Foreword by
Bishop Richard Moth

Our aim continues to be the best possible Diocesan response to the refugee and asylum situation and I’m proud of our efforts to date. I also want to thank all of you who have offered help and support since my appeal to all parishes in September 2015.

The global crisis continues to grow and we recognised immediately the tremendous work that was already happening in our diocese prior to my appeal. Our primary intention has been to meet local needs by supporting work with those already in the UK (specifically Surrey and Sussex), or by supporting other activity which will directly benefit those caught up in this crisis.

The charity Voices in Exile continues to be our principal partner in this endeavour. This partnership has proved fruitful and there are plenty of stories featured in this booklet.

It is important that the diocese continues to develop innovative ways of working, to ensure that we can engage all our parish communities in effective action.

Information on a new Community Sponsorship Scheme is included as a mechanism for responding to Pope Francis’ call to parishes and religious communities.

In my most recent pastoral letter, I said ‘May this Jubilee Year continue to be a time of great blessing for us all and a time when we respond with renewed energies to the call to service that is at the heart of the Christian life.’

With every Blessing,

Welcoming the Stranger

In September 2015, Pope Francis made his Angelus appeal for solidarity with refugees:

“Faced with the tragedy of thousands of refugees fleeing from death from war or hunger, heading for the hope of a new life, the Gospel is calling us and asking us to be “neighbours” to the littlest ones, the most abandoned ones. To give them real hope. Not just to say, ‘Be strong, be patient...!’”

His words are as challenging now as they were when we first heard them.

In our diocese we responded immediately with a ‘Call to Action’ from Bishop Richard. We have been working primarily with our principle partner Voices in Exile and, following on from our Spring newsletter, this newsletter will highlight stories of our activities to date.
God, no-one is a stranger to you
And no one is ever far from your
loving care.

In your kindness watch over migrants,
refugees and asylum seekers,
Those separated from their loved ones,
Those who are lost
and those who have been
exiled from their homes.

Bring them safely to the place
where they long to be
And help us always to show your
kindness to strangers
and those in need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Who too was a refugee and a migrant,
Who travelled to another land
searching for a home.

Amen
(source Nouwen Network)

The Syrian Vulnerable Person
Resettlement Programme

When the UK Government announced
an agreement to resettle 20,000 Syrians
over five years, it asked local authorities
to volunteer to organise the process.
The local authorities were cautious in
case they were taking on more responsi-
bility without any extra resources. As
part of our offer of help, we continue to
hold meetings across the diocese and
throughout all this planning we have
tried to work ecumenically.

A practical way for parishes, or groups
of parishes to get involved is to join the
Community Sponsorship Scheme. In this
scheme, the sponsoring group must have:
- the agreement of the Local Authority
- the approval of the local MP
- provide a house
- provide structured ESOL classes
- have a ring-fenced income of £4,500
  for each adult in the family to use if
  necessary.
- be able to find appropriate school
  places for children.

This scheme involves a five year
commitment. A Housing Association
could help with finding a house and
maybe a group of churches could raise
the money together.

Developing the Common Good

Recognising the increasing interdependence among all the peoples on
earth, Pope John XXIII explained that in today’s world, the Common Good
of one nation cannot be separated from the common good of the whole
human family. Countries must seek the good of all and not just their own
self-interest.

(See Pope John XXIII’s Peace on Earth, 1963)

Community Sponsorship of Refugees

The obvious suffering of refugees and
Pope Francis’ call for every parish and
religious community to take in one fam-
ily of refugees has struck a chord with
many Catholics.

The problem is how to turn this into
effective action. It has proved much
easier for us to work in existing official
asylum dispersal centres, particularly as
many local authorities in our diocese
have not been able to help to date.

Community Sponsorship is one way of
improving the chances of local authori-
ty engagement. A brief paper has been
prepared by Caritas Social Action
Network (CSAN). Its purpose is to allow
parishes to evaluate if Community
Sponsorship might be a practical option
for them.

The Community Sponsorship Scheme is
still being developed and policy is
evolving. Some more information can
be found on the diocesan website
(dabnet.org).

Community Sponsorship could be a
mechanism for responding to Pope
Francis’ call to parishes and religious
communities. Parishes, in consultation
with the Diocesan Refugee Coordina-
tors and the Local Authority, will take
their own decisions given the very dif-
ferent local conditions. Caritas Salford
has successfully implemented a
community sponsorship pilot and is
willing to share their model and learn-
ing through CSAN.

