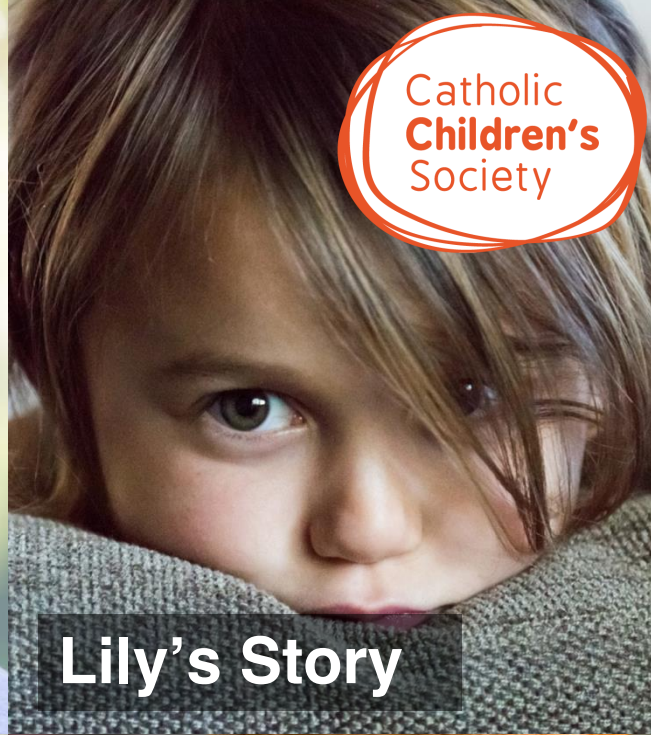




**Abdi's Story**



**Joseph's Story**



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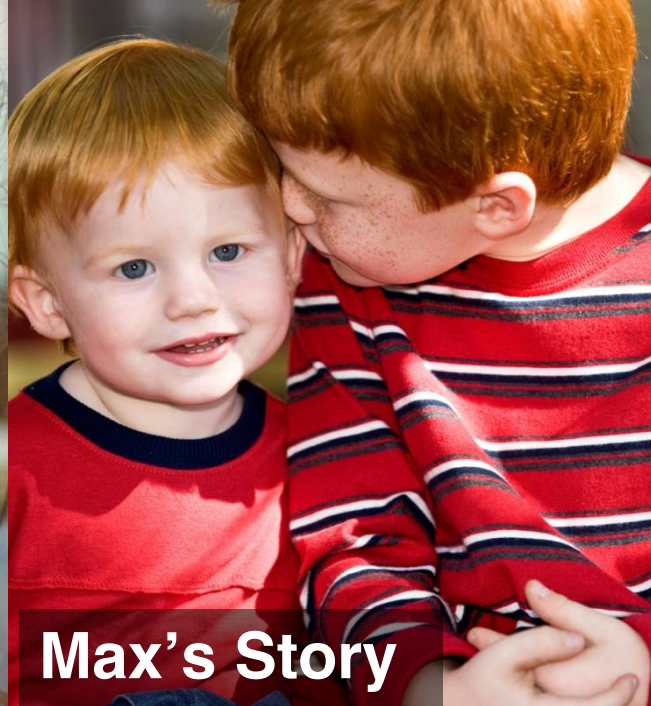
**Lily's Story**



**Zara's Story**



**Annie's Story**



**Max's Story**





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**Abdi's Story**

Abdi is eight years old and lives with his dad, grandmother and little sister. Abdi is quiet but enjoys playing with his friends at school.

His favourite hobby is cooking. Abdi's dad is a chef at a restaurant and sometimes Abdi and his dad cook dinner together. Abdi loves baking- cookies are his favourite.



A few months ago, Abdi's grandmother became very ill. She needed someone to look after her all day and all night, so Abdi's dad gave up his job to care for her.

Abdi's dad spent all of his money paying for their flat and heat their home so that Abdi's grandmother was warm enough. Any other money they had went on food for Abdi's grandmother so that she would get better.

Most nights there was no money left to buy food for Abdi, his dad or little sister.





Abdi's dad could not afford to buy the family breakfast, so Abdi would often arrive at school hungry. Lunchtime was the best part of his day because he would have something to eat.

The Headteacher noticed that Abdi always seemed hungry and was finding it difficult to concentrate in class.

She asked Abdi what was happening and Abdi explained that he would often go without food. Weekends and holidays were the worst because the family would go for days without anything.

The Headteacher spoke to Abdi's dad and he explained that all of the money they had was being used to care for Abdi's grandmother. Abdi's Headteacher contacted the Catholic Children's Society and asked if they could help. Within 24 hours, the Catholic Children's Society gave the family money to buy food. The next day Abdi came to school happy and full of energy.

