

Laudato Si' **Care for our common home**



Pope Francis tells us that we are faced with a complex crisis which is both social and environmental. The solution demands an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, and at the same time protecting nature.

- **Did you and your family have a roof over your heads last night?** Here in Reading, each night, about twenty-five to fifty people do not.
- **Do you know the average age of a man sleeping rough?** The average life expectancy of a man sleeping rough is 47 and for a woman even younger age 43.
- **Did you and your family go to bed hungry last night?** World-wide, millions went to bed hungry.
- **Do your children go to school hungry?** Countrywide, 1 in 7 go to school hungry with the situation worse in school holidays. About 5,500 children in Reading are eligible for free school meals and rely on charities to provide food in the school holidays.
- **The Salvation Army** now provides lunch on Thursdays for up to 70 people in Reading
- **ReadiFood** deliver approx. 150 food parcels each week to struggling families in Greater Reading.



ReadiFood food bank.

Laudato Si' Reminder from last month: Did you reduce your plastic waste?

How you can help. Find out more >>

Ideas

How we can help combat poverty

I will use this idea

- 1) Support Launchpad, CIRDIC, Readifood, Salvation Army or New Beginnings Reading.
- 2) Offer a homeless person a drink or a sandwich, or even, just have a friendly word with them.
- 3) Put 'Food Bank' on our shopping lists, to remind us to donate. Readifood collecting boxes at St James and St Williams, and in many supermarkets.
- 4) Support charity shops by buying/donating items.
- 5) Support our Parish Project which is fundraising to combat modern-day slavery, local poverty, homelessness and refugees in Reading
- 6) Share your ideas with family and friends, and on the Parish Facebook site: St James & St William of York Reading.

Find out more ...

<https://www.cirdic.org.uk> Helping homeless and disadvantaged people in the local community.

<https://www.launchpadreading.org.uk> Working with the homeless in Reading.

<https://readifood.org.uk> ReadiFood is run by [Faith Christian Group](#) They have provided an **Emergency Food Parcel Service** in Reading for over 25 years.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-berkshire-45059961/salvation-army-provides-lunch-for-free-school-meal-families> A scheme has been set up in Reading to help families who usually receive free school meals.

<http://newbeginningsreading.org/> All-night café, after-school café, pre-owned shop, food for the homeless, free school uniform for needy families.