

NEWSLETTER



DIOCESE OF AMRITSAR, CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA



Special Edition Covid-19 Community Reach

A mother without fresh milk for her child. A daily-wage labourer without work or wages. A traveller without the means to return home to his family. These are the stories of hundreds of people in and around Amritsar whose lives have turned into a fight for survival during the Covid-19 lockdown in India. On 24th March April, 2020 Prime Minister Modi announced a 21-day lockdown, which has been extended till the 3rd of May. India has reported 14, 759 Covid-19 positive cases and 590 related deaths so far. Many migrant workers, daily wage workers, agricultural labourers, rickshaw-pullers, factory workers, artisans, and small business-owners have suffered great financial setback due to the loss of their livelihood and breakdown of the economy. Despite the government's assurance of supply of food to everyone, there are still many who do not receive anything and have to depend on charity.

As a response to this extraordinary and challenging situation, the Diocese of Amritsar constituted a COVID-19 Relief Operation. The relief efforts are being carried out by four teams with Amritsar, Ajnala, Tarn Taran and Khemkaran as the key centres. The Diocesan workers have identified more than 1200 families who are in need of receiving aid across Ajnala, Tarn Taran, Attari and Khemkaran and areas. Members of the Mazdoor Adhikar Sangathan (a network of village level committees) and Women Self Help Groups are helping the Diocesan clergy and staff in caring for the families in need.



As soon as curfew passes could be secured, the Relief team began acquiring and distributing dry food material in both rural and urban areas. These items include rice, wheat flour, lentils, cooking oil, sugar, salt and spices, onions, potatoes, and other essentials like milk powder.

In addition to the distribution of foodstuff and groceries, cooked food is also being provided to those in immediate need. Food for 500 people is cooked every day at the Diocesan headquarters in Amritsar and is distributed at lunchtime to rickshaw pullers, daily-wage workers, homeless persons, and stranded travellers, as well as the police on duty and commercial food delivery persons. Hand sanitisers, masks, and bottled water are also provided to some. A community kitchen has also been set up in village Kot buddha, Tarn Taran for the village residents



Women in 7 Self-Help Groups along with the Diocesan staff are producing masks for distribution. The initiative is meant to provide some form of income to the women while also addressing the increasing need for masks. The masks are being distributed widely and have been appreciated by the people, and especially by the police on active duty. The community workers, through networking with the local administration and health department, continue to spread awareness about precautions that can be taken to prevent COVID-19.

The Diocesan family is immensely grateful to all friends and partners who are contributing towards the Relief effort through monetary aid and prayer. Please continue to pray for the entire team involved in this relief effort and for those affected by the Covid-19 crisis.



You can support the Covid-19 Relief Operation of the Diocese of Amritsar

by sending your contributions to the following bank details:

Use Keyword: "Covid-19 Relief"

For bank transfer WITHIN INDIA	Diocese of Amritsar OD AC NO. 6 3 0 4 2 7 0 0 0 3 2 3 8 Bank of India, Mall Road, Amritsar. IFSC CODE: B K I D 0 0 0 6 3 0 4
For bank transfer OUTSIDE INDIA	Diocese of Amritsar AC No. : 0 4 4 1 0 5 3 0 0 0 0 9 2 8 3 South Indian Bank, Ground Floor, 26, Kennedy Avenue, Court Road, Amritsar-143001, Punjab, India. IFSC Code : S I B L 0 0 0 0 4 4 1 SWIFT Code : S O I N I N 5 5

Kindly send an email about your transaction
to the Most Rev. Dr. P. K. Samantaroy at bunul3@gmail.com
and CC to Rev. Ayub Daniel (Finance Officer) at ayubdaniel@rediffmail.com.

Please watch and share our Youtube video for an overview of the
Community Outreach efforts for Covid-19 by following the link below:



<https://youtu.be/wRRk1E8Vb0c>