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**Subject:** CSAN Advent Newsletter 2023  
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social action network

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## **CSAN Newsletter** **Advent 2023**

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We know that the Lord is coming but we do not live according to this truth, or we imagine that the Lord will come in a spectacular way, perhaps through some miraculous sign... God is hidden in our life, he is always there — he is concealed in the most common and most ordinary situations in our life.

- Pope Francis

# News from CSAN



## **Joint Statement from CSAN & National Board of Catholic Women**

On Saturday 25th November we marked the UN International Day for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the start of 16 days of global activism. This year's theme for the international day is **“Unite! Invest to end violence against women and girls”**. To find out more about this issue, and for ways you can get involved, click on the link below.

[Read More](#)



**CSAN Statement on Autumn Statement 2023**

On Wednesday 22 November, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, presented his Autumn Statement to Parliament.

CSAN appreciates the hopeful news that the rate of inflation is slowing, offering a potential alleviation for those facing financial strain in the face of the cost-of-living crisis. We call for continued vigilance to guarantee the vulnerable are not left behind in this economic recovery.

[Read More](#)



## **CSAN Statement on the Israeli-Gaza Conflict**

Caritas Social Action Network supports the call by Pope Francis for an immediate ceasefire in the Israeli-Gaza conflict. In his comments after the Angelus on 29 October, Pope Francis said, "...in Gaza, may space be opened to guarantee humanitarian aid, and may the hostages be released right away. Let no one abandon the possibility that the weapons might be silenced – let there be a ceasefire".

We deplore the atrocities carried out by Hamas on 7 October and urge the Catholic community in England and Wales to pray for peace and reconciliation, in addition to learning more about the background to this conflict.

[Read More](#)



# News from CSAN Members



## Nugent embarks on Sahara Trek 2023

Nugent is the Caritas presence in Merseyside, working across the Liverpool City Region and wider Archdiocese in schools, care homes, and various community services. They are continuing the pioneering work of Fr James Nugent (1822-1905) who sought to improve child welfare, offer relief from poverty, and enact social reform in the North West.

To learn more about who this expedition may be helping, read more below.

[Read More](#)



## **Leaving Egypt - new podcast from Together for the Common Good**

*"So encouraging - such a thoughtful, reflective and insightful podcast that offers a real message of hope for those of faith in the public square. Reflections like this are long overdue."* Richard Robinson.

Leaving Egypt is a new podcast exploring what it means to be God's people in these times of unravelling. The podcast is hosted by Jenny Sinclair, T4CG's founder director, in partnership with missional expert Alan Roxburgh. Together with guests they read the signs of the times, and explore inspiring local stories of Christians playing their part in the reweaving of our common life. Leaving Egypt episodes come out every fortnight. The podcast draws on Catholic social teaching and has already attracted a sizeable regular following.



[Listen to the First Episode](#)



## ***Caritas Christi Urget Nos:* Caritas Southwark joins CSAN**

Archbishop John Wilson reflected in the inauguration Mass that the love of Christ compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14) to 'break down barriers and to welcome the stranger in need, whoever they are, wherever they are from'. ... 'From small seeds, mighty trees can grow, to shelter people from the burning heat and pain of suffering'.

Since launching, Caritas Southwark's priorities are: identifying and fighting the causes of youth crime, strengthening and supporting foodbank schemes, caring for the elderly, and establishing a support scheme for migrants and refugees.

For inspiration and to find out more about Caritas Southwark's mission and activities, click on the link below.

[Find out more](#)



