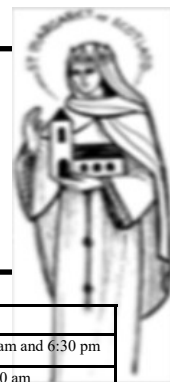


# ST MARGARET'S PAGE

6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Year B



*In Peter writes:* Next Wednesday will mark the beginning of Lent, and perhaps like myself you have entered into the traditional Catholic mindset of what to give up. The desire to give up something for Lent transcends any division between Mass going and non-Mass going Catholics. A number of friends who would rarely darken the doors of a church always give something up for Lent. The recent invention of Dry January, predicated on the myth that the run up to Christmas and Christmas itself is one giant drinking session, has a long way to go before it beats Lent. That is health, Lent is guilt and responsibility.

This year the scope of what is possible to give up has been shrunk by government regulation. Pubs, restaurants, entertainment are already forbidden. Instead we will have to look within the home to discover a subject for possible self-denial. Over-ambition is the danger here. Fasting is a means to an end, not an end in itself. An old Dominican friar told me that in the Oxford Priory, a few of the friars would give up smoking and the rest of community would undergo the penance! Laudable as it might be to give up smoking, alcoholic drinks, or coffee as a penance, the intention of fasting is not to force someone else to pick up the pieces.

However, there are plenty of ways in which one could fast at home that does not just involve food or drink. Perhaps we might reflect on our use of the internet or our netflix dependency. The time saved might be put to better use, positive time with your family, reading a spiritual book, writing to a friend, going on a shared walk in ways permissible. Self-denial aims to open ourselves to the gift of life itself, and the reality of the love that God has for each of us. This love is not something abstract but reaching a historical conclusion in the Cross with the eternal consequence of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Fasting, along with prayer and almsgiving, helps us appreciate once again the life changing consequences of faith in Jesus Christ.

This week the Prayer Course being led by Peter Asley from St Elizabeth's, Richmond, covered the technique of 'Lectio Divina', a way of reading the Bible, and how to hear with 'the ear of the heart.' The presenter explained that the 'Word of God', the content of the Bible is also one of the titles of Jesus

Mass Times & Liturgical Services		
Sunday		8:30 am, 10:30 am and 6:30 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday		10.00 am
Eucharistic Service	Friday	10.00 am
Adoration	Saturday	10:30 am - 11:00am
Rosary	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Sat (via Zoom) (please email the office for link)	9.30 am
Confessions	Saturday Sunday	10:30-11:00am 10:00-10:20am

Christ. The words found in the Bible are therefore always personal. Lectio Divina is the title that makes sense of this personal quality. When we listen attentively to someone pouring out their troubles, we listen with the ear of the heart. This requires a certain disposition on our part, of loving concern and care for the other. By listening attentively clues do emerge that help form any response that we might wish to give. Discovering and identifying the clues in conversation makes it known that we have been listening and that we do care about the person speaking. So, in reading a bible passage, a key word or phrase emerges that speaks to us forcefully, that sums up the meaning of the passage to us. The expression or word that we find we turn around in our heart and make that the subject of what we think and pray about. We are using God's words to speak to Him, so this is authentic prayer. Maybe you might wish to take the Sunday Gospels for Lent (this year it is Year B) and read and pray with those.

Learning more of our relationship with God through prayer and fasting makes us more aware on our relationship with each other. Charity makes sense when anchored in faith because it becomes an obligation rather than simply something extra. How we express charitable impulse is both communal and personal. St Margarets through the Lenten Project has traditionally focused on a communal effort though this year traditional fundraising activities as unlikely to be possible. This weekend the Parish votes on one project to undertake communally, details about which appear elsewhere in the newsletter.

This Lent will be the second under lockdown, nothing anyone would have expected last summer but this is reality in which we now live for the moment. God's mercy still operates, Holy Week will be celebrated and so Lent is once again the time to renew our relationship with the loving Father through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us at baptism.

