

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE A COVID-19 VACCINATION TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD?

We have all seen the news and can see first hand the impact of COVID-19 on people living in a country with inadequate health services and a population which is not vaccinated.

We are asking people to consider donating the cost of a vaccine £5-10 to enable someone, somewhere else in the world, to have the vaccine.

The original fundraising target we set for this appeal was £1000 and as I write this the amount raised is currently over £2600—in less than a week! I am amazed and delighted by your generous response.

### SO WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

This week I am asking you to reach out to your friends, family and workplaces and any other venue where you think that people can help. Send them the link to our fundraising page below and ask for their support.

The advantage of managing our appeal in this way is that we can reach out well beyond the confines of our church and congregation and make it easy for people to donate. In fact many people are looking for ways they can help as this comment illustrates:

*“Good luck with raising as much as possible, every penny counts and after watching the news the other night with India, I really wanted to help them but didn't know how, you have just given me that opportunity, thank you! “*

As Christians we are responding to the call of Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti : *This moves us to respond to our sister or brother in need, whoever they are, wherever they may come from (FT, 72). We are challenged to turn outwards, to act as neighbours, and to reach out to all those who are in need.*

Please circulate this link: <https://gofund.me/4a0c3da2> or if you are unable to access the internet and would like to make a donation please put your donation in an envelope marked Vaccinations and we will make sure it is added to the total.

You can find out more about Fratelli Tutti by visiting <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Fratelli-Tutti-explained>



Thank you to the group of people who turned up last weekend to St Aidan's gardening party. They worked very hard on Saturday morning and I hope you can see the difference. There is still work to be done and any one interested in helping can turn up next Saturday 8th May at 10am. There was a lot of socially distanced craik—if you fancy a bit of fresh air and exercise why not join us?

Often as I write the newsletter I think about how fortunate we are to have so many people who are prepared to put at the disposal of our parishes such a range of skills—far too many people to mention. The reality is that if our parishes are to survive and grow into the future we need to build on this!

You may think you have nothing to offer—but that is not true—we need each and everyone of you—what could you do to help?

We are now more than half way through our programme of preparation for First Communion with a group of 24 children and their families. This year because of Covid restrictions we have had to develop a new on line programme. Additionally we have welcomed the children and their parents for a monthly Saturday morning Mass. While it has all been very different it has been a delight to work with the children and I hope that we will be seeing more of them once Covid restrictions are eased. I would like to thank those people who have been working so hard in the background to develop this on line approach to learning. I have received very positive feedback about the programme.



**12th May is the birth date of Florence Nightingale and is marked as International Nurses Day . On this day I think we should give thanks for the way in which our Nurses have worked tirelessly in the face of the Covid pandemic. We have much to thank them for!**