CSAN is coordinating the Church’s con-
tribution to the community sponsorship
scheme and working closely with
Citizens UK.
Voices in Exile (VIE) works with those seeking asylum, refugees, and those with no recourse to public funds. The registered charity commits to accompanying people in a holistic way offering legal, financial, health and other support. They have a team of experienced caseworkers who provide individual casework, and are now looking to extend this team through volunteer mentors.

Brighton & Hove City Council has partnered with VIE to receive and support a small number of households arriving on the Syrian Vulnerable Person’s Relocation Scheme. Five have arrived so far and at least two more are arriving over the autumn months. They are all being housed in private sector accommodation offered by sympathetic landlords. By bringing all the relevant services round the table the City Council are able to ensure that there is a smooth transition for people arriving into health, social care and education services as they need them.

What We Do

Casework Support—For clients who are destitute we provide individual casework support and access to our food bank, toiletries & financial support. Financial support is funded by the British Red Cross, or one off financial donations through our destitution fund and individual grant applications.

Drop-In Services—Our Brighton weekly Drop-In Service is on Tuesday’s at St. Mary Magdalene’s Community Centre from 10.00am-12.00pm, where our legal advisor and caseworkers are available for advice and support. Our service can also be accessed on Wednesday’s through the LINKS Project in Hastings. Our Drop-In services are a FREE service and work on a first come, first served.

Quilts for refugees from St Michael’s, Ashtead

Last Christmas a small group from the parish got together to make some fun quilts for refugees coming to our diocese. With great enthusiasm and the generosity of donations of cotton fabrics from parishioners and our own resources they started sewing. Having now made over a dozen or more the quilts are giving warmth, comfort and fun to VIE clients.

Being uniquely connected to the Christian churches and other faith communities across Sussex, VIE are able to channel and match kind offers of help with those whose need is greatest.

The City Council and VIE are also working with organisations run by and for refugees themselves to build their capacity to support and respond to new arrivals in the city. There are refugees in the city, including from Syria, who have made their own way to the UK outside the government scheme and their aim is to ensure that they all receive assistance and support through the difficult process of settling in a foreign country and, in many cases, far from loved-ones.

Foodbank—We provide access to our foodbank to those who are in receipt of destitution support, those whose destitution support has come to an end but are still destitute and those who are struggling between asylum support and benefits in the early stages of integration. This year our foodbank has already been accessed on over 835 occasions.

Dependent on donations and grants we have supported destitute clients with help towards travel, money for clothes and school uniform and emergency destitution payments.
VOLUNTEER MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES WITH VOICES IN EXILE

We are looking to recruit volunteers to help mentor our refugee clients with either English Language support or supporting them with their integration needs (this may include accompaniment to appointments for benefits, housing and health care). We would be interested to hear from people who have skills in these areas.

We are looking to recruit people from:
- Brighton and Hove
- Newhaven
- Eastbourne
- Hastings

Mentors will be specifically matched with mentees depending upon the skills & support needed. Mentors work closely with the VIE Casework team who provide oversight, guidance and support.

At present we are asking people to:

- Send in a copy of their CV, with a covering letter explaining why they would like to volunteer for the charity and what they will be able to bring.
- How much time they can commit to each week.
- Advise us if they can commit to a minimum of a year.
- Upon a successful interview two references will be taken.

It is also expected that volunteers will attend ongoing training (some Saturdays and some mid-week evenings) and a volunteer meeting bi-monthly, which will be on a weekday evening.

Send CV and Cover letter to Nora Mzaoui, administrator@voicesinexile.org

My journey to Voices in Exile by Nora Mzaoui

‘Having worked in the Brighton Community and Voluntary sector for over 13 years, my contact with refugees started when working as development worker supporting small community groups. Over the years I saw several (refugee) community groups flourish, people who left their own countries to seek safety and start over again. Their resilience and positive attitude really touched me. I knew then that I always wanted to work with and around people, supporting meaningful and positive change.

When the role of administrator at Voices in Exile came up I did not hesitate to apply as I knew a little bit of what they did through some of the community groups. I was particularly interested in the Mentoring Scheme as in my previous role(s) I recruited and managed volunteers and to me they are a vital part of our charity.

The Mentoring Scheme enables us to recruit more specialist volunteers, who will be able to give more localised support to refugees and work alongside our long standing specialised services, whilst providing adequate support for the volunteers as well. The biggest benefit of running a mentoring scheme is the development of skills for both the mentor and client and seeing client’s confidence grow is what makes my day!’