St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church

• E-mail: [stmargaretonthames@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretonthames@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: [www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk](http://www.stmargaretsrchurch.co.uk)  
Parish Priest: Canon Peter Newby. Deacon Joseph Estorninho; Parish Administrator: Cynthia Souza; Bookkeeper: Ann Edes  
Office Hours: Parish Office is closed. Emails are checked regularly.

## Mass Intentions

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February

13 Feb	Sat	10.00 am	Sarah Jane Edwards RIP	Teresa Histon
14 Feb	Sun	8.30 am	Ruaidhre Boyle RIP	Su & Peter Slattery
		10.30 am	Deceased members of the Bailey Family	Margaret Crowe
		6.30 pm	Joseph de Souza RIP	Barbara de Souza
15 Feb	Mon	10.00 am	Barry Lenthall RIP	Maggie & Bernard Thompson
16 Feb	Tue	11.00am	Funeral of Pat Doyle RIP	
17 Feb	Wed (Ash Wednesday)	10.00 am	For the repose of the soul of Fenna Houghton RIP	Gavin Evenhuis
		6.30 pm	Fr Michael Gwinell RIP	Barbara de Souza
18 Feb	Thur	10.00 am	Sr Elizabeth Emmett RIP	Andrew Cole
19 Feb	Fri	10.00am	Eucharistic Service	
20 Feb	Sat	10.00 am	Bernard Frances Lee (RIP anniv)	Adeline Lee
21 Feb	Sun	8.30 am	Tony Slattery RIP Anniv	Su & Peter Slattery
		10.30am	John McHugh RIP	Mary McHugh
		6.30 pm	Margaret Tobback RIP	Maz & Bernard Winter

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Mo Walker, Stanislaw Wozniak, Adriana Posse de González (Valeria's Mum), Rachel Rose, Fr Paul Bigirwa, Patricia Mary Picton (Mary), Arthur Mathewson, Pat Friel, Mary Reagan, Pauline Slawson, Ben, Carol Samba, Colin Bartram, Gerry McEntee, Rose Williams, Peter Coughlan, Hilary Sudell, Rose Lorden, William Hamilton, Luca, Mary Arnold, Cesar Juan Urrutigoity, Mary Ethel Arnolda, Sydney and Patricia Parkes, Judith Thomas, Wanda Ostrowska, Christopher Browne, Antonella Sesta, Margaret Masterson, Bernard Sharratt, Carmen Ruibal, Ann Macpherson, Chris McLoughlin (son of Olga) and Kevin Sweeney, Cora Fitzgerald (Greta's sister), Christopher Cousins

**Recently deceased** – Pat Doyle RIP, Hernando López RIP, Bernard Sharratt RIP, Margaret Tobback RIP, Cecilia Souza RIP

**Anniversaries** - Rosemary Innocent, Joe de Souza, Nicola Forgione, Alan Dommersen, James McHugh, Marguerite Stone, Jean Brown, Eric Pinto, Dermot Morgan

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen*

### Entrance Antiphon:

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.

For you are my rock, my stronghold!

Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

### Response to the Psalm:

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.



### **Current arrangement for Mass**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday**

at 10.00 am (streamed on YouTube)

**Eucharistic Service on Friday's**  
at 10.00 am (not streamed)

**Sunday Mass as normal**

8.30 am

10.30 am (streamed) (Bookings via website)

6.30 pm.

**Rosary on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday at**

9.30 am (join on Zoom)

**Ash Wednesday (17th February)**

10.00 am & 6.30 pm

Government guidelines allow Churches to remain open for worship.

14 February - 6th Sunday in OT	Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46	Psalm 31	1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1	Mark 1:40-45
21 February - 1st Sunday of Lent	Genesis 9:8-15	Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:12-15



### Dates for Pre Baptism Course 2021

#### Session 1 & 2

23rd February & 2nd March

#### Session 1 & 2

11th May & 18th May

Please contact the parish office via email for more information.

