

Forty Years of The Passage a Lenten Journey Day 29 Lent week 5 Monday Passage 2008/2009

In December 2008 Sister Ellen completed her period as Chief Executive and took up new duties as a member of the Provincial Council of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Sister Ellen was appointed to the board of trustees in March 2009. Following an external recruitment process, Mick Clarke was appointed as Chief Executive and took up post in January 2009. Mick wrote: -

The theme of The Passage's annual report this year is 'Taking Responsibility'.

I write this at a time of great economic uncertainty. The media is full of reports of the worst recession in years and of cuts to come. For those already marginalised and homeless, the recession makes it even harder to overcome the complex issues that they face. Charities working with those affected by homelessness find the demand for their services increasing, whilst funding decreases.

At The Passage we believe we have a responsibility to ensure that we will always be there for our clients; no matter what the economic climate. This feeling of responsibility is motivated by two driving forces: our founding values and our clients.

Our founding values demand that we work with the most vulnerable in society, treating them as individuals and with the respect and dignity they deserve, whilst finding innovative solutions to their complex needs. Our clients also inspire us by the courage they show when faced with often desperate situations, and the sheer determination they must carve out a better life.

The mission of The Passage is to provide resources which encourage, inspire and challenge homeless people to transform their lives. The challenging aspect is as important as the encouraging and inspiring. At The Passage we believe that unless you address the root causes that have led to someone becoming homeless, such as addiction issues, you will never be able to help them fully break out of the cycle of homelessness.

Today at The Passage we remain fully committed to these principles. As we come out of the pandemic, economic recession again threatens people with homelessness. Through our No Night Out project we aim to avoid people spending one night out, because, even one night can have a devastating effect and make recovery and resettlement much more difficult. We will empower people to take responsibility to rebuild their lives. Can you support this initiative financially?

The Passage is running a campaign with the Big Give; this is an online matched giving scheme to raise the funds for No Night Out. Anything that you donate to The Passage via The Big Give website before noon on Wednesday 24 March will be doubled at no extra cost to yourself. Gift Aid can also apply so a Gift of £20 is doubled to £40 and with Gift Aid a total of £45 is received. The campaign is accessed through the link <https://tinyurl.com/NoNightOut>

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.

Lord grant us the grace of no longer accusing ourselves of sins that have been forgiven nor of condemning others for the sins that you have forgiven them. As receivers of your grace, we ask for help to be grace-givers in the week ahead. In the name of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

