

Oct-Dec  
2016



### Upcoming Events:

#### Lampedusa Cross Available Jan 10—Feb 10

The Swindon J&P Group will be borrowing CAFOD's Lampedusa Cross as a focus for reflection on the refugee crisis. The cross is made in Lampedusa, Italy, using driftwood from the wrecked boats of drowned refugees. The cross will be part of the liturgy on:

✠ **Sunday Jan 15th, 10am Mass  
St Peter's in West Swindon**

✠ **Saturday Jan 21st & Sunday  
Jan 22nd, St Thomas of  
Canterbury, Fairford and St  
Mary's, Cricklade**  
(details in weekly bulletin:  
[www.stthomasparish.plus.com](http://www.stthomasparish.plus.com))



Pope Francis holding a Lampedusa Cross in July 2013. Photo from NCR.

#### Pantomime Visit for Refugees & Asylum Seekers

**Date to be confirmed  
Immanuel Church, Upham Rd.**

Please contact us if you can help give lifts.

#### Deanery J&P Contacts:

- **Holy Rood**  
Paul Hatch, Noreen Bint
- **Holy Family**  
George Timuri
- **St Joseph's, Wroughton**  
Steve Aftelak
- **St Mary's Cricklade**  
Monica Potter
- **St Mary's Swindon**  
Rachel Pryor, Mark Donovan
- **St Peter's**  
Liz & Robert Barrett, Louise Burke,  
Esther Gueu, Gitti & Eric Hayes, and  
Sameh Salar

#### Next J&P Group meetings:

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Mar,  
all 7:30-9pm. For venue or enquiries,  
email [swindon.deanery@me.com](mailto:swindon.deanery@me.com)

## Students sleep out for Threshold

Sixth Form students at St Joseph's Catholic College held the College's first sleep-out for the Threshold Housing Link on December 9th, raising over \$1,000 for the charity. Around 20 students braved the overnight cold outside the College building to raise funds for the Threshold charity to support the homeless in Swindon.

Other sleep-outs were also held in early December in the car parks of Immanuel Church in Upham Road and of Excalibur Communications in West Swindon.



Students from St Joseph's Sixth Form hand over a cheque to Threshold representative Paul Kyson.

## Looking to expand debt advice services

Andrew Hill, who is the recently appointed Social Inclusion & Welfare Manager of the Borough Council, gave a powerful address to the November meeting of the Swindon Deanery J&P Group.

Part of Andrew's role is to help those Swindon residents who have money worries by guiding them towards more understanding and control of their finances. He is also looking to increase promotion of affordable credit options, such as credit unions. The Borough Council has less and less money available, and is focusing on promoting and connecting charities and volunteers.

Andrew spoke enthusiastically of the work of Christians against Poverty (CAP) in Swindon. CAP works actively to help financially and socially disadvantaged people out of debt. The combination of face-to-face home visits, a befriending service linked to a local church congregation, and in-depth debt counselling empowers individuals who are struggling to work themselves out of debt.

CAP are looking to expand their services in Swindon by setting up one or more new "debt centres" sponsored by a local Christian church. A debt centre is run by a paid Centre Manager who works with indebted people, plus a group of volunteers. Debt centres are strongly supported by highly trained caseworkers at CAP head office in Bradford who handle creditor negotiations, preparation of debt management plans, etc. The local church's role is to provide financial and spiritual support for the running of the debt centre. If this interests you, please contact [geoffnaylor@capuk.org](mailto:geoffnaylor@capuk.org) in Swindon.

CAP's service is completely free and available to all, regardless of faith, age, gender, race disability or sexual orientation. To access CAP's services in Swindon call: 0800 328 0006.