### First Holy Communion Sessions 2021



The start date for the sessions will now depend on the Government announcement and we will make you aware of the dates as soon as there is any relaxations in the guidelines.

### CONFIRMATION 2021



Because of the current lockdown and the uncertainty surrounding the date for resumption of normal services we will be conducting our Confirmation sessions on-line using Zoom. The first session will begin on **Tuesday 23rd February at 8:00** and thereafter at the same time each week. As we will have only 5 sessions there will be additional material to view on-line during the week, which will be discussed in the following session. Attendance at all sessions is expected.

Please register your interest at the parish office.

### Marriage Course



The next Marriage Preparation Course will take place here at St Margarets on **Saturday 27th March**, either in person, if permissible, or on-line. The cost of the day-long course is either £80 per couple (if held in person) or £50 per couple (if held on line). A decision as to the form of the course will be taken at the beginning of March.

### Interested in becoming a Catholic?



The Parish will be running a set of meetings starting Tuesday 26th January from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. We will use the Alpha material as a prelude for discussion on a specific topic and read parts of one Gospel, probably St Luke.

The remaining dates for the course are as below

Wednesday 17th February	Tuesday 9th March
Tuesday 23rd February	Tuesday 16th March
Tuesday 2nd March	Tuesday 23rd March

Post Easter dates to follow

We will start online using Zoom but with any hope might meet face to face once the strictures of lockdown are eased.

If you know of someone who might like to know more about the faith please let them know about this course.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Each Friday during Lent join Deacon Joseph for Stations of the Cross in the comfort of your own home at 7:30 pm. To join Stations of the Cross go to the St Margaret's website and click on the link.

[St Margaret's \(stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk\)](http://stmargaretsrccchurch.co.uk)

### February Soup Lunch

Of course we are still unable to hold our lunches in reality, but we are trying to continue sending a monthly donation to assist some of the very poorest people in Chipata, Zambia. Fr David Cullen is continuing to try and support a number of people through their nurse training, school education etc. He is also helping a number of young women to start up small businesses, rather than earn a living through prostitution, and assist many others in their various needs.



We are hoping to send a donation to him on Friday 19th February. If you are able to help by making a donation, please contact Maz and Bernard Winter on 02089430824 or 07769721975.

We transfer the money to Fr David, (The Missionaries of Africa), and every penny of your donations will go to help the poor in Chipata.

Thank you for your generosity.

*Maz and Bernard Winter*

### Children's Liturgy on Zoom; on alternate Sunday mornings 9:45 – 10:15 am



#### For children aged 4 – 11 (roughly)

Dates: Feb 21st, 28th & Mar 7th

Packs for the sessions after half term will be available to collect from outside the church on SATURDAY Feb 13th. 1030 am – 12 noon. Please also take cards and stencils to make Easter greeting cards for our older parishioners and the residents of our local care homes. *Suggested donation towards cost of craft activities: £2.50 per child.* Thank you.

## The Alpha Course Online

### Online Alpha Course

Tuesday's, beginning on 13th April for 12 weeks

The next Alpha Course will take place online, as meeting in groups, will probably not be possible. This way of meeting has proved unexpectedly successful in other parishes. The course will take place on Tuesdays beginning 13th April and last 12 weeks.

### Mardi Gras 16th February 8:00 pm

The Parish will host a zoom Mardi Gras, an evening of folk music & cocktail (online) which will be lead by Joe Early.



**Everyone is welcome.**

Please bring your own pancakes and drinks.



### Possible other activities for Lent

[The Lenten calendar](#) produced by Hanwell parish, but they have suggested it be shared with other parishes. It offers opportunities for prayer and for simple actions in line with Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti.

**The Passage 40 years of service to homeless people.** To mark 40 years of service to homeless people this Lent we have produced 40 reflections for Lent each marking a year of service and reflecting on the needs of homeless people today. If you would like to share in our Lenten journey please contact Andrew Hollingsworth

[andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk) tel. 020 75921886.

### CAFOD's Lent Appeal

Please find a short guide at this [link](#), with suggested posts, downloadable images and short videos. More information about our Lent Appeal can be found [here](#).