For more information on the Mentoring Scheme and how to get involved with Voices in Exile please contact Nora Mzaoui on 01273 328598 or administrator@voicesinexile.org


Rent Deposit Loan Scheme

**VIE** has launched a Rent Deposit Loan Scheme with East Sussex Credit Union to help to support Refugee Families to find homes. Those who will be supported through the scheme will have successfully claimed asylum within the UK, and be living within Sussex or Surrey.

This scheme was launched thanks to a generous donation of £10,000 from a Catholic Religious Community. The scheme will initially be able to support seven Syrian families, who are already living in the diocese, into housing.

_A member of the community said; “We were moved by the Pope taking people into the Vatican, and although we were not in a situation to house people directly, we were able to share a gift we had been given. This scheme has enabled us to meet the Pope’s call to house refugees in an ongoing way”._

An additional £1,800 was required to support these families and this cost has been met by VIE’s general donations.

 UITableViewDelegate Story From

**Voices in Exile**

_I met a woman who had fled Syria with her 17-year-old son. She and her son had fled their home because of the threat of ISIS/Daesh, taking two of the places available in a car which began their journey. They then went overland to Lebanon and from there to Turkey before getting a boat to Greece and then walking all the way to Calais. They were then smuggled into UK in the back of a refrigerated lorry eventually arriving, after a journey of more than two months, in Brighton where her mother and brother were already living. She had to leave behind her husband and two other children in Syria. She hopes that they will join eventually._

_She said Voices In Exile had been made known to her by her family and they gave her immense help with legal matters such as their asylum application, with registering with a GP and obtaining Home Office support. They have been helped to deal with any gaps in official help by VIE who gave some money and food support. Help with translation has also been vital as they have to deal with opening a bank account, obtaining a National Insurance number and much more._

_She is a Structural Engineer. Her son is now at sixth form college and is doing so well that he is hoping to study Medicine. He has already visited Cambridge University and has been helped by a VIE volunteer to research scholarships._

_She is now volunteering with VIE, helping those Syrians arriving as part of the Government programme to settle in. She particularly helps with translation._

_During all this time her Christian faith has been important to her and she often lights a candle in the church of St Mary Magdalen’s as she prays that her husband and her children will join her soon. This is a painful time for her as it is for others as she awaits the opportunity to see them once again._

**VIE held an event at the Brighthelm Centre in Brighton 18th May to provide an update on their service provision, projects and testimonies.**

_Bishop Richard shared his thoughts and reflections on the crisis and encouraged solidarity and us all to recognise the humanity of the men, women and children suffering._

_Attendees heard from Mary-Jane Burkett, Director of VIE and others from the charity. Refugees who had experienced first hand support from VIE also shared their stories. All those present were challenged to consider those still suffering without the fortune of receiving support, and reflect on the importance of all always showing respect and kindness to them._
As our celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy progresses, I would like to share with you some reflections on one of the great themes of the Jubilee, the Corporal Works of Mercy.

The question for us today, and every day, is quite simple. Do I reach out to the one in need, or do I relax in comfort, safe within the walls and gates I have constructed for myself? Am I like the rich man’s family, with a conscience that is not even stirred by the One who died for me and rose from the Dead? In the words of Pope Francis, has my conscience grown dull in the face of poverty?

We know from St. Matthew’s Gospel that the yardstick by which we shall be judged is that of our mercy to others [Mt. 25:31-46]. We are called to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, to care for the sick and to visit those in prison, and to bury the dead. These works are called “corporal” because they are concerned with the physical well-being of our brothers and sisters.

When we are prompted by the loving relationship that we have with God, we cannot but be merciful to others. Becomes an imperative for us and flows out to others in practical ways.

We might begin by recognising the need to be ‘tuned in’ to the needs of those around us. The rich man in today’s Gospel was not. Unless we are ‘tuned in’ how shall we be able to respond in real terms? We must abandon any hardness of heart and reach out to all. To fail in this area of our lives is not an option, for Jesus calls us to this and we cannot but respond to the one who died for us.

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Refugee Story From

Voices in Exile

This story is about a man with a wife and three children who is from Damascus in Syria. He is a Christian but was held in detention by the Assad regime, as many Christians are, so fled to the UK as a political refugee. It took him over a month and a half to get to UK overland and by plane arriving two years ago. Eventually some nine months ago he was joined by his family on a visa issued by UK government.

