

FOODBANK SUPPORT BY OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

We support two food banks:

The Vine, run by the Salvation Army in New Addington

The Shrublands Trust Foodbank in Shirley

Both food banks act as essential community safety nets. Their primary purpose is to provide emergency food and practical support to individuals and families facing sudden financial crises who cannot afford basic necessities. They are also careful to prevent long-term dependency primarily by operating as short-term emergency stopgaps rather than permanent solutions.

Why are we supporting food banks?

Loving your neighbour is a core Christian ethic. Catholics are called to support food banks because feeding the hungry is a fundamental Gospel mandate directly tied to encountering Christ. Supporting these programs puts the core tenets of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) into action, ensuring the inherent dignity of all people and standing in solidarity with the most vulnerable in the local community.

How do we help at Our Lady of the Annunciation?

We support the two local food banks by collecting donations on the **third Sunday of each month**. Please check the parish newsletter to see what items are most in need. However, the food banks are happy to receive any non-perishable items which can last more than six months. Donations of food and other items from our parishioners can be left by the desk on the left of the porch as you enter the church. Even one or two items per month are appreciated.

Who organises the food bank donations?

A team of volunteers from our parish collects our donations and delivers them to the two food banks. If you can help to collect the donations, please contact Chris Sciberras at sciberraschris7@gmail.com or on 07522 357219 or contact the parish office. Volunteers usually do one delivery every six months.

Can I have more information on the foodbanks we support?

Shrublands Food Bank have invited us to visit them on Friday 4 September at 10am at 7 Broom Road, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8NG. The visit will be about an hour. Please contact Chris on the email above if you would like to come on the visit or have any questions on other aspects of food banks.

COLLECTION DAY IS THE THIRD SUNDAY EACH MONTH