Tony Sheen

Community Participation Co-ordinator -CAFOD

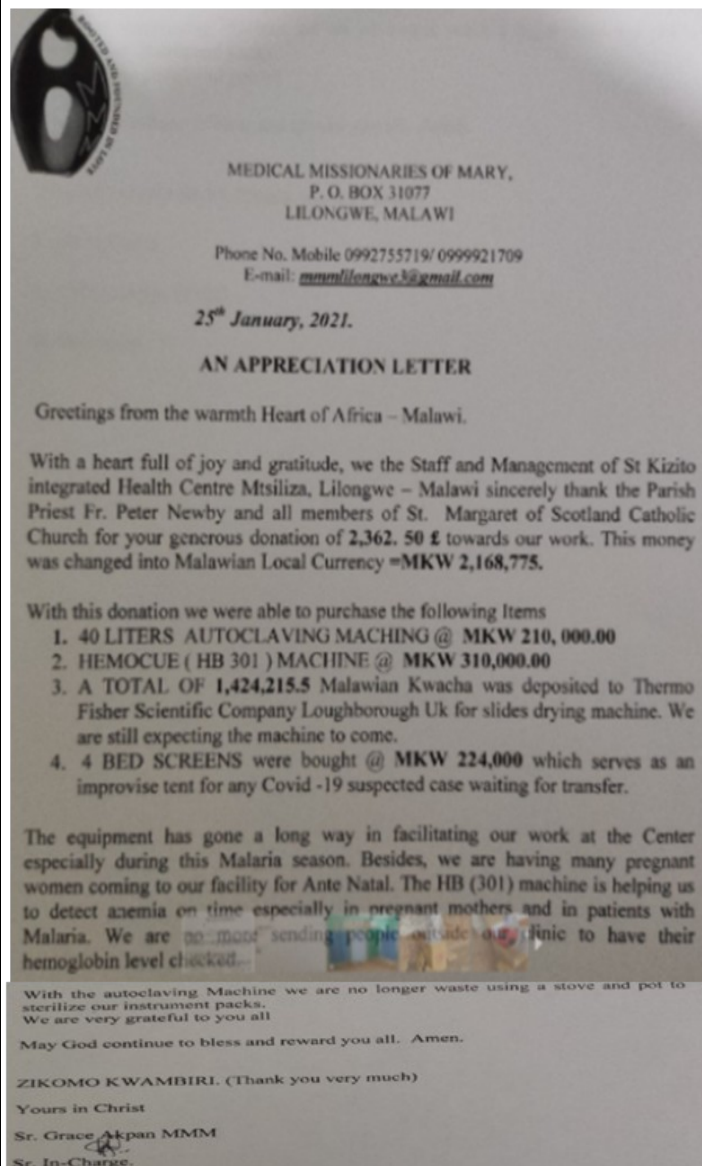


Diocese of Westminster

Agency for Evangelisation - [February 2021 Bulletin](#)

### Last Year's Lenten Alms—Appreciation Letter & pictures of new equipment

Malawi, in common with other southern and central African countries has experienced a wave of coronavirus in January and cases of the new South African variant have been confirmed in the country. St Kizito's has had several cases. Malawi is hoping to start vaccinating in March, having just secured supplies of the Astra Zeneca vaccine.





ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE.  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

## Pastoral Letter for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 13-14 February 2021

Shortly it will be Ash Wednesday, a day rich in associations and symbolism. It marks the beginning a Lent, a time for turning again to the practice of our faith, in prayer, self-denial (fasting) and practical generosity (almsgiving). Ash Wednesday is the doorway into this season of renewal.

As we cross this threshold we customarily receive ashes on our foreheads, in the sign of the cross. This is a public mark of our turning again to God, seeking his mercy, forgiveness and help. We use these words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. Yes, we cannot pretend otherwise. Or: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'. Yes, we seek the one thing that is absolutely necessary: the grace of God.

