

The Catholic Partnership for Covid Emergency Relief

We've formed a new partnership to help the most vulnerable people in our diocese through the pandemic



Many parishes in our diocese support projects working to relieve poverty, and there are many more active volunteers who are Catholic parishioners. If your parish or project would be interested in joining us, [get in touch](#) – we'd love to hear from you.

The founding members of the partnership are:

- Agencies which serve homeless or vulnerable people: **Emmanuel House**, central Nottingham, **The Friary**, West Bridgford and the **Padley Group**, Derby.
- **Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's** parishes in Leicester, whose Justice and Peace Group (hereafter BSSPP) supports three foodbanks, including **E2 Food Hub**
- Two further foodbanks in Derbyshire: **Hope for Belper** and the **Zink Project** (High Peak).

In June 2020 we raised a grant of £36,102 from the **Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation** for to provide emergency relief over the summer of 2020. We helped over 5,000 people at risk of hunger and homelessness in the pandemic. Read on to find out what we have achieved so far. Now we want to develop our next project.

With your help we can go further. Join us!

Emmanuel House, Nottingham

Emmanuel House, founded by Assumptionist Fr Roger Killeen, were able to re-open their centre, with new equipment, PPE, adjustments, adaptations, and mobile phones to enable clients to negotiate with agencies. We helped 304 vulnerable individuals in the Spring and Summer.



We also supported adaptations for the centre's Outreach Team and Nightshelter (operating from a local hotel) which has been able to serve women and men, including asylum seekers – 2,499 bed nights in total, with food provided initially by the City Council and then by donors.



Emmanuel House Support Centre adapted for an advice session and (right) the Emmanuel House team modelling PPE after their training

Case study

After Emmanuel House was reopened, one of their first visitors was D. He arrived in a state of distress, as he couldn't understand what was happening to him in the benefits system. The worker at Emmanuel House was able to find out that he was waiting on a phone assessment which had been delayed because of lockdown.

When he finally received a letter about his results he couldn't understand it. The worker was able to explain that he was now entitled to the additional benefits to pay for his care needs. The benefits also meant his bills were reduced. Now D is able to pay for a carer and no longer has to worry about money.

Some details in the case studies have been changed to protect the identity of the person involved.

Zink Advice, Buxton, Derbyshire

Buxton's Zink Project provided advice and advocacy for foodbank users 41 single people and the same number of families, on benefit claims, utility costs etc. The advice unlocked ways forward which meant that they were no longer reliant on food parcels.

Picture, right: Julie, Advice Worker at Zink



The Zink Project



Read about the project in the local paper

"High Peak charity The Zink Project has restarted face-to-face appointments for its advice service, partly thanks to a grant from The Albert Gubay Foundation through Nottingham Catholic Diocese": [Glossop Chronicle, 30 July 2020](#)

Case study

When Covid-19 hit, V lost her job at a care home in Buxton at the start of COVID19. V has a 11-year-old son, and contacted Zink because she had neither money or food for herself and son.

V had been experiencing domestic violence from her ex-partner. Finally after he had caused her injury and caused damage in the house, she called the Police. The man was arrested and bailed not to return to the property or approach V or her daughter.

However V became increasingly afraid of going out, and was having anxiety attacks. She had rent arrears of over £700 but didn't know she could claim tax credits when she was working.

Zink helped her to set up a payment plan, and applied for a Discretionary Housing Payment; and also for money for gas and electric.

With her son due to start a new in September, V was concerned that she had no money to be able to buy her new uniform and PE kit and shoes. She worried that he might be bullied if she doesn't have the correct uniform. Zink helped her with the money to purchase these items.

Padley Group, Derby

Padley, founded by Sisters of Mercy, received two weeks' funding for food vouchers for 70 rough sleepers housed during the Spring lockdown at the Holiday Inn, Derby under the government's 'Everybody In' scheme.



The food vouchers provided to rough sleepers at the Holiday Inn, and (right) door service in operation at Padley's care centre in.

The food vouchers funded by the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation enabled Padley to have daily conversations with the most entrenched rough sleepers, resulting in 5 of them being persuaded to take up an offer of accommodation.

Daily contact was kept with 8 individuals who were placed in accommodation with no access to cooking facilities or utensils. Padley were able to advocate on their behalf to ensure they were provided with the facilities they needed to sustain their tenancy.

