child poverty. More than 330,000 babies, children and young people in the area we operate within in Greater Manchester and Lancashire are experiencing poverty right now.

We have been meeting with MPs and councillors across the region to discuss the changes that are needed and your pledge can give greater weight to our engagement, showing that Catholics and supporters are standing with us and want to see an end to child poverty.

As the crisis deepens and local children are facing acute crisis, will you please add your name now and join us as we call for urgent change?

Visit here to pledge your support:

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/EndChildPoverty](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/EndChildPoverty)



# What support is available from Caritas Salford?

## Lalley centre, community pantry and allotment

The centre, community pantry and allotment in Collyhurst supports people on low incomes with practical needs in health and wellbeing, housing, family life, employment and more.

Staff and volunteers assist people who are unemployed or receiving benefits, families facing or experiencing homelessness, those struggling with addictions, mental health challenges that prevent them from working.

The community allotment offers a space for local people to learn a range of new skills, meet new people and build their confidence, all in a peaceful outdoor setting. The organic food grown supplies our community pantry at the centre.

Read more here:

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/lalley](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/lalley)

## Energy advice

This free service helps people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire to reduce their bills and improve their energy efficiency.

Do you find your utility bills have been higher than expected?

Are you fed up with your energy supplier's tariff but don't know how to check it or switch?

Worried about staying warm in the colder weather?

Our team of experts can help. Read more at [www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport)



## Bishops fund

The Caritas Bishop's fund plays a crucial role in providing support to families and individuals from within the Diocese of Salford who are experiencing challenges or crises. These difficulties may arise from various circumstances such as illness, unemployment, the ending of the Universal Credit £20 uplift, job insecurity, and the increasing costs of energy and food. The Bishops Fund can provide emergency, one-off support for such difficulties.

Please note, applications or requests for information cannot be accepted from individuals and must be made via a school or organisation within the Diocese of Salford. Read more here:

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/bishops-fund](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/bishops-fund)

## Cornerstone

Our homelessness service Cornerstone day centre aims to ensure people in Manchester have the support they need to prevent them from becoming homeless, that people who do become homeless are helped to secure safe accommodation with the support they need to make a new home, and that no one has to sleep rough.

Anyone can drop in during our opening hours, with no referral needed.

At Cornerstone you can access educational activities, recreational activities (poetry, singing, chess and more), free community lunch, showers, advice, and more. Read more at [www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/cornerstone-centre](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/cornerstone-centre)

## Bury Red Door

Red Door is our day centre for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Bury.

The team provides a warm welcome to anyone over 18 and holistic support includes helping with housing, finances/benefits and health and wellbeing. We also provide free nutritious meals and a warm hub where people can socialise and receive support. Read more at [www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/red-door](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/red-door)





# Other resources and sources of support

## St Antony's Centre

The centre offers training, advice and support and works to develop community-based projects in response to social, economic, industrial and ecumenical issues and concerns. You can read more about them here: [www.stantonyscentre.org.uk](http://www.stantonyscentre.org.uk)

## Resolve Poverty - Money Advice Referral Tool (MART)

The MART is a financial support finder available for people living in Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. It's designed for any agency that works with people on low incomes, including GP surgeries, schools, hospitals and local community groups, as well as people seeking financial support for themselves. Take a look here: <https://mart.resolvepoverty.org/>

## Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice is a UK-wide network offering free, independent, and confidential advice on a wide range of issues, including debt, housing, benefits, employment, and legal matters. Read more here: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

## Bread and Butter Thing

The Bread and Butter Thing is a charity that provides affordable food to low-income families by redistributing surplus food from supermarkets and manufacturers through a weekly membership scheme. Read more here: [www.breadandbutterthing.org](http://www.breadandbutterthing.org)

## Wood Street Mission

Wood Street Mission is a children's charity based in Manchester and Salford that supports families living in poverty. They provide practical help such as clothing, bedding, toys and school uniforms, and run seasonal projects to ease financial pressure and help children thrive. Read more here: [www.woodstreetmission.org.uk](http://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk)

**“Helping the poor is a matter of justice before a question of charity. As Saint Augustine observed: “You give bread to a hungry person; but it would be better if none were hungry, so that you would have no need to give it away. You clothe the naked, but would that all were clothed and that there be no need for supply this lack.”**

*Pope Leo for the World Day of the Poor 2025*



# Top 10 things your parish can do

	Action	Why It Matters	A Simple Starter Step
1	Listen first / conduct a local 'poverty audit'	Understand the real needs in your parish boundaries rather than guessing	Invite people (especially those affected) to share, or partner with local social services for data
2	Pray, reflect, and educate your community	Builds spiritual foundation and shared vision	Use scripture, homilies, prayer groups focused on poverty
3	Share and network what you already do	Avoid duplication; encourage collaboration	Add your parish project to the Caritas map; meet with nearby parishes
4	Start (or support) a food-or essentials initiative	Immediate relief for people under stress	Host a "food cupboard," weekly essentials box, or collaborate with an existing food bank
5	Offer wraparound support & signposting	Many who need help face multiple issues (debt, housing, mental health)	Invite an advice agency to host drop-in sessions in your parish hall
6	Run empowerment / developmental programmes	Address root causes rather than just symptoms	E.g. budgeting workshops, cookery courses, employability training
7	Create 'warm spaces' and community hubs	Churches often have under-used buildings that can host people	Open your parish hall in winter or cold months for people to meet, warm up, talk
8	Use your voice: advocacy & campaigning	Charity helps now; justice changes systems	Encourage parishioners to write to local councillors, hold public forums, join diocesan campaigns
9	Share stories and testimonies (with dignity)	Brings hope, human face, and energy to the work	Ask participants (volunteers or service users) to share (with consent) short reflections in your newsletter
10	Evaluate, reflect, and adapt	Helps you learn, grow, avoid burnout, become more effective	Every 6-12 months, review: What worked? What didn't? What do people tell us?



## Further Information

For further information, advice or to discuss how your parish can take action to help people in your community, please contact Caritas Salford:

☎ 0161 817 2250

✉ [info@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:info@caritassalford.org.uk)

We are here to support you in building parish communities where people of all generations feel valued, included and loved.