This year receiving ashes in church is going to be difficult. Yes, our churches are safe if the protective measures are fulfilled. But we must all be very careful about travelling too far. Some churches will of course be open for the celebration of Mass as usual. But I have asked them not to make extra provision for Ash Wednesday. We must be so careful and cooperative in the measures we must take, to protect ourselves and to protect others.

I now want to emphasise an important point. Receiving ashes is an outward sign of an inner step, a movement of the heart towards our beloved Lord. This year I invite you to concentrate much more on this inner, spiritual movement than on its outward manifestation in the imposition of ashes.

My suggestion is this: celebrate Ash Wednesday at home, with your family, in the household or 'support bubble' of which you are a part. Gather for a while. Read the prayer which I offer. Bless each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead. Spent some time praying in a way that you know. But please, make this a prayer of your heart for God's mercy upon this world struggling to cope with the terrible pandemic and the devastation it is bringing.

Here is a prayer:

'Lord God, with all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.'

Then, bless each other, using one of the two traditional formulas I have quoted earlier in this letter. Then continue with your own prayers. A pattern is suggested at the end of this letter.

As a child, my mother or father used to come to my bedside each night to settle me for sleep. I was kissed goodnight and then, either my Mum or Dad would make the sign of the cross on my forehead. They gave me their blessing. This brought me such security. I remember it to this day. Then I slept in peace.

So please do not hesitate, within your household or 'bubble', to bless each other on this Ash Wednesday. We do well to remember together our need of the good Lord. Together, and through each other, he wants to comfort and reassure us of his loving presence. If, on this day, we set aside every pretence that we can do everything of ourselves, then we create in our hearts and lives the space for God's grace and strength to find a home in us.

This is the great invitation of Ash Wednesday and of the weeks of Lent which follow. Please do take up this invitation. Open your hearts to the gift of God's presence to support, comfort and strengthen you. This year, it may be best to do this, not by going to church, but by sharing the prayer, the blessing and this moment of dedication within the love of your family and friends.

Please do include me in your prayers, too.

### **Ash Wednesday at Home**

Gather together and start with the Sign of the Cross.

Read the Gospel for today. It is from St Matthew's Gospel, 6.1-6 and 16-18.

Say together the prayer given in this Pastoral Letter.

Make the Sign of the Cross on each other's forehead, using the words you choose.

Pray together: the Our Father; the Hail Mary; each one with his or her own prayer or intention.

Conclude with the 'Glory be to the Father...'

Give each other a sign of peace.

So Lent begins!

May God bless you all,

\* Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster

## Proposed Charity for Lenten Alms; Lent 2021



This year, St Margaret's parish will support one charity as beneficiary of parishioners Lenten alms-giving. We received three nominations; please read an overview of their applications here. This Sunday (14<sup>th</sup> Feb), at all Masses, we will hear from the charities about how they would use funds raised by St Margaret's parishioners, if their charity is the one chosen to be supported. Video recordings of the presentation will also be available on the website. Parishioners will be invited to vote for one charity. Voting can be done in one of three ways

- In person, if you are attending Mass on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>
- Online via a google docs form on the St Margaret's church website
- By phoning the parish on 020 8892 3902 and leaving a message for the parish office on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Adult parishioners and teenagers of Confirmation age or above are invited to vote.

Please only vote once.



**GETA - Give Education To All** (reg.charity no. 1167092) – *extension of girl's dormitory and addition of teacher's accommodation at St Theresa's Primary School, Kibaale, Uganda*

The GETA Charitable Trust was founded by a group of St Margaret's Parishioners in 2014 and was registered as a Charity in June 2015. All funds raised are for the benefit of St Theresa's Nursery and Primary School (STNPS) in Kibaale, Hoima Diocese, Uganda.

GETA has funded a number of the day-to-day expenses of STNPS, and several major projects including:

- (1) the construction and furnishing of school buildings
- (2) the drilling and installation of a water bore-hole and pumping equipment, and two storage tanks
- (3) the installation of a security fence around the school compound
- (4) the construction of an 80 bed boys' dormitory block for weekly boarders.

