

# WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

## Pro-active Parenting

Since the start of January, our Pro-active Parenting delivery has seen us travel from one end of the Diocese to the other supporting parents at St Mary's Catholic Primary in Penzance, St John's in Camborne, St Augustine's in Weymouth as well as being promoted in person to schools around Plymouth, Newton Abbot and Torquay. If you are interested in booking a course for your school or parish, please contact [sarah.watts@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:sarah.watts@ccsplymouth.org.uk) or call **07564 838906**



## Rainbows Service

Our Lady Star of the Sea in Weymouth kindly funded St Augustine's Catholic Primary school, on becoming a Rainbows site and ensured that 3 members of staff were trained as Rainbows facilitators to support their students in coping with bereavement and loss.



A thank you also to Holy Angels parish (now part of the Assumption of Our Lady parish) ensuring the Rainbows' training of new facilitators at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Primary school in Torquay. We were also able to train more facilitators from St Peter's in Bournemouth.

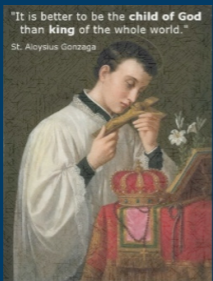
## Non uniform – Friday, 21 June 2024

Please join us to celebrate the feast of **St Aloysius Gonzaga on Friday, 21 June 2024** by encouraging your staff and pupils to wear **yellow, blue and white** for a small donation to help raise funds for CCSP.

St Aloysius Gonzaga is the patron saint of Young Students and Christian Youth.

**YELLOW** symbolises the sun as St Aloysius was a Jesuit who was often pictured with **WHITE** lilies denoting purity. He was also devoted to Our Lady and wrote to a poem to her too representing the **BLUE**.

Please call Sarah Watts if you would like to register your school's interest.



## 2023/24 Good Shepherd initiative - Sleep on the Floor news

In October half term, 11 children from St Peters School in Plymouth gave up their beds for one night to imagine how it must feel for those children who do not have a proper bed to sleep in every night. These amazing Good Shepherds helped to raise a wonderful **£129** for CCSP and this money will be used to buy a proper bed for one child living in our Diocese.

Thanks to the staff, parents and pupils, especially the GIFT group from Cathedral School of St Mary in Plymouth for organising a Sleep on the Floor for one Night\* in their school at the start of the Easter holidays. A fun filled evening was had by all which culminated in a film before bedtime. Well done to everyone who took part and helped raise a fantastic amount of money!



# GRANT GIVING UPDATE

Last year, 126 applications to our Essential Grants programme were approved and families were supported – see table below:

*"I just wanted to say thank you with all of my heart for the cot and pram for my client. It makes my day to find out that we can make such a difference to my clients life, it has really helped to reduce the stress for her upcoming birth date. Thank you for such a swift response also, we are both so incredibly grateful."*

9 grants for essential furniture    24 washing machines    13 fridge/freezers    31 cookers  
4 newborn grants    24 beds and mattresses    21 clothing grants

## WAYS TO HELP

WE CANNOT DO WHAT WE DO, WITHOUT YOU!

### LIST OF WAYS YOU CAN DONATE

If you would like to donate to the CCSP, there are a number of alternative ways you can do this via:

- **Crowdfunding page** [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/creating-hope-for-families-changing-lives](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/creating-hope-for-families-changing-lives)
- **POST** by sending a cheque made payable to 'Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)' to **St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7JL**
- **BACS** direct into our account – Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) **sort code – 52-41-60 account number – 06024335**
- **TEXT** – to donate **£5 text 5CCSP to 70085**, to donate **£10 text 10CCSP to 70085** or to donate **£20 text 20CCSP to 70085**

Please scan here using your mobile phone to donate to CCSP via Give a Little.



