
Parish Friends of JRS UK

We are looking for volunteers to represent and fundraise for JRS UK through parish-based appeals. This will involve speaking at the end of Mass (when the notices are read out), briefly introducing the work of JRS UK and encouraging parishioners to donate to a retiring collection.

This role is really important for both raising awareness about the work of JRS UK within the Catholic community and raising funds that will make an enormous difference to the lives of our refugee friends.

Below we've set out some of what this post involves – thank you for your interest!

What will I have to do?

We encourage volunteers to begin by holding an appeal in your own parish – as a member of the community, your support for refugees will be particularly engaging to parishioners. Our recommendation is organising an appeal for Refugee Week (in June) or the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (in September).

Our Senior Communications and Engagement Officer will support you to set up the appeal, provide you with a script about JRS UK's work and prepare all the materials you need. She will also be contactable by phone in advance of your appeal and on the day.

Your role will be to attend the Sunday Mass(es) at the parish, introduce the work of JRS UK and explain why donations are needed. We ask that you remain available for a short time after Mass in case anyone from the parish would like to ask you questions.

If you're happy to speak in other parishes, we will also contact you about possible appeals in your local area. Our Senior Communications and Engagement Officer will arrange the logistics for these events, provide a script, and prepare the materials you need. These are completely optional and there is no obligation to take part.

Step by step, what happens at an appeal?

Our Senior Communications and Engagement Officer will provide you with all the preparation you need for a parish appeal!

You should arrive at the church 15 minutes before the first Mass to let the parish priest know you are there.

You will be invited to read your appeal with the notices.

At the end of Mass, the parish usually organises their own volunteers to stand at the back of the church to collect cash in baskets. You should also stand at the back to answer any questions and to collect donations on your contactless card reader (which we will provide).

Don't worry if you get questions that you can't answer! If you take someone's contact details our team will get back to them.

Sometimes there will be teas & coffees after Mass which we'd encourage you to go to, so that conversations about our work can continue.

Usually, it will be arranged that the parish send the money to JRS UK via bank transfer, so you should not have to travel back with any money. The Senior Communications and Engagement Officer will clarify what arrangements have been made with you prior to the appeal.

What resources will you need?

The Senior Communications and Engagement Officer will prepare these materials for you:

- Contactless card reader;
- Script about JRS UK and our latest work
- JRS UK contact information – you can have this written down or bring along our business card with you.

You may also like to bring along with you some copies of our recent newsletter or other pamphlets/fliers as appropriate.

What support will I have?

Our Senior Communications and Engagement Officer, alongside our wider communications team, will be able to answer any questions/concerns you have. A member of staff will be contactable by phone on the day of your appeal.

Training sessions will be arranged for you to learn more about JRS UK and frequently asked questions. We'll also send you resources to take with you.

Find out more

Thank you for your interest! If you'd like to know more, please speak to Victoria Firth, the Senior Communications and Engagement Officer.

You can reach her at Victoria.firth@jrs.net or 07851880504.

We look forward to hearing from you!