

## **Caritas Grant - the parish of Our Lady & St Philip Neri**

In May 2020 the parish decided to launch a food bank which was met with great enthusiasm and generosity by parishioners.

Christmas 2020 the Food Bank supplied special hampers (which included fresh Turkey & trimmings) and gifts for the whole household we normally support. The response was phenomenal, overwhelming and humbling.

Unfortunately following New Year 2021 we appeared to have a dip in support from parishioners - we saw food donations diminishing and cash donations were definitely smaller. We began to think we'd have to revisit the support we were currently offering, but God is good and we had the offer of a small grant from Caritas.

An application was submitted and was successful, we found this boost of £450 was enough to help us over the few fallow weeks of the new year before parishioner support returned to normal.

Fortunately, this bridging support meant we didn't have to stop any support for our families and it enabled us to add another family to our list. This family (single parent with three children had only a few tins left in their cupboards before our delivery).

We were and are eternally grateful to the intervention and cash support given by Caritas it really was a God send.