



# Medjugorje International Relief

## ....Special Report....

January 2005

### Shoeboxes/ Food for Asylum Seekers & Refugees

This years shoebox appeal was focused on the home front. If we had a theme it might be “**welcoming the stranger**” as this year they went in the main to asylum seekers and refugees in the UK.

10 schools participated this year and 900 boxes were sent in, filled with food, toiletries and gifts.



We were able to top-up the boxes with several hundred pounds worth of food as well as wooly hats, scarves and gloves, thanks to a good fundraising exercise too.

Distribution was a bit more complex than usual as we partnered with a number of organizations including : REVIVE in Salford, Tamworth Court Hostel in Old Trafford, Saint Vincent de Paul Resource centre in Leeds and Christian Alliance; all of whom serve the asylum seeker communities in various ways including hostels, drop-in centres etc...

The most frequent comment was that many asylum seekers are now destitute and so your gifts are really a life-line as well as a great source of joy and hope to perhaps the most neglected and unloved in our community.

For the many who are a long way from home, and separated from family and friends, it must be a great comfort to know that they are not alone, that someone cares enough to make them a shoebox for Christmas.



Loading for the SVP Resource centre in Leeds



#### Participating schools included



- Our Lady of the Rosary (Davyhulme)
- St Bedes (Whalley Range)
- St Peter's (Middleton)
- St Wilfred's (Northwich)
- St Hugh of Lincoln (Stretford)
- St John's Jnr (Burnley)
- St John Bosco (Blackley)
- St Gilberts (Eccles)
- Albion High School (Salford)
- St Peter's (Blackburn)

#### Participating Churches included:

- St Alphonsus-Old Trafford
- St John's—Burnley
- St Mary's –Levenshulme

\*\*\*Thank you All for your Kindness\*\*\*