

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Gift for Life Newsletter. Gift for Life is now the overall title for the wide range of outreach activities taking place across our parishes. The Gift for Life Group meets on a regular basis and is open to everyone. Please think about getting involved.

The feature article in this edition is by Michael McHugh and gives information about the Gateshead Food Bank, a local outreach project supported by our three parishes.

“When we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them—some food, a place in our homes, our time—not only do we no longer remain poor: we are enriched.”

Pope Francis

Gift for Life Newsletter

On Thursday 15th May Fr Jeff hosted a celebratory gathering for groups across the three parishes involved in outreach activity. There was a great turn out with wine and cheese and an opportunity to reflect on some of our activities that support the needs of others, locally, nationally and internationally helping us to fulfil the call

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be the slave of all. For the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10: 44-45).

We had fun during the evening with a colourful parachute as we shared the success of each group along with any concerns or difficulties.

The groups represented on the evening were: Handicapped Children Pilgrimage Trust(H.C.P.T.), The Angel Tree Project, The Food Bank, Lay Readers, Gift for Life- Kenya, Fair Trade, Saint Vincent de Paul (S.V.P.), The Knights of St Columba, Red Mission Boxes, India Project, and Credit Union. There were common themes which celebrated successes in all groups, “the care given to the handicapped and their families”, “delivering food to those in most need”, “supporting our Catholic community through Eucharistic Services”, “making a difference to the lives of poor workers abroad”, “visit the sick and lonely in our own parish communities”, “raising funds to help and support specific projects in countries experiencing extreme poverty and hardship”, “sharing Catholic Fellowship”, “helping support local families to raise funds to help them manage difficult situations”.

To continue to develop the Outreach within our parishes we recognised that we need: to spread the word to other people within our parishes to attract new volunteers to become involved in any way they can: the most useful would be to give their time, or by making a regular planned financial contribution.

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR SUPPORT for any of the Outreach Groups above? We can all help to make a difference.

Next meeting for Gift for Life Group is Thursday 28th August at 6.30pm come and join us.

The **Jeanette Hedley Memorial Concert** took place on Saturday 28th June at Immaculate Heart Church. The event was well supported by the people of our parishes as well as music lovers from further afield and especially by friends and family of Jeanette, in whose memory the concert was held. The audience was treated to an evening of first class entertainment by the Felling Male Voice Choir who delivered a varied and highly enjoyable programme with their customary style and good humour, followed by a fabulous buffet whilst the raffle was drawn. The evening was a resounding success with a total of £1,152 being raised towards HCPT Group 41'1 Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Many thanks to all who organised and supported this event.

News from Kenya: Sister Joyce and Sister Victoria are anxiously waiting for their travel visas to be approved due to heightened restrictions on travel. They hope to be here visiting our community for 3 week from August 16th.