

LOVE IN ACTION



SOLIDARITY AMONG PEOPLES AND THE PROMOTION OF PEACE



It looked like any other bin, but was taller, with a big padlock on it, and made out of metal. It sat in the church entrance for a month. Mike had heard about it. Like most of the rest of his friends, it was about safety, but more about status. He was sure none of his family knew, nor his teachers – I mean, he's at a good, Catholic school. But it was important to carry a knife. You never knew when someone might turn on you. Not that he ever thought he'd use it. Although that's probably what Sophie thought. She was drunk. She was angry. When she started lashing out with the knife there was nothing anyone could say to calm her down. Thankfully, it was only superficial damage she did to Nicola, but the amount of blood and pain it caused was huge.

Mike knew what the bin was for. He didn't need to carry a knife. He didn't want to. He managed to sneak it into the knife bin as part of the amnesty in the local community, and felt a sense of peace.

• We all need peace in our lives. The absence of peace is not just found in countries at war with others and within their own borders. How do we create peace in our lives and relationships, as well as supporting peace for those living with war every day?



In the coming weeks we're launching an opportunity to take part in developing our Love in Action Parish Plan, to reflect together on how our parish will respond to the needs of our community having looked at the guidelines of Caritas.