He said that Voices In Exile was ‘a place full of angels and helpaholics’. When he first came he had nothing and so they helped him with finding housing, furniture and a TV (this has helped with his English). They had helped him above all to arrange for the family to join him and continued to help him with all sorts of family matters such as adding his wife to his benefits and supporting the children to get into school and registering with GPs etc. He knows that he can come and seek help at VIE when he needs it which makes him feel supported and not so alone in a new country. He also said that he and others fleeing the war in Syrian had been greatly helped by the churches in this country. All this had made a huge difference in his life.

He was an Accountant in Syria, but was now working hard as a Waiter. He said that whilst he and others had received so much he also said that many of the Christians would love to have ‘Nativity sets and English/Arabic Bibles’.

Prayer for Refugees

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Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Extracts from Bishop Richard’s Pastoral Letter

25th September 2016

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Bible excerpt(s) ©The Jerusalem Bible, 1996, Darton, Longman & Todd.
Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Each person possesses a basic dignity that comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment, not from race or gender, age or economic status. This is the basis of the principle of ‘The Dignity of the Human Person’.

People exist as part of a society. Every individual has a duty to share in promoting the welfare of the community and a right to benefit from that welfare. The Common Good refers to what belongs to everyone by virtue of their common humanity.

As members of the one human family, we have mutual obligations to promote the rights and development of peoples across communities.

Solidarity is the fundamental bond of unity with our fellow human beings and the resulting interdependence. All are responsible for all; and in particular the rich have responsibilities towards the poor.

Subsidiarity encourages responsibility for social and political decisions to be held at the lowest and most appropriate local level, whilst beyond the family we’re called to Participate fully in the life of wider society.

The Poor are not a burden; they are our brothers and sisters. Fidelity to Christ means seeing him above all in the faces of suffering, vulnerable and wounded people.

These principles provide the foundations for the fostering of concrete values of religious and human idealism for the good of communities and the whole human community.

Refugee Story from St. Leonards

A couple from Zimbabwe were refused asylum in December 2012, when the lady was seven months pregnant. They were homeless and destitute. A Quaker family took them in initially but were only able to have them for a few weeks. They moved on to Lewes where they were helped out due to an empty holiday let but then had to move out a few weeks later when the next booking was due. The lady was very near her delivery date and the couple moved back to St. Leonards. She was given a bed with an SVP family while the man was put up on a nearby sofa. After two days, we received a phone call in the night to say the lady was in labour and an SVP member drove her to hospital. After the birth, the social services found her somewhere to stay and their appeal was accepted shortly afterwards. They were then moved back into Home Office accommodation. They have just been given leave to remain, after a total of 16 years and now have moved on. We contacted the SVP in the area they have moved to and asked if they would be able to help them as they had no furniture or household items. We received a text from the couple saying they had received a wonderful delivery of furniture and now have a home and friends helping them, “Thank you so so much”.

“Love begins today. Today somebody is suffering, today somebody is in the street, today somebody is hungry. Our work is for today, yesterday has gone, tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today to make Jesus known, loved, served, fed, clothed, sheltered. Do not wait for tomorrow. Tomorrow we will not have them, if we do not feed them today”

St. Teresa of Kolkata
ST LEONARDS SVP

Hastings/St. Leonards is one of the UK Governments official asylum dispersal centres. The Good Shepherd SVP Conference works within a multi-agency partnership providing advice and guidance to asylum seekers, refugees and new migrant communities living across East Sussex.

“I am very thankful to our SVP Conference who have served our community for many years and am delighted to hear that they have received a grant from our Diocesan Migrant Fund. This grant will assist our members who spend much of their time helping isolated individuals within our community. This includes supporting asylum seekers by teaching English as a second language where needed, providing emergency food and healthcare to name but a few. This recognition from the Diocesan Refugee Steering Group is well deserved, and highlights their great work. We should be very proud of our Conference.”

Canon Tom Treherne, Parish Of The Good Shepherd.

Voices in Exile

The next person was another Syrian.

The next person was another Syrian.

He was a Christian who had fled ISIS/Daesh. He lived in a village near Aleppo which has been devastated by the war. He was nearly kidnapped three times so he had to flee. He arrived by plane in 2015 alone, and was separated from his wife and three young boys for more than a year. He was first in Birmingham, but then came to Worthing because of family who were already there.

