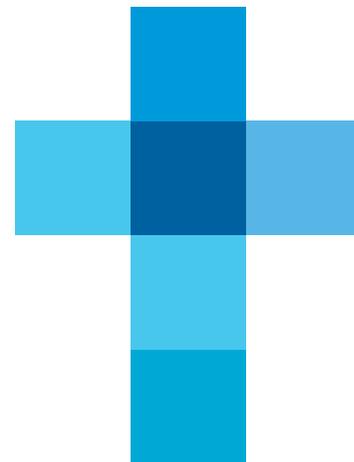


Catholic Care

150th Anniversary 1863 – 2013

news



Welcome, from Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to our new look newsletter. I hope you will find it both informative and enjoyable to read and will pass it onto your friends and neighbours to spread the news about the good work carried out by Catholic Care. This is a landmark year for the charity as it marks the 150th anniversary of when it all started way back in 1863.

We are very proud to have cared for and supported the weak and vulnerable members of our community throughout a challenging period of history which has witnessed dramatic changes in the evolvement of society and social welfare.

We have a number of events and celebrations planned throughout the coming year culminating in a Mass,

celebrated by The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols Archbishop of Westminster in June; we very much look forward to seeing you there. We are very grateful to Robert Finnigan, the Diocesan Archivist who has written a book, assisted by previous Directors of the charity, charting the history of Catholic Care and how the events of the past have shaped the care and support delivered by the charity today.

Looking forward I am confident that the charity can face the numerous challenges that lie ahead and thereby enhance its current services and develop new ones to meet the future needs of the weak and vulnerable members of our society.



Events

Public Meeting to launch our Anniversary Year
Tuesday 26th February 2013
at 2pm, Little Sister of the Poor,
Mount St Josephs, Shire
Oak Road, Leeds, LS6 2DE

Annual Appeal in the Churches
Sunday 10th March 2013

Celebration Mass
Chief Celebrant: The Most
Reverend Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster
Saturday 22nd June at 12 noon
St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds

Cabbage and Bacon!
Leeds Irish Centre
Friday 4th October 2013
More details TBA

Meet little Theo Tasker, who has Down's Syndrome and is helping to spread a positive message about the genetic condition through his starring role in Emmerdale.

Despite only being 19 months old Theo's face has already been seen in millions of homes across Britain in the much-loved soap, Emmerdale, through his role as baby Leo.

Just a few weeks ago Theo visited one of our Supported Living Homes for three adults who have been diagnosed with the same condition. These three residents, one gentleman and two ladies, have been living in their own home for more than nine years.

The ladies are keen 'soap' watchers and were delighted to welcome Theo and his parents into their home. They entertained Theo, shared their own life stories with Dee and Gary (Theo's parents), enjoyed a 'buffet tea' and had their photographs taken with Theo and the family.

Theo's parents commented, "It is great that Theo can help people see that a baby born with Down's Syndrome is just the same as any other child - he laughs, smiles and is a great 'wee' character. Our emphasis is not on the syndrome but on Theo as a baby and his potential. We want him to be safe, healthy and happy and to give him the opportunity to fulfil his dreams just as any other parent would."



A service you can believe in

Catholic Care

Archbishop of Westminster tells Parliamentarians care reform is a fundamental test for society

On 28 November 2012 Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care and Chrissie Moran, Service Manager for the Schools and Families Social Work Service were invited to a Parliamentary reception at the Houses of Parliament, London.

Carol Hill described the reception, which was organised by Caritas Social Action Network, as “an invaluable opportunity to meet with various government ministers, MPs and peers and to address them directly on the issues we are encountering both nationally and particularly here within the Leeds Diocese.”

The Most Reverend Vincent Nichols Archbishop of Westminster gave the address in which he emphasised the urgency and importance of reforming the UK’s care system. He stated, “Perhaps one of the most important areas currently under consideration here is how we care for older and disabled people: a fundamental test of any civilised society.”

I applaud the efforts underway from many quarters to address short comings in the care system and encourage all those involved in this urgent and vital process.”

During the event, Archbishop Vincent Nichols also emphasised the importance of a safety net to “protect essentials such as food and shelter for those who fall on hard times,” and he paid tribute to Catholic charities in England & Wales for providing a “life affirming opportunity to those on the margins of society”.

Carol Hill commented that the Archbishop’s words confirm Catholic Care’s mission of taking the caring church into the community.



Catholic Care says a huge THANK YOU to the children in our Diocese

As the season of Advent is upon us once again, we start to prepare for Christmas, both for the hustle and bustle and spiritually for the birth of Jesus. It is this great event which focuses our minds that the Son of God was born as a small, vulnerable baby, not in a grand palace but a lowly stable.

Times may have changed but today Catholic Care continues to provide care and support to the weak and vulnerable members of our society in matters of social care and family life and, indeed, perhaps the most vulnerable members in our society are newborn babies. Our Christmas Appeal in schools this year throughout the Diocese, ‘When a Child is Born’ is for helping little babies, just like the holy baby 2000 years ago, who are born into difficult circumstances and they and their families are supported by Catholic Care’s Gianna Project.

The Gianna Project is dedicated to helping girls and women from across the Diocese, who find they have an unplanned pregnancy. Support is offered to them, irrespective of their age, faith or marital status in a variety of ways such as offering advice on parenting, providing baby equipment and clothing, financial aid and overall support in the first year of the baby’s life.

The Gianna Project was started in 2011 and named after Saint Gianna by (the now) Archbishop Roche. Saint Gianna (1922 – 1962), was a wife, mother and medical doctor, who was also an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and had given special attention to mothers, babies, the elderly and the poor.

