

Syria: 40 new reasons for hope



TEN-year-old Jeries Habib and his brother, Elia, eight, from Maloula, the hilltop Christian town in Syria, have good reason to smile as a fresh programme of ACN aid gets underway across the country.

Thanks to you, ACN has just approved 40 new projects.

The aid – including food, shelter, medicine, repair of churches and support for clergy and catechesis – provide 40 new reasons for hope in a country, which has suffered so much for so long.

In response to a desperate plea for help as people start to return to Aleppo, **ACN is helping to repair the**

Maronite Cathedral in a part of the city where Christians had been targeted by extremists.

The nave was badly damaged when a bomb fell through the roof.

Nearly 500 Christian families have returned to the town of Qusayr, devastated by fighting.

ACN has offered to repair 100 homes there and, with your help, we can repair many more.

More aid will provide food, toiletries, medicine, clothes and shoes for poverty-stricken elderly and disabled Christians in Aleppo supported by Sr Annie Demerjian and her nine volunteers.



At Sr Annie's request, an electric wheelchair has been provided for a house-bound elderly woman.

Sr Annie said: **"Seven years have passed since the war began and people continue to face all kinds of troubles – tiredness and suffering – but because of your help we are able to stand beside our people and make their burden lighter."** ☩

Helping the suffering Church today

www.acnuk.org



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ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Ray of light: ACN's fresh aid for Syria

The finishing touches to restoration work at the church in Qusayr damaged by Daesh (ISIS) extremists

- **Aleppo** – Food baskets for 3,280 families
- **Homs, Hama and Yabroud** – Mass stipends for priests
- **Aleppo** – Repair of Maronite cathedral hit by a bomb
- **Damascus** – Supporting the education of 1,270 students
- **Aleppo** – Aid for families supported by Sr Annie Demerjian
- **Qusayr** – Repair of 100 homes
- **Yabroud** – Medicine for elderly, disabled and children

ACN's new aid programme for Syria aims to help Christians stay in a country where the Faith dates back to St Paul and Christ's disciples.

A quarter of the 40 projects just approved by ACN provide help for young people such as 2,000 catechisms in Latakia, a retreat for 70 young faithful in Aleppo, and support for university students in Aleppo and Homs.

ACN is supporting 1,270 students at the Al Riaya School, in Damascus, run by the St Jean Antide Sisters.

The students had to move to a new site after their premises came under threat, close to the front-line in the conflict.

Several students died at the height of the violence involving the neighbouring Eastern Ghouta district but the situation calmed afterwards and students are determined to continue their studies.

ACN Middle East projects coordinator Father Andrzej Halemba said: **“Youth have lived for years in an environment of war and tension is very high. We need to help them now.”** ✚



Staff and pupils at the Al Riaya School, Damascus – Thanks to you, ACN is able to invest in the young people's future

ACN EVENTS – OCTOBER 2018

Join Aid to the Church in Need in prayer and action around the UK



Aid to the
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www.acnuk.org/events

This October, join Aid to the Church in Need as, once again, we welcome guests from the persecuted Church around the world to hear untold stories of courage and faith and how your support is making a difference. We are also delighted to welcome a high profile journalist speaking on Christian persecution, Religious Freedom and the Media.

Invited speakers include:

Archbishop Angaelos of London

His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, the first Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London and a good friend of Aid to the Church in Need will speak about how Christianity in Egypt – by tradition founded by Mark the Apostle – is surviving, despite targeted attacks from extremists.



Martin Bashir

Journalist Martin Bashir, is BBC's religious affairs correspondent. He has had a high profile career in the UK and the USA and will draw on his extensive media experience to comment on the issues of Christian persecution and religious freedom today.



Sister Luma Khudher OP

Dominican Sister, Sister Luma, joins us from Iraq to update us on the return of families to the Christian villages of the Nineveh Plains and how ACN benefactors are helping them to rebuild their lives and their future.



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From Pakistan we have invited individuals with direct experience of persecution in relation to the controversial Blasphemy Laws.



DIARY DATES: ACN'S ANNUAL OCTOBER EVENTS IN:

SCOTLAND

ACN Lunchtime Reception

Monday 8th October 12pm – 2pm

Dalziel Building, 7 Scott Street, Motherwell ML1 1PN

Talks, Presentations and Q&A with Guest speakers from the persecuted Church

A chance to meet and speak with guest speakers over lunch. A light lunch will be provided.

Spaces are extremely limited and by ticket only so register soon.

Free Entry with a collection for ACN's work

Scottish Benefactor Event

Monday 8th October 7pm – 9pm

Talks, Presentations and Q&A with Guest speakers from the persecuted Church

St Joseph's Hall, Kilmarnock KA3 1HB

Free Entry with a collection for ACN's work

Motherwell Diocese Schools Event

Wednesday 10th October 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Talks, Presentations and Q&A with Guest speakers from the persecuted Church

GLO Centre, Motherwell ML1 1BN.