Abdi's grandmother is now better and Abdi's dad has gone back to work.



# Reflection



Spend a minute quietly thinking about Abdi's story.

- What problems did Abdi and his family face?
- How did the Catholic Children's Society help Abdi's family?
- How do you feel after hearing Abdi's story?



# Prayer



Dear Lord,

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

We all have special talents which you have given to us.  
Guide us as we follow your teachings and use our talents to  
help children like Abdi.

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

Amen.





A young boy with dark, curly hair and a gentle smile, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a wooden fence.

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**Joseph's Story**

Joseph is 16 years old and lives with his mum, dad and younger brother.

Joseph has always loved playing football. From the age of five Joseph played for local teams. Every time you saw Joseph, he was playing football with his brother.

Joseph also enjoys school. His favourite subjects are Maths and Science- he especially likes doing experiments. Joseph's teacher thought he would do well in his exams and suggested he could become a Scientist.



Sadly, in January last year Joseph's life changed forever. Joseph was walking home from school with his brother when a car sped around the corner.

The car was driving too quickly and didn't see Joseph. Joseph was knocked down and badly hurt.

His brother had still been on the pavement so was not injured, but saw what happened to Joseph.

The car stopped and called an ambulance.





Joseph's back was badly injured. The doctors said that it could take three years or more for Joseph to be able to walk again.

Joseph was very upset that he would not be able to play football anymore and that he would have to have months of operations and miss school.

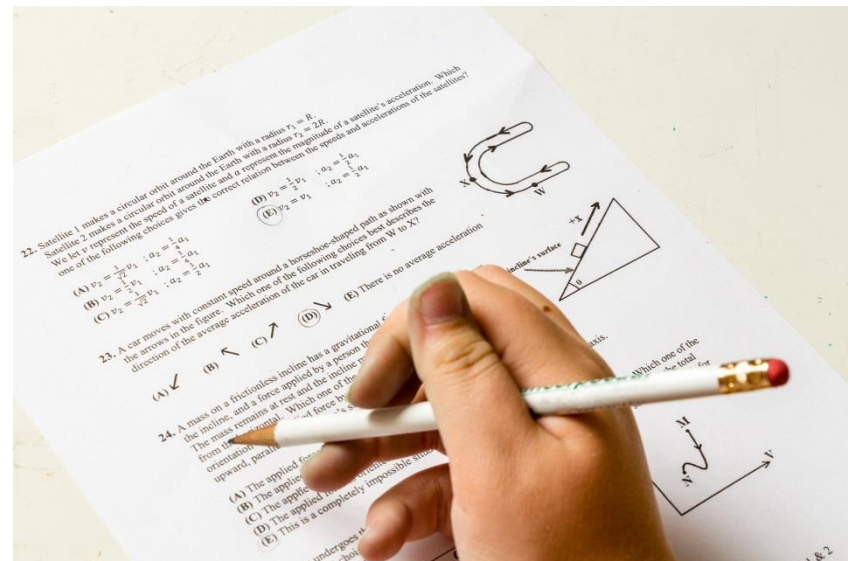
Joseph tried to keep up with his school work in hospital and get ready for his exams.

After four months Joseph came home. His operations had gone well and he was now able to walk short distances on crutches.



Joseph's school was 30 minutes away from his home. He used to walk, but there was no way he could walk that far anymore.

Joseph's mum had to give up work to care for Joseph and his dad worked in a shop- all of his wages were spent on keeping the family's home and buying basic food. The family did not have enough money to pay for Joseph to get to his exams. They thought Joseph would have to miss his exams and leave school.



Joseph's Headteacher contacted the Catholic Children's Society and asked if they could help. Using money from the Crisis Fund, the Catholic Children's Society helped Joseph get to and from his exams.

Joseph achieved excellent exam results and is now studying for his A Levels. He is still recovering but is able to make the journey to and from school. He still has dreams of becoming a Scientist.



# Reflection



Spend a minute quietly thinking about Joseph's story.

- What problems did Joseph and his family face?
- How did the Catholic Children's Society help Joseph's family?
- How do you feel after hearing Joseph's story?

# Prayer



Dear Lord,

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

We all have special talents which you have given to us.  
Guide us as we follow your teachings and use our talents to  
help children like Joseph.

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

Amen.







