

Caritas Social Action Ambassadors

Caritas Ambassadors are an essential part of the mission of our parishes and schools to become the Church Beyond Walls. There are many areas of need within our diocese. We have some areas falling within the 10% most deprived areas in the country. We cover a wide rural area, where both poverty and isolation are issues. There are people arriving as refugees and asylum seekers as well as victims of abuse, those struggling with loneliness, social isolation, addiction and homelessness.

Opening our doors to support those in need can make a significant difference in the lives of people in our communities. For whatever reason they are struggling, our welcome is important. Our ability to know how and where to signpost people, or having the projects running to support specific needs means that the lives of people around us are better. They know that they haven't been forgotten and that people care about them.

It is not only beneficial to those we serve, but also to the volunteers (and staff) involved too. Volunteering can bring great fulfilment and joy. It is sometimes a challenge, but there is always support and it is an opportunity to learn. The result is often increased understanding and compassion for the difficulties people face. It is also an opportunity for us to be a witness to the Gospel through our action and work together to build a stronger community where no one is left behind.

The role of the Ambassador is to help build connections between the Caritas team and parishes and/or Caritas Community Reps within a pastoral area. It can also include forming partnerships with other groups and organisations. Caritas Ambassadors will also be the backbone of a response team, a network of people that help us support urgent or newly emerging needs.

As part of the Caritas Community, you will receive the support, resources and training needed to carry out your role. This will include the Caritas community newsletter and volunteer events so you can meet volunteers in other parishes to share knowledge, experience, and ideas.