He made contact with VIE when he first arrived in the UK and they helped him access accommodation and financial support while he waited to have his application for asylum processed. He returned to Sussex and came back to see VIE after he received his visa. VIE have been incredibly helpful with everything from housing to health needs, financial and food assistance and schooling for his children who arrived late last year once he had received his refugee status.

He ran a transport company when he was in Syria, but finds it difficult now not being able to work and support his family. He still has family in Syria including in his home village which is all but destroyed.

He is grateful for all the help he has received from VIE and Britain, but his deepest wish is to return home once it is safe to do so.

A man worked for the British army in Afghanistan and when the troops withdrew his life was in danger and he sought asylum in the UK. Initially, he lived with relatives in London, but after about 1 year he was given leave to remain and then applied for his wife and family to join him; they arrived in March 2016.

As a result of being transferred across towns without arrangements between councils, a number of complications arose; it appeared that no one was responsible for paying the rent, the Council Tax, heating and lighting etc. and they were receiving no benefits. The woman was also very sick, was losing blood, was hardly able to move and it was assumed she had had a miscarriage. As a result, the family had no income, rent and council tax, heating and lighting were not being paid and the flat was infested with bed bugs.

SVP members visited the family regularly, bought all their groceries, toiletries, arranged for the woman to register with a doctor and receive urgent medical attention. They arranged for a Health Visitor and an Education Social Worker to enrol the boys at a local school. SVP also organised pest control to decontaminate the flat of bed bugs and accompanied the man to apply for benefits and JSA. A local accommodation provider sorted out the payment of rent, electric and gas for flat. SVP organised a rebate on Council Tax, purchased school clothing, football and sports wear for both boys who started school in April.

The couple have both enrolled on ESOL courses and both are taking supplementary English conversation classes at Links every week. The man has applied to become a taxi driver locally in Hastings. All this was achieved in under 2 months.
The Perfect Gift This Christmas:

In Refugee Tales, poets and novelists retell the stories of individuals who have directly experienced Britain’s policy of indefinite immigration detention. Presenting their experiences anonymously, as modern day counterparts to the pilgrim’s stories in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, the book offers rare, intimate glimpses into otherwise untold suffering.

To BUY this book, please visit:
http://commapress.co.uk/books/refugee-tales/

Why not join Aidan and hundreds of others for the third Refugee Tales walk, currently being planned for the 30 June – 5 July 2017. It is likely to begin in the north-west corner of our diocese and head in to London via the Thames path.

Next year’s walk will once again follow paths taken by travellers over the centuries while reflecting on the long and dangerous journeys that many refugees make fleeing war and persecution, seeking a safe place to live.

Walkers can undertake the full 5 days or join along the way. Accommodation will be provided in village and church halls.

For latest news visit: http://refugeetales.org

Other Activities

Many individuals and parishes are also supporting local organisations who are doing remarkable work helping refugees.

These organisations include:

Parishes for Peace - seek to bring dignity, prayer and hope to the Iraqi Christian asylum seekers who have come to the Church in Jordan for sanctuary and help.
www.parishesforpeace.com

Seeking Sanctuary - a small organisation promoting awareness of migrants near our shores and providing humanitarian assistance to those currently stranded in and near Calais.
http://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com

The Hummingbird Project - providing aid and solidarity with refugees in Europe and across the world.
www.hummingbirdproject.org.uk

Samara’s Aid Appeal provides humanitarian relief to people in need in the Middle East that other aid agencies have missed, or people who are scattered across areas where they cannot access help themselves.
www.samarasaidappeal.org

CAFOD are working with Caritas partners in Lebanon and Greece. They have raised over £53,000 for their Refugee Crisis appeal from our diocese and several of our parishes and schools have held Year of Mercy Pilgrimages, prayer evenings and assemblies. Over 7,000 messages of hope for refugees have been written throughout England and Wales. They continue to raise awareness using a Lampedusa Cross which schools, parishes and groups have hosted.
A lady from Burundi arrived in St. Leonards in 2004 having fled the Rwanda Genocide. She was completely traumatised and did not speak for three weeks. She just sat in her room clutching her bible. We brought in an English bible and tried to work out what she was reading to form a relationship. Gradually after several visits, she became more relaxed in our company and gradually began to speak, in French. She has now had her indefinite leave to remain for several years and is an integrated member of our society. She was an auxiliary member of our SVP conference for a while until she became employed full time. She has now worked in various care homes for quite a few years and is a settled member of the local society.