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**Children's**  
Society

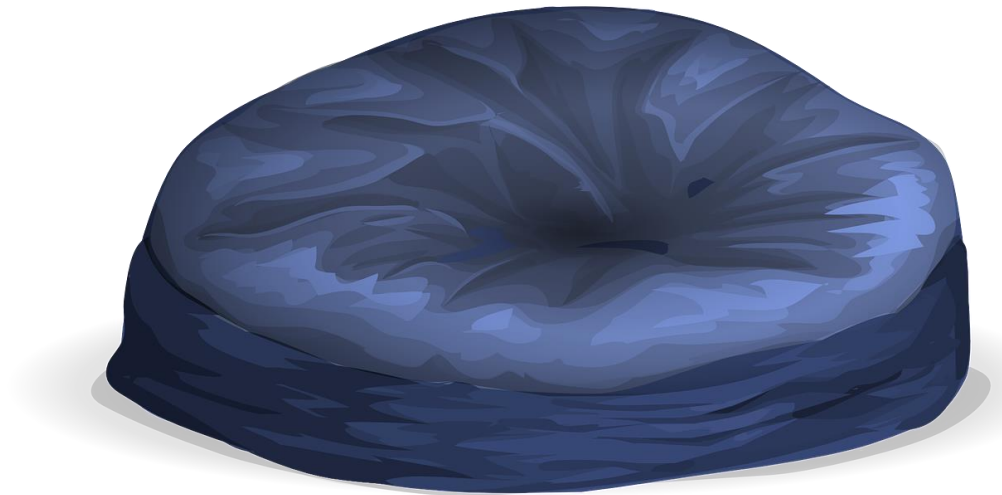
**Lily's Story**

Lily is six years old and lives with her mum and two older sisters. Lily started school in September. She is very shy and found it difficult to leave her mum in the mornings.

By Christmas, Lily was becoming more settled and started to enjoy school- especially painting. Lily loved painting pictures and she was very good at it.



Lily's teacher was worried though. At least three times a day, Lily would come in to the classroom and go straight to a beanbag in the corner. She would curl up and go straight to sleep. The Teacher asked Lily's mum if Lily was sleeping ok at night. Lily's mum started crying.





Lily, her mum and two sisters lived in a very small flat. There was just one bedroom for the four of them. They had no beds, mattresses or bedding- they all just slept in their coats on the bare floorboards.

Lily's mum was studying at college and working part-time, but this meant she had very little money- not enough to buy beds for the family.







Lily's Headteacher contacted the Catholic Children's Society and asked if they could help. Using their Crisis Fund, the Catholic Children's Society were able to buy the family bunk beds, mattresses and cosy bedding so that they all have somewhere comfortable to sleep at night.

Lily doesn't need to sleep in the day anymore. Her eyes are brighter and she's much happier. She can now paint for longer!

# Reflection



Spend a minute quietly thinking about Lily's story.

- What problems did Lily and her family face?
- How did the Catholic Children's Society help Lily's family?
- How do you feel after hearing Lily's story?

# Prayer



Dear Lord,

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

We all have special talents which you have given to us.  
Guide us as we follow your teachings and use our talents to  
help children like Lily.

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

Amen.





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**Zara's Story**



Zara is 11 years old and until last year, lived with her mum and her two brothers who are 15 and 19 years old. Zara worked hard at school and her favourite lesson was PE.

She used to go to ballet three times a week- her mum took her and was very proud of her daughter. Zara loved her older brothers- they were very caring and always looked after her.





Last year Zara's mum sadly died. Zara and her brothers were devastated. They could not believe that she was gone and missed her terribly. They had no other family and did not know what to do next.

Zara's school helped raise money for their mum's funeral. As both Zara and her brother were under the age of 18, the Council said they would relocate them to two foster homes with different families.



However Zara's eldest brother desperately wanted to keep his family together and look after his brother and sister. To do this, he had to pay for a special form so that he could officially become their guardian.

But Zara's brother had no money. He was scared that they would take his brother and sister away.



Zara's Headteacher contacted the Catholic Children's Society and asked if they could help. The Catholic Children's Society were able to pay for the special form so that Zara's brother could keep his family together.

Zara and her two brothers now live together in a flat. They miss their mum so much but are relieved to be together as a family.

# Reflection



Spend a minute quietly thinking about Zara's story.

- What problems did Zara and her family face?
- How did the Catholic Children's Society help Zara's family?
- How do you feel after hearing Zara's story?



# Prayer



Dear Lord,

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

We all have special talents which you have given to us.  
Guide us as we follow your teachings and use our talents to  
help children like Zara.

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

Amen.





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**Children's**  
Society

**Annie's Story**

Annie is nine years old and lives with her mum. Annie joined the school last September. She is a very kind and caring girl and looks after everybody in her class when they are upset or need to talk. She loves animals- dogs are her favourite and when she's older she wants to be a vet.



Annie's mum worked as an estate agent selling houses. Five months ago the agency closed down and Annie's mum lost her job. She could not find a new job which meant she had no money to pay for their flat. Annie's mum did not want to tell anyone about her problems and everything got worse.

She owed the man who owned the flat money and he told her she had to leave. Annie's mum went to pick her up from school. When they got back to their flat, the locks had been changed and their belongings had been thrown out onto the street. Annie's mum didn't know what to do. She had no family or friends in the area that she could turn to.



