



As part of our Greystones and Kilquade Pastoral Area Vision of
Living the Gospel through Hospitality, Prayer and Mission
we, as a faith community, are committed to supporting people in need.



One of our outreach initiatives, for the past few years, has been supporting the Schools for Syria Project (S4S) in Lebanon with Fr. William Stuart. Many of our youth in the Greystones and Kilquade Pastoral Area were involved in this project during the summer months, better known as the GKPA S4S team!

In early October, a statement came from the Schools for Syria Project, with information concerning the closure of the school in Lebanon and redeployment of resources. The full statement explaining the situation is available below and on our website.

Fr. William has been in touch with us regularly concerning the situation. He has confirmed with us that the Schools for Syria project in Tyre has closed. The authorities refused Fr. William a visa and the Principal of the school where S4S rented space has been told not to rent space to the S4S charity. There is a similar situation with other aid organisations elsewhere in Lebanon. The children in the S4S Project are now without school as all are Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. Hopefully state schools will reopen for refugees in the afternoons but as yet this has not happened.

Fr. William explained that the "Schools for Syria" name was a working title for the project in Lebanon but the official name for the nonprofit organisation for the past few years is "Displaced Children's Fund, Ireland," (Company No. 490937). From now on, instead of Schools for Syria, Fr. William will use the official name of their nonprofit organisation "Displaced Children's Fund, Ireland".

Fr. William assured us that monies donated to the fund by parishioners are still there. Funds will be used for a similar project or will be transferred to other projects subject to a decision of the Board of Displaced Children's Fund, Irl.

Fr. William and his team are determined to continue serving the world's most vulnerable and displaced children. They are currently seeking another project in which to engage but it will be the new year before decisions are taken concerning this. Nothing will happen immediately.



Fr. William is well and safe. He will be in Ireland from November. We are planning for him to come to meet the GKPA S4S team in the coming weeks.

Following the appeal, there was an overwhelming and generous response received from you. Many donations were left into the churches and Kilian House Family Centre during the summer months. There was a huge amount of clothes, shoes, school stationery supplies, toiletries, and footballs received during the appeal. All items were sorted, put into boxes, labelled and sealed by the GKPA S4S team. "Stewie", the project mascot, appeared on one or two boxes too!

A total of 299 boxes were stored locally awaiting transport overseas. These donations were due to be shipped to Lebanon later this year but as the school in Tyre Lebanon has closed, this will not be happening.

Your response to this appeal was wonderful. Finding new homes for these donations was important and essential once we learned of the news in Lebanon. In the past 4 weeks, the Parish Pastoral Council Youth Outreach Team of coordinators considered several options for the donations. Be assured, all donations are going to great causes.



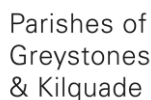
**An Outreach Journey
July - November 2023**



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) collected 289 of the 299 boxes this week and moved them to a central depot. Some students from Transition Year (4th yr.) in St David's helped pack the 40-tonne truck which was packed to the brim. The Society has over 230 local Vincent's charity shops located in every county in Ireland. These shops are a very

important aspect of the service that SVP provides. They are a source of new and lightly worn items at very affordable prices, while providing an income source for the Society which can then be given back to conferences to fund



The collage consists of 15 individual images arranged in a grid-like fashion. The top row features a row of colorful scarves, the 'SCHOOLS FOR SYRIA' logo (a green tree inside a circle), the 'SCHOOL OF PEACE' logo (a green house inside a circle), a balance scale, a group of children sitting at a table, and a cartoon dolphin. The middle row shows a pile of black trash bags, a group of people packing boxes, a man loading a truck, and a group of students posing with boxes. The bottom row includes a truck being loaded, a group of students posing in front of a truck, and a cartoon figure holding a 'THANK YOU' sign.

Please keep Fr. William, his team and the Syrian Refugee children in your prayers at this time. Thank you.

09/11/2023