

St Aidan's RC Primary School children were in good voice singing some lovely carols at their end of term Mass. They have been so busy using the advent message to put others before themselves and have had great success because at their nativity performances they raised £360.00 in aid of the Peoples Kitchen in Newcastle where people who are homeless can go and get a meal. £322.00 was raised for Cancer research UK. The Year 6 social action group also raised £295.00 for CAFOD. The Mini Vinnies, not to be outdone, collected a mountain of food and gifts for the Foodbank



with their reverse Advent calendar appeal.



Mini Vinnies, at **St Columba's RC Primary School**, are getting back on track after Covid restrictions made last year quite difficult.

The 'Mini Vinnies' in Year 4 and the 'Faith in Action' children in Year 6, organized the 'Walking With' food collection for refugees and collected over 50 **huge** shopping bags full of groceries and toiletries.



They then organized a raffle, throughout the school in November, to raise money. The 1st prize was a GIANT toy dog, 2nd prize a teddy bear and 3rd prize a selection box. They raised £233 for their chosen charities.

At the Christmas Mass, in school, on 16th December, they presented Father David with a Christmas card, highlighting the World Gift Donations they had made to **CAFOD**, which included an energy saving stove, a goat, a queen bee, emergency water, a vegetable garden, hygiene pack, reading support and trees for life.

They also enclosed a donation of £50 for '**Daft as a Brush**' **Charity**, as they know how special this charity is to Father David.

We continue to support 2 children, through monthly donations to 'Action Aid' for Patricia in Mozambique and Limbangi in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We receive letters from them occasionally, Covid permitting, thanking us and reporting on the impact our donation have on their lives.

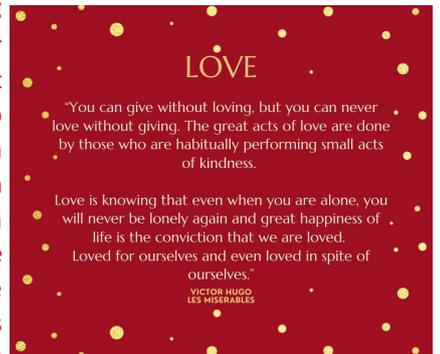
Finally, Year 6 children will be having a game of 'Charity Christmas Bingo' with their Buddies in Reception and a further collection of groceries and toiletries will be delivered to the 'Walking With' charity this weekend.

They have many more exciting plans for the New Year and can't wait to get started!



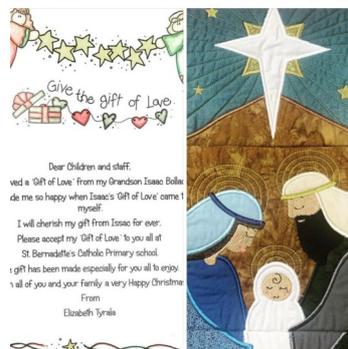
At **St Bernadette's RC Primary School** our Advent themed project started a few years ago based on the Lampedusa Cross being used as a symbol of hope. Each year, the children make a gift based on the value of the year (they do this every Friday during

Advent) and take the gift into the community. This year the Gift of Love is a bag which contains a heart key ring the children make each week and stamped 'You are Loved,' a prayer about the gift of love and a letter from the children to the recipient. The letter reminds the 'finder /receiver' of the bag that they are loved. The children give the bags to people in the community or leave them in spots where they can be found. We have received the most amazing messages where bags have been found in hospitals, cemeteries, churches.



This absolutely beautiful 'Gift of Love' arrived in school yesterday, made especially for us by Elizabeth Tyralla ❤️ We are overwhelmed by such a beautiful gesture! Thank you.. ❤️

#love #giftoflove #kindness #thankyou #blessed ❤️



For example, a bag was located at the Twin Towers and another in Hong Kong!!!! In the bag we ask the finder to message us and let us know the impact the Advent gift has had on them and the results are really powerful! All of the messages received are shared with the children every Monday during liturgy. They understand that this is an opportunity to have a big impact and very much

understand the part they play in living their faith in action.

