



Dear Friends,

The season of Lent is fast approaching and traditionally this is the time for the Good Shepherd Collection which was started over fifty years ago.

Jesus told the story about the shepherd who looked after his sheep, making sure that they had food and were always safe. If any sheep strayed or became lost, the shepherd would go and find them and bring them back to the flock.

The Catholic Children's Society is like the good shepherd and supports children and families who often find themselves feeling lost, (this could be for many different reasons such as: families splitting up, serious illness etc.), until they are feeling much happier.

The money to pay for the staff and resources needed for this important work comes only from donations and fund raising which is why the Good Shepherd Collection is so important.

Children in schools throughout our Diocese will be collecting Good Shepherd money. They may be having a silly hat day, a non-uniform day, a book sale, a toy sale, a fancy dress themed day or they may be filling the little house boxes which your teachers can find on our website. During Lent last year, one school then put the filled houses on to a play mat to see how big a town they could build.

Please be generous and help us to continue our valuable work.





Some examples of work done by the Catholic Children's Society.

- Individual work with children in school who need someone to talk to because they feel upset or angry.
- Organise and run parenting courses.
- Run a Community Family Hub which offers the best possible support about health and family welfare.
- Helping children and families when someone close has died.
- Supporting children to cope with the change from primary to secondary school.
- Encourage children to attend school and arrive on time.
- Food hampers distributed to families at Christmas
- Toys provided for families who could not afford to buy them.
- A single dad who was released from prison moved into an empty house with his son was given bedclothes and other household things.
- A Mum with three young children who had moved into the area and did not know anyone was invited to join the Family Hub to make friends. Staff helped her fill in forms so she could get her benefits and bills sorted.
- Organise family picnic days out.
- Supporting a family when Mum who had to go into hospital for an operation.
- Help families make contact with the Foodbank.
- Providing school uniform and other clothing for children.
- Supporting families when visiting other family members in prison.