The residents in the Hostel, numbering 51 during the period, all benefitted from free meals as a result of the vouchers and this ensured that they kept safe and well having no reason to leave the premises.

The other people supported were in the main, individuals with no recourse to public funds, or Rough sleepers who continue to be in the 'revolving doors' moving from hostel to hostel, until they are ready to make some different life choices.

E2 Food Hub, Leicester

During the prolonged local lockdown imposed on Leicester, the project funded **E2 Food Hub** to continue supplying food to the most vulnerable people in the deprived LE4 postcode, including two Travellers' sites and a women's refuge. In total 171 individuals and 230 families received food relief.



A food bank that aims to help people in Beaumont Leys in Crisis

Are you in crisis? Do you need help with food?

0116 2359481

me2@e2online.co.uk

E2online

www.e2online.co.uk

Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's Justice and Peace Group

Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's Justice and Peace Group donated funds to four foodbanks in Leicester, including **E2**, for foods appropriate for ethnic groups, recognising the cultural, mental and physical benefits of such donations. 200 single individuals and 240 families benefited from the scheme.



Braunstone Food share supplies; (right) a delivery from the Zimbabwe Catholic Community Project – and overleaf, maize and millet meal



Read about Blessed Sacrament parish's project in the local paper

"Meet the student delivering ethnic food parcels to the elderly and at-risk during the Leicester lockdown": [Leicester Mercury, 18 July 2020](#)

Right: Nancy Tsvara, parishioner at Blessed Sacrament



Case studies

S is a single mother of African descent with four children. Two of the children have medical needs which require a special diet. She is a self-employed beautician who relies on tax credits, but had not been able to work since March due to Covid-19 restrictions

When she received the first delivery of African foods from E2 foodbank in July, she rang and said, "The extra food items are marvellous. I'm so happy. This is more than I was expecting when you offered me the meat, yams, plantains, palm oil and all the other food last week. It is second to none, a wonderful surprise."

At the end of the project, S reported that the African foods had made a big difference to the family - she has been able to plan meals based on the delivery every week and the meat and butter beans, etc enabled her to meet her children's dietary high protein needs.

Further feedback for the Justice and Peace Group's scheme:

- 'Thank you so much, I am really grateful,.....It made me think of home and realise how much I missed African cooking.'
- 'I am so grateful I have been able to cook meals from my culture, this has made me really connect with my cultural identity again.'
- A person who is seeking asylum from persecution in her own country has been able to reconnect with her culture which she previously felt isolated from. This has helped her mental health as she recently lost her sister and felt very alone in Braunstone.
- One recipient has been teaching his kids to cook African food over the lockdown period from the food provided and is very thankful for this opportunity.

The Peace Centre, a Muslim community organisation in east Leicester, cooked halal meals for their clients every week and reached 190 households, more than 900 people, with support from this grant.

Client reports indicate that access to the foods, the smell and taste of cooking of their countries and food required by their religious beliefs was really beneficial for their physical, mental and spiritual health.

Foodbanks reported that providing these foods strengthened their relationship with their clients and the community, that people expressed the feeling of being seen and valued. One foodbank has evolved the way it operates to be more inclusive because of this grant.

The Friary, West Bridgford

The Friary's Space to Think project gives vulnerable people access to food and washing in order to free up time to engage with other support with benefit claims and housing options. During Spring and Summer 2020, 904 single people and 292 families were reached with our help.



Cooked food at Friary, and (below) a sample of food purchases



Hope for Belper

Like many foodbanks, **Hope for Belper** experienced a surge in demand for food aid and reduced donations, were able to purchase food and packaging to cover the shortfall.



Case studies

A couple in mid-late 20's were both made redundant at the start of lockdown. They spent the first couple of months seeking work and using savings to get by. By May they were struggling to make ends meet and ended up at the Job Centre who moved them onto Universal Credit and referred them to Hope for Belper for support with food parcels. They continued to struggle throughout lockdown because Universal Credit covered their bills but there was nothing left for food. We continued to support them for several months and fortunately in September they both found employment again.

A single dad with two children was unable to work when the schools closed. He also has his own business which had to close in lockdown. We supported the family throughout lockdown with food on a weekly basis. Since September when the children went back to school the business has been able to partially reopen. Hope for Belper are continuing to support the family as they get back on their feet with food parcels on a much less frequent basis.