During her third pregnancy in 1962 Saint Gianna developed a potentially life threatening illness. She chose not to receive the necessary medical treatment and to continue with her pregnancy, putting the life of her unborn child before her own.

In April 1962 Saint Gianna gave birth to her baby but within days she died at only 39 years of age.

In April 1994, almost 32 years to the date of her death, Pope John Paul II beatified Saint Gianna.

Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care said “the response to the ‘When a Child is Born’ appeal has been absolutely fantastic, we cannot thank you enough and you can be sure that many babies and their families will truly benefit from your kind generosity.”



Christmas Carol Concert

The 17th December 2012 was a truly special occasion for the children of St John the Baptist Primary School, Normanton when they hosted the 'When a Child is Born' carol service, at their local church also called St John the Baptist. This event has, in recent years, become an annual event for Catholic Care which has been held in various locations around the Diocese.

This year however, the service took on a different focus, as it was dedicated to the 'Gianna Project' a Catholic Care initiative which is dedicated to helping girls and women across the Diocese of Leeds when they discover they have an unplanned pregnancy.

Canon Maguire (himself a former Director of Catholic Care) gave a welcome address to the congregation of the carol service and provided a flavour of the charity's unstinting work throughout the Diocese.

The well attended event, where there was standing room only, was treated to a selection of seasonal delights from the children and staff from St John's school.

There was liturgical dancing, carols from the school choir, renditions from soloist Anna Crossley who, as ever, was on form. She gave a wonderful performance of Rutter's 'Candlelight

Carol' and also another favourite carol 'O Holy Night', all excellently accompanied by organist Thomas Moore, the Director of Music at Wakefield Cathedral.

All present were captivated by the 'twinkle and sparkle' of 'The Shiniest Star' Christmas song, which was beautifully delivered by the younger members of the school.

Lesley Darren, the outgoing Head Teacher, and her Deputy Tina Barry, (the latter who worked tirelessly to organise the successful running of the event), spoke to all present about the Gianna Project. There followed a procession of gifts which were presented to Eileen Holland the co-ordinator of Catholic Care's Gianna Project, and Chrissie Moran who is the Head of the School Service at Catholic Care.

The charity was overwhelmed with the generosity of the gifts donated, collected and presented to the Gianna Project.

Finally, at the end of the service, Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care and who is herself a member of St John the Baptist Parish, spoke about the varied and important work carried out by Catholic Care, and the tremendous success of the carol service and the wonderful evening enjoyed and experienced by all present.



The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the government's independent regulator of health and adult social care services

Currently Catholic Care has three registered care homes and eight Supported Living projects registered under the charity's domiciliary care service with the CQC. Each registered service is monitored by CQC to ensure that they are meeting the essential standards.

During the last 6 months all of our registered services were visited by the CQC and all were assessed as "compliant, meeting the essential standards which were inspected".

Below are some of the comments noted following the inspections:

"We looked at care records for three people who use the service and they had good information about what people like to do and how to involve them in making decisions. One person who showed us their care records confirmed these accurately described their likes and dislikes, and what activities they did during the day. Daily records showed that people had engaged in the activities they enjoyed, on a regular basis."



Catholic Care Christmas Appeal 2012

Thank you very much to all those who contributed to our Christmas Appeal 2012, we have had an excellent response. This is very much appreciated and will help us to continue our work in supporting the disadvantaged in this Diocese. Please remember the work of the charity in your prayers.

Carol Hill, Director

Directory of who we care for:

Learning Disability Services

We take a positive approach to caring for those with learning disabilities and prefer to focus on an individual's ability, not their disability. To give people greater control of their lives, we promote personal development through the learning of new skills. Our outreach service also enables people to live independently for longer, in their own homes.

Gianna: Pregnancy & Parenting Services

Throughout the Diocese of Leeds we offer confidential one-to-one support to girls and women who discover they have an unplanned pregnancy, regardless of their religious beliefs, race or marital status. We also offer practical support, including parenting advice, financial assistance and baby equipment until the baby's first birthday.

School & Family Social Work Services

Our qualified team of professionals provide advice, support and counselling for children, young people, families and teachers. Our priority is always to overcome the difficulties that may prevent a young person from reaching their full potential. As a result, we provide bespoke support to help with bereavement, parenting, relationships, school and college.

Children & Young People's Services

We aim to positively change the lives of children and help them fulfil their potential by offering tailored child-centred care in a family setting. Our residential homes provide high quality care for children unable to live with their own families, plus short-term stays, which allow a period of respite for both the child and their carer.

Mental Health Services

We provide self-contained accommodation in a safe and secure environment for adults with mental health needs, offering them greater independence and support. Each person has access to a range of communal facilities, including a lounge, a kitchen and a laundry room. Support workers are also on hand to offer advice and guidance on day-to-day issues or concerns.

Older People's Services

Our community-based groups help to tackle loneliness, reduce older people's dependence on social care and promote healthy living. They also fulfil members' spiritual needs and encourage them to take responsibility for their own communities. Our outreach service additionally offers support in people's homes to enable them to live independently for as long as possible.

Our mission

In everything we do, we strive to show how the teachings of Christian love, charity and justice can shape the way we live together. We aim to achieve this by taking the Caring Church into the Community and offering practical services and support for anyone who is weak and vulnerable, regardless of their faith.

A mother's prayer

Who will love you when I am gone?
Who will cuddle you when you do wrong?
Who will see your beautiful smile,
When everything seems right for a while?
I will my darling, wait and see!
Because you will always be a part of me.

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