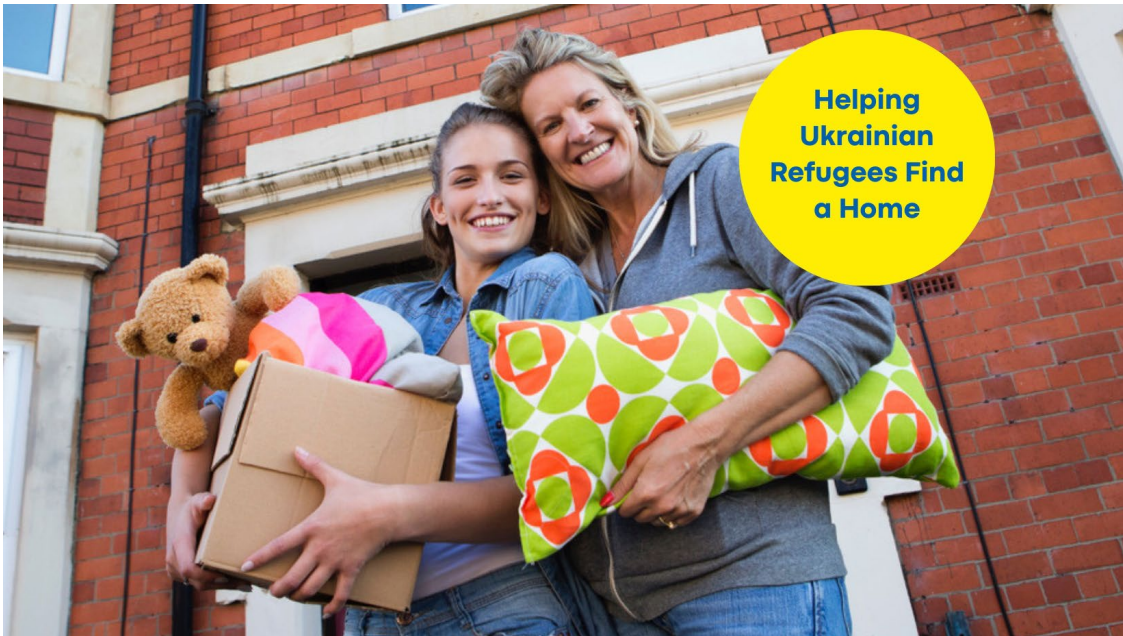


## Relationship Counselling with Marriage Care

[Marriage Care](#) have launched their Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) training for 2024 in partnership with their sister organisation, ACCORD NI. This is a unique opportunity for those with the right skills to train and volunteer as relationship counsellors even without previous counselling experience or qualifications.

[Find out more](#)

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## Unlock the Power of Compassion: Provide a Home to Ukrainian Families

SJOG and Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) are continuing to offer a matching, training and support service to sponsors and guests under the [Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#). In a new stage of the programme, the team are helping people who arrived in England on the Homes for Ukraine scheme to access private rented sector accommodation. Your property can be a beacon of security for those seeking a long-term perspective in a new country, far from their homes.

If you would like to be considered as a sponsor under Homes for Ukraine scheme, please [complete the registration form](#). Alternatively, if you're a compassionate landlord looking to support families from Ukraine, please [complete the registration form here](#). For any inquiries or further information, please don't hesitate to contact the team at [homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk)

The project is supported by [The Albert Gubay Foundation](#) and the [Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities \(DLUHC\)](#).

[Find out more](#)





## Reverse Advent Calendar Resources

Some CSAN Members have also produced 'Reverse Advent Calendars' wherein, rather than gaining something this Advent, we are encouraged to give to someone else. Typically this involves collecting items for your local foodbank. Why not take a look and see how you can give to those who are in need at this time.

To view and download, please visit:

Caritas Brentwood: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/advent/>

Caritas Westminster: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/food-security-918.php>

Nugent: <https://wearenugent.org/fundraising/reverse-advent-calendar-appeal/>

# News from the Bishops' Conference



### [Autumn Plenary Resolutions](#)

Resolutions have been released after the Bishops' Autumn Plenary 2023 focusing on Environmental Concerns, the Shrine of St Winefride in Holywell, north Wales, the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress, and the Conflict in Gaza.



### [Autumn 2023 Cost-of-Living Statement](#)

Since their last statement on the cost-of-living crisis, issued by the Department for Social Justice, some aspects of the crisis have eased while other problems have emerged. The persistence of social and economic difficulties for many has led the Department to issue a new public statement.

# Dates for Your Diaries

**01 December 2023**

World AIDS Day

**10 December 2023**

Human Rights Day

**25 December 2023**

The Nativity of the Lord

**01 January 2024**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and World Day of Peace

**18-25 January 2024**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**27 January 2024**

Holocaust Memorial Day

**31 January 2024**

Feast of St John Bosco

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