It was cold and rainy, so they found shelter outside a shop. Annie wrapped up in lots of layers and her mum made a bed on the street from their belongings.

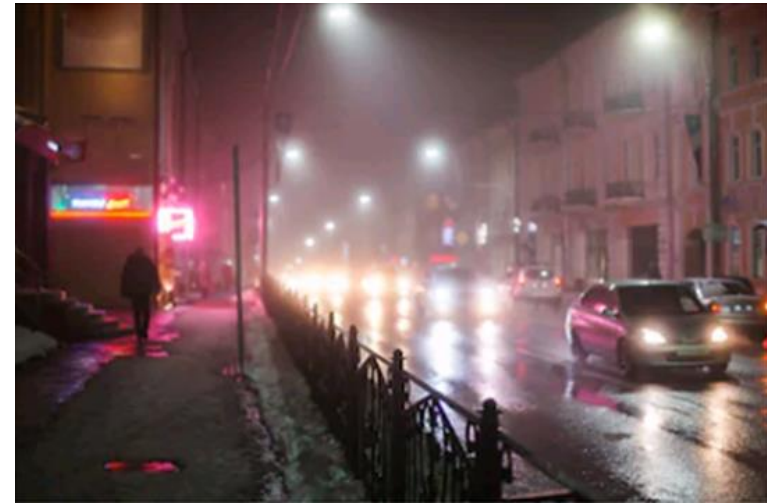
Annie and her mum were freezing and frightened and could not sleep that night.

Annie and her mum went to at school at 5am the next day.

When the Headteacher arrived,

Annie's mum explained what had happened. Annie's Headteacher went with mum to the Council. The council rehoused Annie and her mum in a hostel.

They lived in one room for two months.





Last month Annie's mum found a small flat close to school. But Annie's mum needed money for a deposit so that she could rent the flat. Annie's mum had no way of finding this money.

Annie's Headteacher contacted the Catholic Children's Society and with money from their Crisis Fund they paid the family's deposit so that they could rent the flat.

Annie now has a home where she feels safe. Her mum has just found a new job and is so happy that she can look after Annie again.

# Reflection



Spend a minute quietly thinking about Annie's story.

- What problems did Annie and her family face?
- How did the Catholic Children's Society help Annie's family?
- How do you feel after hearing Annie's story?

# Prayer



Dear Lord,

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

We all have special talents which you have given to us.  
Guide us as we follow your teachings and use our talents to  
help children like Annie.

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

Amen.





A photograph of two young boys with red hair. The boy on the right is leaning in and kissing the boy on the left on the cheek. Both are wearing red shirts with horizontal stripes. The background is softly blurred.

Catholic  
**Children's**  
Society

**Max's Story**



Max is six years old and lives with his mum, dad and little brother. Max does not stop talking- sometimes he gets in trouble because he talks so much in school! Max enjoys school but really loved being at home at the weekends with his family. Max's dad is a builder and works long hours, but Max would stay up and look out the window, waiting for his dad to come home.

Max thought his room was very special. He shared it with his brother but he didn't mind. Max had all his toys and books and would spend hours building dens with his sheets and duvet.



One evening, Max was at the window waiting for his dad to come back when he heard his mum scream. Max went out of his room and saw lots of smoke. Max's mum ran out of the kitchen carrying Max's brother, grabbed Max and ran downstairs.

Max's dad came home just as the fire brigade came around the corner. He took Max, Max's mum and brother to the hospital to check that they were ok. The family were fine, but had to find a hotel for the night. The next day they returned to their flat. It was completely destroyed and would take a year to repair.



After a week living in the hotel, Max's dad found a new flat for the family. The flat was completely empty- no beds, fridge, cooker. Just one mouldy mattress. All of their old furniture had been destroyed in the fire so they had nothing to bring with them.

Max's dad said that he would work extra hours so that they could buy some furniture. However, the week after Max's family moved in, Max's dad's work van broke down. All of their money was spent on fixing the van so that Max's dad could go to work. There was no money left.







Max's Headteacher contacted the Catholic Children's Society to see if they could help. Within 24 hours, the Catholic Children's Society gave Max's family the money they needed to buy beds, bedding, a fridge and cooker.

Max loves his new bedroom. Although his toys are gone, he can make dens again with his new sheets and duvet.

# Reflection



Spend a minute quietly thinking about Max's story.

- What problems did Max and his family face?
- How did the Catholic Children's Society help Max's family?
- How do you feel after hearing Max's story?

# Prayer



Dear Lord,

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

We all have special talents which you have given to us.  
Guide us as we follow your teachings and use our talents to  
help children like Max.

Let us shine our light for you this Lent.

Amen.

