**Newsletter Inserts – Sunday 19 November 2017**

**Short:**

This Sunday is the first ‘World Day of the Poor’. Pope Francis has instituted this new day as a way of inviting us to understand that sharing with those living in poverty “enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel”. In his message for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis asks all of us, whatever our means, to unite in love and in acts of service to one another. He explains: “It is my wish that … Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance.” Please consider how you can create moments of encounter and friendship today. Please also take a Prayer Card away with you and keep all those experiencing poverty in your prayer.

**Invitation to Action:**

This Sunday is the first ‘World Day of the Poor’. Pope Francis has instituted this new day as a way of inviting us to understand that sharing with those living in poverty “enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel”. In his message for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis asks all of us, whatever our means, to unite in love and in acts of service to one another. He explains: “It is my wish that … Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance.”

During our Mass we will be invited to consider how we can create moments of encounter and friendship. You’ll have the chance to complete a post card expressing how you might be interested to explore ways to walk with those experiencing poverty. Please complete the card when you are invited to do so and return it. We will be in touch with ideas of how you can get involved.

Please also take a Prayer Card away with you and keep all those experiencing poverty in your prayer.

[Or insert your own ideas of local action]

**You can also use the testimonies within your newsletter. Others are available online:**

**Debbie’s Story**

 “I had to give up work due to ill health and while I was waiting for benefit to be sorted I was struggling with bills and food. I had to keep a roof over mine and my daughter’s head. I was told about the food bank - not only did they supply a few days’ worth of food but they were very caring people, very supportive always lending an ear. In the six weeks holiday it’s hard to keep kids amused when you don’t always have the money, so I go to the food bank lunches, which myself and my daughter enjoy. There’s activities for them to do and you get a lunch then able to take a bag of shopping home.” - Debbie – St Teresa’s, Borehamwood Food Bank.

**John’s Story**

“I thought I had no life. I thought this was the end. Because I was walking the streets. Since 2010 I have been evicted from three different places and been in trouble with the police through anti-social behaviour. I was bored. There was nothing else to do. Cornerstone has been a big help. If it wasn’t for them I could have been found in a doorway, either dead or ... I don’t know. I come to Cornerstone everyday. They helped me get the place I have now. It’s the best thing since sliced bread. If you’re on the streets and you need help, come here and you’ll get sorted.” John – Cornerstone Centre Client (Manchester)