Over the last few years, SVP have supported three very young females and a family all from Albania and a girl from Vietnam with a small child who were all victims of trafficking. They are being supported by Migrant Help and the Salvation Army but also come under the asylum system and are house in Home Office Accommodation. Two of the girls arrived in St. Leonards pregnant and the SVP conference has given them a lot of support, both with baby clothes and equipment and support during the births of the babies. The SVP group also arranged for the three most vulnerable to have someone accompany them during their Asylum Court hearings. Two of the girls have now been given leave to remain.
Aidan Cantwell and Mary-Jane Burkett have given many talks, presentations and workshops over the last year on both our diocesan response and the excellent work of Voices in Exile.

Events in your parish can be quickly organised to cover:
- Raising awareness of the issues relating to the crisis
- Creating communities that build a culture of hospitality and create safe environments for vulnerable people seeking sanctuary
- The benefits of working collaboratively
- Coordinating action on campaigning issues and helping to develop networks.

Please contact our coordinators for more details.

Speaking in September about a talk Aidan and Mary-Jane had just given at Worth Abbey for a ‘Day for Religious’, Fr. Stephen Ortiger said that they both had ‘reached hearts and minds very powerfully...may God bless you and your vital ministry abundantly, now and always.’

For our response to be effective we have sought many allies with whom to collaborate. Agencies offer expertise and connections that are integral to our response’s success.

The Migrant Fund has enabled us to give funding to local organisations who support those directly involved in this crisis. We anticipate need for this essential work to continue to grow and our diocese is well placed to encourage and equip people in this endeavour.

Funding has focused on areas that were identified to be in greatest need. Voices in Exile have been able to build their capacity in order to both improve and increase accompaniment and specialist case-work. Our funding has also led to the establishment of a mentoring scheme designed to provide increased volunteering opportunities (see ad on page 4).

In St Leonard’s the fund has enabled the local SVP to develop their current projects that include transport, emergency support and education. This will enable the group to be on a more sustainable footing as it too looks to meet increasing demand for their essential services.
Pledge your support today

Full Name

Home Address

Email Address

Contact Number

Parish

I would like to make a donation of £

Please make cheques payable to “DABCEC” (Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Christian Education Centre) and send to Aidan Cantwell (at the address on page 11)

For transfers our bank details are:

DABCEC, Sort Code: 40-05-20, A/c: 710781518 HSBC, Pall Mall
Ref: DMF + Surname

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ________________

Please note that this data will be used by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Please keep us informed of any changes to contact details to update our database accordingly. When the information you have provided is no longer required, we will delete it from our database. Thank you.

More funding is required to meet the challenges ahead

Our steering group is ensuring all donations and offers of assistance are used appropriately and effectively to support those directly affected by the crisis. An Action Plan with clear objectives was adopted and the steering group is using its relevant expertise to identify plans for longer term projects.

The Steering Group is a grant making body in relation to money donated to the ‘Migrant Fund’. Requests for funding or for the allocation of resources by groups already supporting refugees can be made using approved forms and by following an agreed process. For more information please contact our coordinators.

An individual is deemed destitute if:

“They and their dependents do not have adequate accommodation or any means of obtaining it, even if other essential living needs are met, or they and their dependents have adequate accommodation or the means of obtaining it, but cannot meet essential living needs.” (Home Office)

Destitute migrants urgently need:

- Individual casework support including legal advice
- Access to foodbanks
  - In 2016 VIE are likely to have around 1,300 people access their foodbank service. At an average cost of £17 per person, the annual cost of food disbursed is now over £21,000.
- Toiletries
- Financial support, essential to help with
  + Travel
  + Clothing
  + School uniforms
  + Emergency destitution payments

These key areas, alongside English language courses, have been identified as a priority for our migrant fund in order to support destitute individuals and families on an ongoing basis. We intend to fund those organisations that are best placed to provide these services.

We therefore continue to encourage your support and THANK YOU enormously for any donation you can give.

GIFT AID

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON
Registered Charity No. 252878

GIFT AID DECLARATION: DMF

Declaration no. (for official use)

I ___________________________________________
Title           Christian Name(s)                                           Surname

_________________________________________________________
Full Home Address (BLOCK CAPITALS)

_________________________________
Telephone No.                                                        Email Address

want the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton to treat all donations I have made for the four years prior to this year and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations and reclaim tax accordingly.

Date of Declaration ..............................