All of our October Events have limited availability for tickets. To avoid disappointment, please visit our Events page at www.acnuk.org/events to register for your tickets. Alternatively telephone Clair Sweeney on **01698 337472** or email clair.sweeney@acnuk.org

NORTH WEST

Talks on the Suffering Church

Thursday 4th October at 7.30pm – 9pm

Lancaster University Catholic Chaplaincy LA1 4YW

Featuring guest speakers from the persecuted Church

Free Entry with a collection for ACN's work

Schools Q&A

Friday 5th October 1pm – 2.30pm

St Columba's Catholic Church, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1SA

A chance for pupils (Year 9 and above) to meet and question Christians from the persecuted Church about the reality of their lives and experiences.

Free entry to registered schools

For more information or to register interest, please email bridget.huddleston@acnuk.org

NW Benefactors' Weekend

Holy Mass for Persecuted Christians

Saturday 6th October at 12 noon

Shrewsbury Cathedral, Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE

Please join us as we pray together for suffering Christians around the world. Bishop Mark Davies will be the chief celebrant; the guest preacher will share personal experiences of struggling Christians in his own country. A light lunch will be provided afterwards in the Cathedral's Orchard Café.

High Mass at St Mary's Cathedral

Sunday 7th October 10:30am

Wrexham Cathedral, Regent Street, Wrexham LL11 1RB

Bishop Peter Brignall will be the chief celebrant; the guest preacher will share personal experiences of struggling Christians in his own country. Light refreshments in the Cathedral Hall will follow.

An Afternoon of Talks

on the Suffering Church

Sunday 7th October at 3pm

St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA

Featuring guest speakers from the persecuted Church

For more information and to register your interest, please contact ACN's NW Office at nw.office@acnuk.org or on 01524 388739

LONDON

Annual Westminster Event

Holy Mass at Westminster Cathedral

Saturday 13th October 2018 at 10.30am
Victoria Street, London SW1P 1LT

Followed by an afternoon of talks from 12pm – 4pm in Cathedral Hall

Tickets: £10 each

You are advised to book tickets early by using our Reply Slip, by calling Aid to the Church in Need on 020 8642 8668 or by visiting www.acnuk.org/events. Tickets will be posted closer to the event date.

Tea and biscuits will be provided. Lunch is available from nearby cafes or you may prefer to bring a packed lunch. Please do visit ACN's stall for our full range of 2018 Christmas cards, gifts, books and music.

Please keep in touch with us



020 8642 8668



acn@acnuk.org



www.acnuk.org



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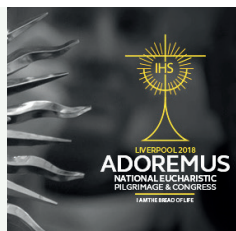
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Autumn and Winter Events www.acnuk.org/events

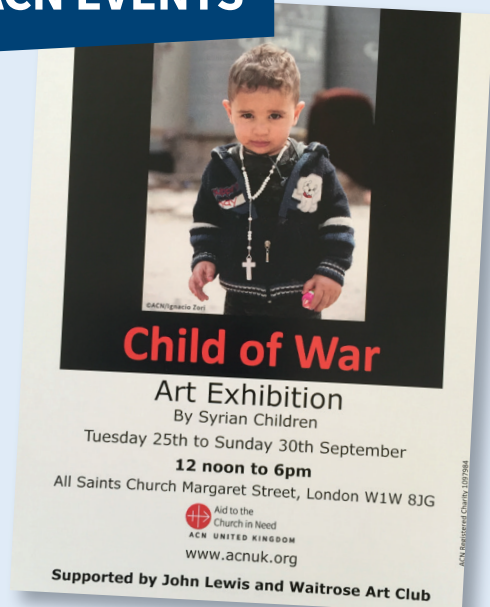
Eucharistic Congress – Liverpool Echo Arena

Friday 7th – Sunday 9th September

Watch out for ACN's presentation on Saturday and visit our stall afterwards. Look out for us too in the Youth Auditorium.



ACN EVENTS



Child of War – Art Exhibition by Syrian Children

Kindly supported by John Lewis and Waitrose Art Club

Tuesday 25th – Sunday 30th September 12pm – 6pm

All Saints Church, Margaret Street, London W1W 8JG
All Saints is a magnificent Anglican Church noted for its Anglo-Catholic worship and choir. An ornate Victorian Gothic building designed in 1850 by William Butterfield. Nearest tube: Oxford Circus.

