

Caritas Westminster Parish Bulletin

Resources and events to support your mission and encourage your parishioners

Items of interest to Parish Priests

Please also share with key volunteers and staff in your parish

Awards for All grants

You will be aware that parishes can apply for £20,000 from the National Lottery Awards for All. Some of you will have attended a webinar on this subject by Jamie Holyland from the diocese fundraising team in November. The recording of this webinar has been made available for everyone here: <https://youtu.be/lqfl9oSsto8>

There is a lot of information on the Diocesan Resource Centre too which is available to RCDOW employees: <https://inside.rcdow.org.uk/agencies-teams/fundraising/>

Any questions about Awards for All applications, please email trusts@rcdow.org.uk

Safe in Faith training

Domestic abuse affects one in four women and one in six men in the UK during their lifetime. There are people affected by domestic abuse in every parish. If someone approaches you for support, do you know how to respond safely?

Safe in Faith offers domestic abuse awareness training to priests, deacons, religious sisters and pastoral workers. Read more here:

<https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/safe-in-faith-training-for-faith-leaders-1-2/>

Training takes place online over four sessions, and you are advised to attend all sessions if you can. All take place from 2:30pm to 5:00pm.

- Monday 11 March
- Tuesday 9 April
- Tuesday 7 May
- Tuesday 4 June

Register your interest by emailing safeinfaith@rcdow.org.uk

Support for Warm Spaces (and Warm Welcomes!)

If you are considering opening up a space for members of your community who might benefit from a warm place to go due to high fuel bills, or perhaps you are already providing this kind of service, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Sr Silvana Dallanegra silvanadallanegra@rcdow.org.uk. We have some **grants of up to £1,200** to help out.

Safeguarding in your social action projects

Did you know that parishes running social action projects in their community, from seniors' bingo, warm spaces and foodbanks, to homeless befriending and refugee welcome, must all appoint a Safeguarding Lead, and have a valid safeguarding policy and procedures for their outreach work?

Safeguarding leads should complete the Educare training. In the event of a safeguarding incident, the Parish Safeguarding Representative should be informed.

Where a policy is not currently in place in a parish, the Diocese of Westminster Safeguarding Service has prepared the attached template for your use.

If you have any queries, or would like some help with this, please contact the Safeguarding Service on safeguardingsupport@rcdow.org.uk or the Caritas Development Team on caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk

Items of interest to parishioners

These items can be copied into your parish newsletter or included in an email to parishioners.

Work for Caritas Westminster

Caritas Westminster is recruiting an office manager and PA to work full time. Find the details here: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/office-manager-pa-caritas/>

Inclusive Masses

Caritas St Joseph's is supporting two inclusive Masses later this month. These Masses will celebrate the gifts of all people and are for EVERYONE, and especially those who have learning disabilities, their friends and families. They take place in Enfield on 27 January and Bayswater on 28 January. Find out more here <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/events/list/>

Caritas St Joseph's Family Forum

This is for anyone interested in discussing issues relating to the inclusion of people with learning disabilities. Our next event is Monday 4 March when Bernice Hardy, Co-founder of Wave (we are all valued equally) will share the story its work to encourage more inclusive worship and social places in the heart of our communities.

You can find the details here: <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/family-forum-talk-caritas-st-josephs/>

Volunteering Fair

Caritas Volunteer Service will hold a volunteering Fair on Saturday 9 March, 3pm – 5pm, at Westminster Cathedral Hall. If you are considering volunteering and want to

explore possible roles within the diocese, do come along. More details will follow here: <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/volunteering-fair-2/>

Advice on energy bills

National Energy Action's Warm and Safe Homes (WASH) Advice Service is a free support service providing advice and help to householders in England and Wales on their energy bills and keeping warm and safe in their home. They can also help with benefits advice and income maximisation. Information and advice are available via their website, <https://www.nea.org.uk/get-help/> and their dedicated helpline 0800 304 7159 (BSL interpreters available).