



*May 2023*

## Coronation Big Help Out Lunch success!

60 SVP helpers and supporters came along to our lunch on 10th May and gained quite an insight into some of the organisations that we have been and continue to be involved with.

### **Bethany Foodbank**

Pastor Kevin, who runs this, advised that he serves around 1,000 customers a month. His fuel bills are even now running at over £1,000 per month and it is a continual task to raise funds for this. We support them with donated non-perishable food from the parish plus from Sainsburys in Dorridge, plus some of our daily collected food from Costco in Star City. Volunteers from our parish, Lady of the Wayside and the Friary drive our van into Birmingham on a daily basis to do this.

Juliet, one of the managers from Sainsburys, Dorridge was also very pleased to invited and is very enthusiastic and pleased with our new relationship since December last year and is looking to increase their support in whatever ways possible.

### **St Chads Sanctuary**

Also on our Costco drop off every Wednesday. We were delighted to welcome Sister Margaret, one of the original founders, and now on the management committee covering St Chads Sanctuary and also Brushstrokes in Smethwick ( Costco food drop off on a Tuesday). St Chads look after Asylum Seekers many of whom have dropped off the system and need help with food and clothing and receive additional support in general life skills and speaking English.

### **Manningford Hall SVP project**

Francesca the appointed SVP manager at this community centre advised that since her arrival in December last year they have learned a lot about this community in Druids Heath. They have discovered many with mental health issues and without some of the basic life skills to cook and look after their children ( some of whom are taken away from them) and it has become apparent that they may be best served with more of an outreach approach rather than based in one place. Also the food bank needs larger and more available premises which are currently being sought.

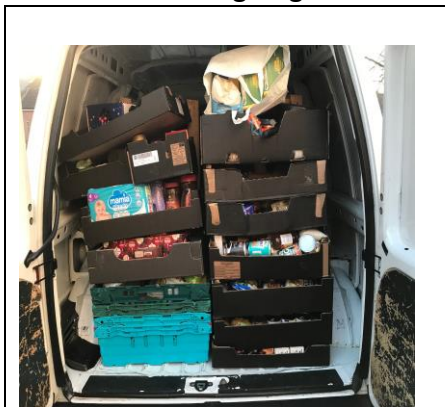
### **Columban Fathers**

We were delighted that Father Pat Sayles was able to join us and bring with him some of his wonderful Prayer Trust booklets which cater for any eventuality in life.



**So suitably fired up we go into the second half of this year and our plans are:**

1. Continue with our support to the above, with the very generous food donations from the parish and develop our relationship with Sainsburys
2. Continue to support the needs of the parish in visiting and helping the sick, elderly and lonely, w Also our monthly afternoons teas, occasional lunches, and annual Blessing of the Sick service will be an ongoing feature. We had a very enjoyable visit from the Strolling players recently.



3. Continue to financially support the Father Hudson's Fatima House, womens' refuge, project in Birmingham and our twinned SVP conferences in India, Sudan and Romania.
4. Continue to look at ways that we can support our adopted parish in Nechells, primarily through the school and their parish priest, Father Solomon. We are hoping to arrange a farm visit for the children but not sure if this will be possible. However we will certainly be looking to have our Christmas Giving tree in the narthex again in December.
5. Continue to support and develop the mini vinnies through our primary school. This has been a great success this year with very able and enthusiastic leadership from Cathy Grimley. The mini vinnies held an end of Spring term fete in the school hall which was a great success raising funds in aid of Father Hudsons.
6. We think that it is a shame that this enthusiastic team of 10/11 year olds should go onto, perhaps different, secondary schools and we are currently considering setting up a Youth SVP outside of school hours for those 11 year olds leaving G&Ts this year. However to do that we need two or more adults, perhaps parents, to run with this. We can get plenty of support from SVP head office and from others who have done this successfully. Any volunteers for this very worthwhile and rewarding project please contact us by email [svpstgt@btinternet.com](mailto:svpstgt@btinternet.com) or speak to any SVP member or the parish office.

Thank you for your continued support and please remember that we are here to help anyone in need within the parish. Please see our notice board in the narthex or our new SVP page on the parish web site, which also includes a link to our Just Giving page. Our email address is [svpstgt@btinternet](mailto:svpstgt@btinternet.com) or speak to any SVP member or the parish office.