We also benefit greatly by donations being Gift Aided where possible. Please visit our website for further details where a form can be downloaded.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Rise to Our Cause Ascension Day fundraiser**  
Thursday, 9 May 2024 at St Mary's in Poole
- **Annual Mass**  
Thursday, 20 June 2024 at St Joseph's in Weymouth
- **Non uniform day**  
Friday, 21 June 2024
- **Great Big Diocesan Quiz**  
Friday, 10 May 2024
- **2023 Annual Appeal**  
Saturday, 24 and Sunday 25 August 2024
- **Wills Week**  
w/c Monday 17 June 2024

### Different formats available...

To save postage, we can email future editions of our newsletter if you provide us with your email address. If you would benefit from receiving our newsletter in a different format, eg large print or Braille, please call the office on **01364 645420** or email [vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk)



CCSP and Caritas continue to work together to ensure as many families in need get targeted support and signposting to other services. For more information on Caritas, please visit:

[www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/caritas](http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/caritas)



If you've not given our Facebook page a like, please do so to receive news and updates on our fundraising events.

# Children First

The Newsletter of the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)



Spring 2024 Issue 30



## MESSAGE FROM OUR ACTING CHAIR

As we are still in Eastertide, I will start by wishing you all a blessed Easter. Alleluia!

The board of Trustees continues to work hard on behalf of some of the poorest and most vulnerable families living in our Diocese. We are driven by faith, prayer and sheer determination to break through the challenges and barriers that operating in the charitable sector can present. Our mission is to help as many families as possible of faith or no faith through our social action.

I need to praise our three very dedicated part time employees, working in administration, fundraising and directly with schools and other professional organisations. Without these people in place, the Trustees would not be able to direct your donations to the families most in need.

As you can see in this edition of the newsletter, we have three significant fundraising events coming up. The first being in the wonderfully generous parish of St Mary's, Poole, on Thursday, 9 May, where there will be an Ascension Day Mass at 12, followed by lunch. Afterwards, David Wells will make a presentation and many of you will have heard David speak before, so will know his words are both entertaining and challenging at the same time.

The second is the Great Big Diocesan Quiz Night on Friday, 10 May and it's not too late for your parish to sign up. And the third is our Charity Wills Week, week beginning 17 June. This is where some of you will have the opportunity to make a simple will without the solicitor's charge but by giving a donation to the Catholic Children's Society instead. We would be so grateful for your support with any of these events.

As we continue to enjoy the wonderful season of Eastertide, we thank all our donors in any way you help our work. Your continued prayers, support in parishes and donations keep the Trustees resolutely determined to offer hope to families who often have very little.



*Andrea*

**Andrea Rodgers**  
Acting Chair of the Board of Directors

### Annual Appeal 2023 grand total

Thank you to those parishes and individuals who donated to our 2023 Annual Appeal - 'Creating Hope for Families – Changing Lives'. Our biggest fundraiser of the year raised a fantastic **£17,199** last year compared to **£16,000** and **£14,500** in the previous two years.

### Grib Appeal update

Thank you also to all our parishes who have already sent in their Grib Appeal collections. At the time of print, we have received over **£6,000** from **36** parishes, but payments are still being sent in and we hope to provide a grand total in the next edition of Children First.



Please don't forget the easiest and simplest way to donate to CCSP is to use your mobile phone to scan this QR code using the camera, which will take you directly to our Give a Little Campaign page.



# NEWS

## Make a will, make a difference – it's a good idea!

**Do you know how much difference a small legacy of £250 could make?** It could pay for a washing machine or cooker. £2,500 could help providing items to families for a month through our Essential Grants programme. Think what difference a legacy of £25,000 could make! We would be so grateful if you could remember us in your will please?

Back in 2011, we received a substantial legacy, which with wise investments by the Board of Trustees, we have been able to use to help so many families over this time, but the funds are being depleted as we help more and more families who are in financial need.