Our focus for 2021 is to redress the imbalance between boys' and girls' educational opportunities. In times of family crisis such as the current pandemic it is invariably the girls who are withdrawn from education first. If this situation is to be redressed, families must be encouraged to give equal opportunities to girls. The school's current project, therefore, is an extension to the girls' existing dormitory, and also the construction of 5 rooms for the teachers' quarters.

The school's academic year runs from January to December. In September last year their P6 (leaving class) returned to take their qualifying exams in December. The proceeds of the Lenten Project would allow construction of the extension to be completed in time for a return to full-time education for all the pupils. They are at present returning in phases, beginning with this year's P6 class.

David Rose, Trustee and Chairman

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**Practical Action** – *Nepal Climate Resilience – working with farmers to turn the tables on climate change in Nepal*



**Let's Turn the Tables on Climate Change in West Nepal  
with Practical Action**

Practical Action's project "Let's Turn the Tables on Climate Change" wants to work with more poor communities in the Nepalese Himalayas enabling them to find ways to adapt to the changes in climate and build a better future for their families.

Weather patterns in Nepal are becoming more extreme. Torrential rain causes devastating flooding. Droughts mean water runs out frequently.

Continued on Page 7

## Proposed Charity for Lenten Alms; Lent 2021 (Continued)

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

How does this project work?

Practical Action has 50 years' experience working with people in developing countries to find ingenious solutions that are long-lasting and self-maintaining. Our Nepalese staff work with individual communities to develop a clever package of solutions suited to their situation. These include

**Practical  
ACTION**


- Introducing seed varieties for crops such as cauliflower and cabbage, that flourish in the new weather conditions
- Capturing and storing rain and mountain stream water to distribute as needed to homes and fields, powered by easily built and maintained solar energy
- Small scale cable cars using gravity to shuttle heavy goods up and down the mountain. Goods reach market more quickly, and it's less time consuming, exhausting and dangerous for people
- Training in techniques to manage soil, water and nutrients better
- Simple IT services such as weather forecasts and market information so that farmers can sell their produce and buy supplies at the best price

And, wonderful news, money donated by the Lenten Project to Practical Action in the first 3 weeks of Lent will be matched £ for £ by DfID (UK Department for International Development) i.e. the parish's donations will be doubled.

Proposed by Helena Molyneux, long time parishioner and former trustee of Practical Action .

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*Richmond Furniture Scheme – project to provide starter pack of essential home items for those being re-housed or moving into accommodation for the first time*

 **RFS Richmond Furniture Scheme**

### The Richmond furniture scheme

#### The Scheme exists to serve three main objectives within the borough of Richmond:-

**Poverty** – The prevention and relief of poverty by supplying donated furniture and household goods at minimal cost to those in need in the borough;

**Environment** – The protection and preservation of the environment by encouraging the reuse/recycling of donated furniture and household goods

**Volunteering** – Providing a space for people to come & gain valuable experience, brush up & learn new skills & to improve their wellbeing

#### The project for which we urgently need support: Starter packs for those in the greatest need

We are currently experiencing an increasing level of referrals for those coming to us for help from particularly difficult circumstances who have little or no possessions. They include families fleeing domestic violence, homeless people ( often coming off the streets into housing for the first time) and many others coming to us from emergency housing & challenging personal circumstances.

We would like to give additional and much needed assistance as they start to rebuild and restart their lives in a new home by providing them with basic starter packs. These would include key items needed in the home such as kettles, saucepans, cutlery, basic cooking utensils, crockery etc. Necessary items that are difficult to fund on a very limited budget.

If we are chosen for the Lenten project this year the money raised would be used directly to fund as many emergency starter packs as possible. We would like to have help in a box ready to give to those most in need of care and support during a difficult period of their lives. We would be grateful for any support we receive to fulfil this aim.

Thank you for reading

Proposed by **Vicky Phelan**