

## CARJ Liverpool

### August 2021 Updates

Despite the COVID pandemic we have continued our activities. Dale has restarted his work with the two homeless family shelters in Liverpool and Prescot. Excitingly we are working hard on two initiatives. Brendan Schmack is developing the *Ambassadors Project* with St John Rigby RC Sixth Form College and we have held several meetings with St Agnes Parish in Huyton in response to an approach from the Parish Priest Fr Anton to CARJ HQ some months ago.

The Ambassadors Project is moving on. Brendan Schmacke has identified a partner 6<sup>th</sup> Form College for the pilot project. We have also recruited a teacher at the school to co-ordinate the project and become part of our steering group. Recruitment to the project will start in September 2021.

The project's aims are:

- to develop the leadership skills of a group of two cohorts of 12 young people (Ambassadors) from Year 10 and Year 12 who are showing leadership potential to equip them to become effective catholic leaders who promote racial justice in the Church and in the wider community.
- to deliver projects/events to promote the formation of attitudes which promote racial justice in the Church and in wider society to various groups e.g. youth groups, parishes, schools, justice and peace groups, focus groups,
- to raise awareness of the work and aims of CARJ within the church and beyond.
- to collaborate with agencies with related objectives e.g. faith communities, voluntary agencies, youth councils.

The St Agnes Parish project is moving forward at pace. In the last 2 months four meetings have been held between the CARJ Liverpool team (Dale Bradshaw, Angela Wylie, Fr Terry, Pro Torkington and Bill Chambers) and the dynamic, embryonic Parish Racial Justice group. These are a response to an approach by the Parish Priest, Fr Anton, to London CARJ for support in developing the parish group This was passed onto Liverpool for action.

The Parish has a long, proud and successful history of working with less advantaged communities particularly overseas in annual working groups working with childrens' homes in Romania and Surinam. The parish was keen to develop their work in the three parish primary schools and in the wider parish. Following our exploratory meetings working groups are emerging focussing on activities with the schools and the parish with the aim of starting projects in September 2021.

Whilst the St Agnes community will hopefully benefit from our partnership CARJ has much to gain. For example, in addition to enthusiasm, a number of parishioners have expressed an interest offering their skills to CARL Liverpool and CARJ UK. At the next CARJ Liverpool meeting in September is its hoped that 2-3 parishioners will be invited to join the Liverpool Group. They will share their skills and interests to enrich our activities. In addition, the parish priest Fr Anton and one of the parish group are interested in attending the CARJ London Board meetings to see what CARJ does and how it operates to ascertain whether they may contribute nationally.

Exciting times for CARJ Liverpool? But funding remains a concern and we are actively searching for new funds. Any ideas?