We continue to receive a few small legacies and if you are thinking of making a simple will or amending an existing one, **our first CCSP Wills Week is being held during w/c 17 June 2024** in conjunction with our Solicitors Tozers. To request more information or to make an appointment with a member of the team from Tozers in one of their three offices in Newton Abbot, Exeter or Teignmouth, please email [enquiries@tozers.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tozers.co.uk) or call **01392 207020**.



## Welcome to our newest Trustee



Marina Macari was born and raised in Torquay before moving away to Reading to complete a degree in Accounting and Management at the Henley Business School, University of Reading.

Currently on a career break due to having had brain cancer, Marina is now recovering back in Torquay with her lovely family. She enjoys spending valuable time with them, especially going on walks, which has helped extensively with her recovery and regaining the ability to walk again.

Marina is passionate about helping children and families going through hard times and admires the work CCSP does to help support children and families in need. She is looking forward to getting involved in fundraising and would like to do all she can to help those who need our support.

## Are you interested in becoming a Trustee?

We are looking for Trustees to join our board and if you are keen to get involved, please call **01364 645420** or email [ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk). We would like a diverse range of people on our board, in order for CCSP to grow and better understand how to continue to support the needs of children and their families during this challenging time.

## National Lottery support

Thanks to the players of the National Lottery, earlier this year we were awarded a grant of **£14,000** from the National Lottery Community Fund. We're delighted that our work has been recognised and this amazing amount of money will enable us to continue helping families living in our Diocese, who are really struggling to make ends meet. Through our Essential Grants programme, we will be able to help approximately 80 families of all faiths and none, by purchasing the basic essentials of life, which they otherwise could not afford.

This brings the total received from the National Lottery since 2020 to **£40,000** and this vital funding has helped hundreds of children and their families to ensure they have the basic essentials, which so many of us take for granted. Can you imagine not having a proper bed to sleep in? It's hard to believe today that there are children who don't have one and either sleep on the floor every night, or share a bed with a sibling or even one of their parents.

If you know of a family who needs our help, please visit our website to download the application forms [www.ccsplymouth.org.uk](http://www.ccsplymouth.org.uk), call **01364 645420** or email [ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk)

## More Cornwall Community Foundation Funding



With thanks to the Cornwall Community Foundation, in March 2023, we received **£2,000** of flash funding from their Surviving Winter Fund and we subsequently received a further **£2,000** at the start of this year. With this funding, we have been able to support 13 families. Thank you for the difference you have made to these families living in Cornwall.



# NEWS

## 2024 Annual Mass – Thursday, 20 June 2024

This year's CCSP annual mass is being held at St Joseph's in Weymouth on Thursday, 20 June 2024. Everyone is welcome and it would be lovely to meet some of our Dorset supporters who are not always able to travel to our events outside the county.

Please contact [ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:ccs@ccsplymouth.org.uk) or call **01364 645420** to express an interest in attending this year's annual mass.



## Generous £500 parish donation

Thank you to the parish of The Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Compassion in Kingsbridge who generously donated **£500** from their parish funds to CCSP at the end of last year.

# FUNDRAISING

## Rise to Our Cause on Ascension Thursday

Following the success of our first CCSP Ascension Day fundraiser last year at Buckfast Abbey, this year's 'Rise to Our Cause' event is being held at St Mary's in Poole on Ascension Thursday, 9 May 2024.

The event will start with Holy Mass in the church at 12 noon, followed by a buffet lunch in the church hall before this year's Guest Speaker, the hugely popular David Wells, who has talked at many events in the past all across the Diocese. There will also be a raffle to help raise money for CCSP to continue to help families of all faiths and none.

Tickets are now on sale for **£10** - please email [vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk) or call **01364 645420**.



## 2024 Great Big Diocesan Quiz



This year's Great Big Diocesan Quiz is being held on Friday, 10 May 2024 and it's not too late to join in. All you need to do is find a venue and a quiz master, then look for some teams and CCSP will supply the rest. Email [vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk) to request a quizmaster pack.

