

**From:** Caritas Social Action Network  
**To:** [ctcmisioner@gmail.com](mailto:ctcmisioner@gmail.com)  
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## CSAN Newsletter

### Advent 2022

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#### **Advent is a continuous call to hope:**

It reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to its fullness,  
which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Pope Francis

## Welcome from the CEO

Welcome to the re-launched CSAN newsletter. To all our subscribers, thank you for your patience. It has been a time of transition in the team, but we're now good to go again and we're hoping to bring you a newsletter at least quarterly. Your feedback is always welcome. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, or stories of social action in the Catholic community you think we should feature, please email us at [admin@csan.org.uk](mailto:admin@csan.org.uk) with Newsletter in the subject box.

We are now in the season of Advent, the season of hope. It can be difficult in the face of hardship and struggle to believe in hope. It can sound like a pious cliché, if it is only some vague aspiration that somehow things will get better. Christian hope is rooted in the reality of the Incarnation, the Word of God made flesh in the poverty of a manger in Bethlehem. Our hope is in the Good News of Jesus, a vision for a new way of being human and belonging, a vision of a

kingdom of love, justice and peace. As Christians we don't just sit around waiting for that to happen. We are part of making it happen. We are ambassadors for that Good News.

May God bless all your work for the kingdom this Advent.

You will find more information and resources on the season on Advent at the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/advent/>

*Raymond Friel*

# News from CSAN



**Cost of Living Crisis**

What has been exposed by the pandemic and the cost of living crisis is what was there all along, hidden in plain sight. Vast inequality between the most wealthy and the poorest, public services in a state of collapse after years of underinvestment (despite the brief springtime of appreciation during lockdown), millions of people living in poverty and isolation.

We were not in a strong position when the situation worsened. We can see this all too clearly now as the UK is the slowest of the developed countries to recover from the pandemic. Our member charities know this reality. They work on the front line of disadvantage every day and report steeply rising levels of need for the basics of life, as well as more and more need for mental health support.

So what can we do, what should we do? Christians have always responded to need, since the very first days of the Church. People in parishes all over England and Wales are mobilising to meet the humanitarian crisis in our country. Our charities are always looking for volunteers. If you'd like to find out more about the inspiring range of work they do, please visit our website: <https://www.csan.org.uk/member/>. A major part of our work in the coming months will be sharing stories from our members, case studies of the work they do and the impact they have. We will feature testimonies from volunteers and project workers as well as the voices of lived experience, glimpses into the reality of what it is like to live without access to the basics for a dignified life.

The Catholic tradition has always insisted on justice as well as charity. In September of this year, the Bishops' Conference Department for Social Justice published a Briefing Paper on the cost of living crisis. The paper included specific 'asks' of the government. You can read the full paper here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/briefing-cost-of-living-crisis/>. In our Cost of Living campaign we invite the Catholic community to write to their MPs with a version of these 'asks' modified in the light of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 17 November. You will find more about how to get involved in our campaign here: <https://www.csan.org.uk/cost-of-living-crisis/>.

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## Homes for Ukraine

The other major initiative we are involved in this winter is the Homes for Ukraine matching service. This is a partnership between CSAN member St John of God Hospitaller Services and CSAN. The service brings together those in this county who are willing to host and those Ukrainian families who are looking for a home to live in having been displaced by the brutal war in their homeland. Not everyone at this difficult time will have the means to host a visiting family, but for those who do, we would urge you to consider this opportunity to put faith into action by welcoming the stranger.

You will find more information about the service here: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>

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## Aspiring Leaders' Conference

In June of this year, the first cohort of CSAN's new 'Aspiring Leaders' programme gathered at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine's in London for their first residential. The programme is designed for those who aspire to a leadership role in a Catholic setting. There were twenty participants in total drawn from a range of CSAN member organisations, and one participant from Caritas Europa. They were supported in learning groups by four facilitators, all experienced CEOs and Directors from the CSAN network.

[Read More](#)

# News from CSAN Members

**Clifton Diocese**



## joins the Network

Clifton Diocese is the Catholic diocese covering the West of England and includes the City and County of Bristol, the counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bath and Northeast Somerset.

We spoke with Jason Charewicz, Caritas and Environmental Officer to find out more about their work.

[Read More](#)

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## Caritas Salford on the Cost of Living Crisis

Find out about what Caritas Salford are observing and how they are responding to the situation in the Northwest of England, including details on their #BeeThere campaign this Advent.



Caritas Salford is seeing significantly increased demand for support across its services, as it responds to people facing acute crisis this winter.

[Read More](#)

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Prisoners • Families • Communities  
A Fresh Start Together

## Pact wins new contracts

Pact is a national Catholic charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families, by providing caring and life-changing services at every stage of the criminal justice process: in court, in prison, on release, and in the community.

[Read More](#)

## News from the Bishops' Conference

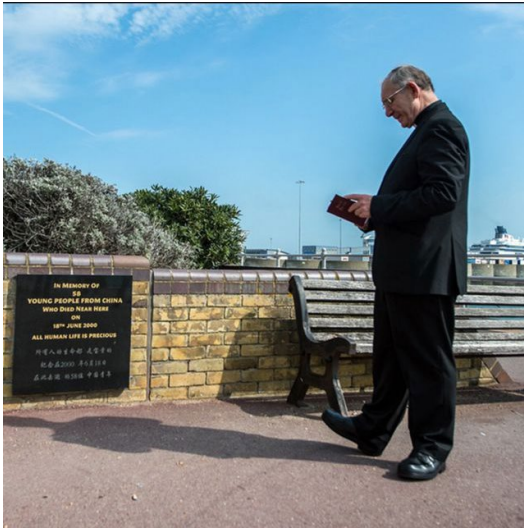
[Don't underestimate the long-term impact of the war in Ukraine, says Bishop](#)

Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, talks about the devastating impact of the war but also the solidarity and welcome many people have shown throughout our lands to Ukrainians fleeing the war.



[Bishop prays for the 27 migrants who perished in the English Channel a year ago](#)

It's a year since the tragic deaths of



27 migrants in the English Channel – the worst-ever migrant tragedy in that body of water. Bishop Paul McAleenan has offered his prayers for the victims and their families, stressing that we have a “collective responsibility” to uphold the human dignity of migrants and refugees.

# Dates for Your Diaries

## **03 December 2022**

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

## **10 December 2022**

Human Rights Day, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

## **20 December 2022**

International Human Solidarity Day

## **28 December 2022**

Feast of the Holy Innocents

## **01 January 2023**

World Day of Peace

## **08 February 2023**

Feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking



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**Address:**

Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

**Website:**

[www.csan.org.uk](http://www.csan.org.uk)

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