To register your interest acn@acnuk.org

London Schools' Sixth Form Conference

Thursday 11th October 10am – 2.30pm

The London Oratory School, Seagrave Road, London, SW6 1RX

Talks from a Member of Parliament and guests from the persecuted Church. Student workshops on the issues of justice, human dignity and Catholic Social Teaching will add value to the A-Level curriculum – particularly Religious Studies, Theology and Philosophy and Ethics. To book your places please contact: marie.fahy@acnuk.org

Carol Service with the Schola Cantorum of the London Oratory directed by Charles Cole with organ and brass ensemble

13th December 2018 at 7pm

Farm Street Church, 14 Mount Street, Mayfair, London W1K 3AH

ACN's hugely popular annual Carol Service followed by seasonal refreshments in the hall.

Free entry: Collection for ACN's work in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and Pakistan

To register your interest acn@acnuk.org

NORTH WEST

ACN NW Walks for Iraq Update:

You can still sponsor Caroline and Bridget from our North West Office as they set out on the final leg of their sponsored walks for Iraq. They will walk from Wrexham to Shrewsbury Cathedral on September 14th and 15th, stopping overnight with the Poor Clares in Ellesmere. Please be as generous as you can to help Iraq's Christians rebuild their lives on the Nineveh Plains. You can sponsor Caroline and Bridget through the NW Office: email nw.office@acnuk.org, phone 01524 388 739 or JustGiving www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walks4iraq

ACN NW Syrian Drawings Exhibition for Schools: Autumn slots are still available for primary and secondary

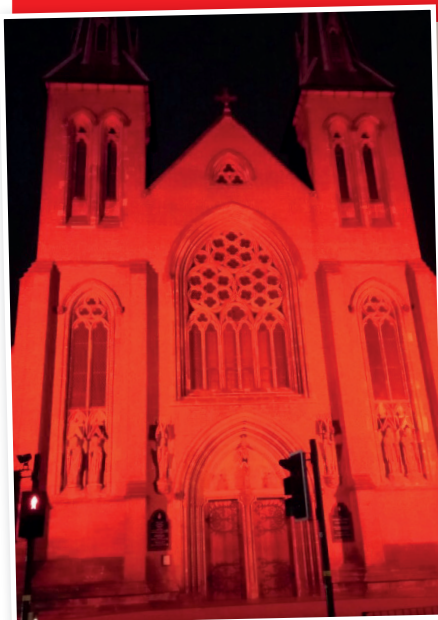
schools in the NW. The exhibition adapts to fit any available space and comes with prayer and classroom resources. If your school would like to host this moving display for a week, please contact Bridget Huddleston – bridget.huddleston@acnuk.org

SCOTLAND

Scottish Touring Exhibition

Why not host this touring exhibition at your parish or school and raise funds for the children of Syria. ACN Portraits of Faith is an exhibition of drawings created by Syrian children as part of a peace initiative by ACN project partners. To get involved please contact Clair Sweeney, Schools & Events Coordinator – clair.sweeney@acnuk.org or call 01698 337472

#REDWEDNESDAY – 28th November 2018



London

- Saturday 24th October - **Walk of Witness on Oxford Street.** Starting from All Saints, Margaret Street, 7 Margaret St, Fitzrovia, London W1W 8JG. Please wear something red.
- Wednesday 28th November – **#RedWednesday Prayer Rally.** On the evening of 28th, please join ACN in central London for a high visibility Prayer Rally and procession with guests from the persecuted Church. This will be followed by a short programme of talks, film and music outside Westminster Cathedral. This is the chance for Christians to be visible and to Stand Up for Faith and Freedom. Pledge your attendance and support at www.acnuk.org/redwednesday

North West

Sunday 25th November - Walk of Witness for Religious Freedom in Manchester (tbc). Details to follow.

28th November 2018 –

#RedWednesday Mass for Persecuted Christians

at 6pm at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, 339 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PG

Scotland

Get ready to Stand Up for Faith and Freedom

ACN Red Wednesday Event in the Scottish Parliament

Wednesday 28th November
5.30pm – 8pm

A Multi-Faith Event with Guest Speakers (TBC), Talks and a Q&A Session.

An Executive Summary of ACN's Report on Religious Freedom 2018 will be available to take home.

A light buffet and refreshments will be provided.

This event requires an invitation on arrival. If you are interested in attending, please contact Clair Sweeney on 01698 337472 or email clair.sweeney@acnuk.org with your contact details for us to send you an invitation.

Register Interest acn@acnuk.org

For #RedWednesday updates, detailed timings and information on all events visit:
www.acnuk.org/events or sign up to our newsletter at www.acnuk.org/newsletter



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12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA
Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church and a registered charity in England and Wales (1097984) and Scotland (SC040748)

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