## Crowdfunder prize draw winner

Congratulations to Nell Letten, a long time CCSP supporter, who entered our recent Crowdfunder prize draw to win a sporting bundle as she wanted to treat her son and his wife who is an avid Exeter Chiefs fan.

Thank you to all 31 supporters who purchased tickets to win the sporting bundle, raising a fantastic **£550** for CCSP. Thanks also goes to Exeter Chiefs, Torquay United and Exeter Racecourse for donating the tickets.



## Cameo Singers In Concert

Thank you to everyone at Our Lady, Help of Christians and St Denis in St Marychurch in Torquay who organised a wonderful concert in December. 60 guests attended the event to listen to the wonderful Cameo Singers in Concert and **£150** was raised for CCSP.

## Leweston Carol Service

Thank you to the staff, pupils and parents at Leweston School in Dorset who raised a fantastic **£472.40** from the collection at their Carol Service at Sherborne Abbey.



# FUNDRAISING

## Cathedral School Advent Carol Concert

One of our Trustees was lucky enough to attend this event and remarked "the concert was lovely, and I can't wait to see it again next year. The children had such pure and beautiful voices that sounded like angels! Made me feel like in heaven already. It was the best Advent Carol Service in the entire world!"

Thank you to everyone involved, especially the children, who made the concert so special and thank you for choosing CCSP for the retiring collection, which raised a fantastic **£165.83**.



## Nativity in Torquay

On Saturday, 2 December 2023, the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady and their sister parish of Holy Angels in Torquay, held a Nativity and Carol Service, followed by refreshments, raffle and a visit from Santa and his Elf! It was heartwarming to witness both parishes working together, including representatives from CAFOD, CCSP, HCPT and the Hospitality group. Everyone seemed to have a very happy time and although it was a long, hardworking day, it was fun for all! Proceeds for CCSP totalled **£238.48**. Many, many thanks, to all involved.

## Lenten lunches at Abbey Road

During the weeks of Lent at the Church of the Assumption in Torquay, Stations of the Cross followed by lenten lunches were held on each Friday with two of the luncheons being in aid of CCSP.

On Friday, 22 March, year 4 children from Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Primary School in Torquay, led the Stations of the Cross. This was a beautiful and poignant portrayal of the Way of the Cross. The children read, prayed and gave their all. Their behaviour was both respectful and exemplary. The children had also produced some stunning charcoal and pastel drawings of the Stations of the Cross which was displayed in the church during Holy Week. Thank you to these wonderful children, who are a credit to their school and their parents and also to the staff who led them.



## Another Orange Box record set in 2023!

2023 was a wonderful year for our Orange Box recycling scheme as we raised a record breaking **£5,534** beating the record of **£3,542.63** set the previous year!

Thank you to all our parishes and schools as well as the individual donors who have generously donated their personal items to help raise much needed funds.

If your parish or school would like to trial an Orange Box, please email [vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk) or call **01364 645420**. Items that can be collected include are:

Stamps, coins & banknotes, medals, gold, silver & precious metals, SMALL household items (including cutlery and old kitchen utensils), ornaments, watches (working or not) and Catholic memorabilia such as rosaries, crucifixes, pendants etc.



## Axminster candle sale

Thank you to the Parish of the Most Holy Trinity in Axminster, who generously donated the proceeds of their recent candle sale which raised **£187.02**.

## Recycle your ink cartridges and help support CCSP

Thanks to our new supporters who have requested an ink cartridge recycling box (pictured left) since the article in our last edition of 'Children First'. We now have **125** donors and have raised **£1,134.56** since July 2008.

To request your box, please email [vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk](mailto:vicki.dunstone@ccsplymouth.org.uk). Once full, the box can be taken to your local post office at no cost to you. As soon as it is received by Recycle4Charity, a new box will be sent to you for your parish to start collecting all over again.