

**St John's SVP Conference Coleraine
Report for year ending December 2021**

*Loving father, help me to be a true Vincentian today,
To see and reverence Christ in all the people I meet,
Especially the lonely, the troubled, and the poor.
Inspire me to serve them with love and generosity.
Through Jesus Christ your son.*

Helpline: 07752017340

Email: stjohn.coleraine@svpni.co.uk

Confidentiality is paramount in all of our work.

In 2021 we began to tentatively emerge from Covid. However, we saw many businesses close or reduce their staff numbers and or working hours. These changes have resulted in many more people having to submit a claim for benefits on a benefit system that remains in a state of flux. We also saw the cessation of furlough and the removal of the £20 Universal credit top up. This coupled with the significant increases in energy costs which unfortunately continue to rise, means that more and more people continue to struggle to feed their families, heat their homes and pay rent or mortgages.

Requests for Help

We have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. Adhering to Saint Vincent de Paul / Government guidelines we have been unable to visit those in need in their homes but hopefully as the restrictions ease, we will soon be able to go back to home visitation. Those requiring our help continue to contact us via our helpline. One of our volunteers will return the call and talk to them about their situation and try and assess how we can best help, whilst always respecting their dignity. After discussion with another volunteer a time is agreed and volunteers will then deliver vouchers which enable them to purchase gas, electric, food and school uniforms. We give oil stamps for oil requests. Financial assistance is only given in exceptional circumstances. In 2021 we carried out 438 visits.

At Christmas we helped families with vouchers to purchase gifts for their children and supermarket vouchers to purchase food. A Total of 87 families/individuals were given extra assistance at Christmas. 40 meat packs generously donated by WD Meats Coleraine were also distributed during Christmas week.

Details of Annual Income

Red Box: £6,251

Donations: £13,947

Donations made in lieu of flowers: £1,215

Fundraising: Collection @ Supermarket & SVP boxes in shops: £1,112

CC & Glens Council Warm, Well & Connected Grant: £ 2,000

CC & Glens Council Covid -19 Food & Essential Supplies Grant: £2,000

Grant from DFC: £3,865

Grant from Area Sharing Fund: £2,000

Total Income: £32,390

Details of Annual Expenditure:

Cash Assistance to Clients: £2,075

Oil: £8,900

Henderson's Spar Vouchers (food, gas, electric top ups): £6,300

Supermarket vouchers for Food & Essential Supplies: £2,020

Furniture & White goods: £1,665

Christmas Help Vouchers: £6,180

Vouchers for School Uniform: £2,128

Help towards 3rd level Education: £500

Contributions to Regional Office: £1,648

Conference Expenses: bank charges, mobile phone costs etc.: £317

Total Expenditure: £ 31,733

We would not be able to provide the level of support we give to those struggling especially in these difficult times, without the financial help given by you the parishioners and we are extremely grateful for all your financial support. We would also like to extend our thanks to Loreto College, St Johns Primary School, W D Meats, the Rotary Club, The Knights of Columbanus and local retailers for their support.

New Volunteers: We are looking for new volunteers. The characteristics required of SVP volunteers include, kindness, compassion, discretion, respect and being non-judgemental. Volunteers are the organisations greatest strength. Training will be provided. Volunteers sharing their time and skills can change lives forever. Offering a little help at the right time can give people hope for the future.

If you think you might like to join our conference, please leave a message on our helpline and we will get back to you or speak directly to any member of our conference.