



Parish News from Caritas Westminster

13 July 2022

Diocese of Westminster 'Love in Action' Volunteering Awards 2022 – Who will you nominate in your parish?

The aim of these awards is to recognise the incredible work of volunteers across Westminster diocese, individuals and teams, in parishes, schools, community groups and charities, working in visible roles in social action projects, or behind the scenes, week in week out. Each one is valuable, but perhaps you know someone who deserves a little extra recognition?

This year's categories for nominations are:

1. School Social Outreach Award
2. Parish Social Outreach Award
3. Outstanding Service to the Parish Award
4. Young Volunteer of the Year Award
5. Charity Partner Volunteer Award
6. Lifetime Achievement Award

More information and the nomination form can be found here:

<https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/volunteering-awards-2022.php>

Anyone can nominate individual volunteers or volunteer teams. You can submit several nominations in the same or different categories.

The nominated volunteers must volunteer within the Diocese of Westminster. Nominated volunteers do not have to be Catholic. The awards are open to people of all faiths and none.

Nominations close on 8 September – (note change of deadline)

Following last year's first volunteering awards - online - we are thrilled to announce that this year's Awards Ceremony will be held in person.

Save the date: RCDOW 'Love in Action' Volunteering Awards, 17th November 2022, 6.30 pm - 9 pm, Westminster Cathedral Hall.

Helping you respond to parishioners struggling with the Cost of Living

Our page full of useful tips on financial resilience, as sent out with this bulletin in June, can be found as a link on this page: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/financial-resilience.php>

Can you use food to build community in your parish?

We would like to share a potential partnership opportunity for parishes and schools with the charity **FoodCycle**.

For those who aren't familiar with FoodCycle, they are a charity who source (surplus) food, recruit volunteers, cook, and manage free three course community meals across the UK. These meals take place once a week and many of them in church and school halls. We are delighted that a dining project exists with FoodCycle at Our Lady of Fatima Church, White City, and would love to support more. There is no cost to parishes or schools for this service, all that is needed is a kitchen and dining space. FoodCycle additionally helps with purchasing any cooking equipment that may be needed, as well as managing the community meal every week. And, don't worry – they also clear up fully after every event.

The charity has multiple dining hubs in London and is particularly interested to set up new projects in Brent, but is keen to hear from any parish or school in the diocese who may be interested. Please get in touch with Caritas Project Lead for Food, Niki Psarias nikipsarias@rcdow.org.uk

Imagining Futures – new Catholic Social Teaching programme for primary schools.

Please would you ensure that any Primary Schools in your parish are aware of our new programme:

Imagining Futures is a new project for primary schools to celebrate Caritas Westminster's tenth anniversary. This two-part project encourages students to have a positive, hopeful view of the future through collective imaginings, the creative arts, and social action.

Information can be found here: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/imagining-futures.php> and anyone interested should email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk

Upcoming Events

These events aim to help strengthen your parish's ministry in the community. Please pass the following information onto interested people or include in your parish newsletters when appropriate.

Kew Gardens outing to the Food Forever Festival with Caritas Food Collective, Westminster Justice & Peace, and CAFOD Tuesday 9th August, 11am

Join us for a visit to see the famous botanical gardens and explore Kew's exhibition on the future of sustainable food. You will need to arrange your own travel and book your own tickets via Kew's website and will be free to explore the gardens at your own pace. All participants are invited to meet together inside the Gardens at the Victoria Gate entrance at 11am for an introduction to the festival and again in the same place at 4pm for a time of sharing and a closing prayer. There will be the option to bring a picnic to eat together (weather permitting!) or you can go independently to any of Kew's restaurants or food outlets.

Ticket prices and all concessions are here: <https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/visit-kew-gardens/tickets>

Please let us know if you are joining. Email Niki at Caritas Food Collective: cfc@rcdow.org.uk

We also have three free places available for food project leads and volunteers for whom the ticket price would be prohibitive. Please email Niki about these.

Diocese of Westminster Network Quarterly Meeting for all who welcome Refugees and Migrants

Thursday 15th September 2022, 14:00 - 15:30

online

Diocese of Westminster Network meeting for all who welcome and support asylum seekers, migrants and refugees.

At this meeting we will talk about the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which is on Sunday 25th September.

Please register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/asylum-seeker-and-refugee-response-network-wdmr-tickets-251161740527?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Westminster Social Justice and Peace Forum - To Accompany Refugees

Saturday 17th September 2022, 10:00 - 13:00

St Aloysius Church Hall, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston, London, NW1 1TA

How are we to respond to the displacement of people due to war, poverty and persecution?

As those seeking shelter and sanctuary continue to arrive on our shores Westminster Social Justice and Peace Forum invites you to be part of the solution and To Accompany Refugees.

At this event we will discuss, and present our vision of, the Catholic response to migration. We look forward to welcoming you. You will have an opportunity to contribute to the debate on this pressing need of our time and have any questions answered.

You are welcome to just come along on the day but [registering in advance on Eventbrite will help us to plan for numbers.](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/westminster-social-justice-and-peace-forum-to-accompany-refugees-tickets-354473378417?aff=ebdssbdestsearch) <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/westminster-social-justice-and-peace-forum-to-accompany-refugees-tickets-354473378417?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

(Event organised by [Westminster Diocese Justice and Peace Commission](#))