

# IMPORTANT MESSAGE



## THE CATHOLIC BISHOP'S CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES **Statement on the Settlement Scheme for EU citizens**

*Bishop Paul McAleenan, the lead Catholic Bishop for Migration and Asylum, has issued a statement on the government's forthcoming **Settlement Scheme** for EU citizens living in the UK. Any EU citizen who wants to remain in the UK after Brexit (with the exception of Irish citizens) will have to apply through the scheme, which is expected to launch in March 2019.*

### Full Statement

The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all EU citizens who have made their home here. As the majority are themselves Catholic this is a special pastoral concern for us.

The Church has experienced first-hand the extensive contribution that people from across Europe have made to our society. They are an integral and valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

We also recognise the evidence that immigration from Europe has not undermined opportunities for UK citizens, but rather brought considerable economic and social benefits.

It is clear that since the 2016 referendum many people living here have faced profound uncertainty and insecurity about their future.

Although the reassurances offered by senior politicians are important, people have been given far too little information or binding commitments about their right to stay.

For some this has been worsened by the appalling rise in hate crime, which has left them feeling unwelcome or even threatened in the country that has become their home.

### The Settlement Scheme

The government will soon launch a Settlement Scheme, offering EU citizens living here a legal route to remain.

While this is an important step we understand that, especially for people who have contributed to our society over many years, it may feel unjust and divisive that they are now required to apply for permission to stay.

We also expect that some people, particularly those who are already vulnerable, may face difficulties in practically accessing the scheme, leaving their immigration status at risk.

We strongly oppose the decision to charge people for securing the rights they already have. This is not only unprincipled but will also create a barrier for larger families or people facing financial difficulties.

The Bishops' Conference has made representations on these issues to ministers and through the Home Office working groups set up to discuss the Settlement Scheme. We will continue to do so as it is implemented.

Applying for the scheme Notwithstanding our concerns about these principles and practicalities, it remains a fact that **EU citizens must apply if they are to protect their existing rights and their place in our society.**

We therefore ask Catholic parishes, schools and organisations to bring the Settlement Scheme to the attention of all who need to avail of it and to be aware of vulnerable people who may face barriers to applying or not realise that they need to apply.

In particular we encourage you to signpost people towards the official information on the Settlement Scheme: [gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](http://gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)

**And to make use of the various information resources available:** [gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit](http://gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit)

**Finally we urge the whole Catholic community to take up Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here - with particular concern at present for our European brothers and sisters.** *Bishop Paul McAleenan*

# FREE JOB CLUB IN NORTHFIELDS



Tuesdays 11:45am - 2:45pm

St Paul's Church, Ridley Avenue, W13 9XW

Ealing CAP Job Club provides friendly, practical support to help job seekers into employment.

We run regular 9 week Steps to Employment Courses with practical workshops covering all aspects of your job search and application. Our trained job coaches will also support you with regular 1:1 coaching sessions.

Free lunch is provided each week and there are computers with internet access for the use of job club members.

**To have a taster, there are going to be some  
FREE OPEN DAYS IN JANUARY!!!**

**For more information:- email [juliasarson@capjobclubs.org](mailto:juliasarson@capjobclubs.org)  
or call 07473 004435.**

Ealing CAP Job Club is run in partnership with national charity Christians Against Poverty. To find out more about CAP, see [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org) or phone 0800 328 0006

Registered Office: Jubilee Mill, North Street, Bradford, BD1 4EW. Email: [info@capuk.org](mailto:info@capuk.org). Telephone: 01274 760720.

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# TURIN SHROUD

A fascinating  
talk about the  
Shroud,  
accompanied  
by a  
photographic  
presentation  
by Maximilian  
Somerset

*Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 4.00-5.00pm*

*in the parish hall*

Maximilian Somerset is a magician who talks about the shroud of Turin being an impossible object; something that cannot have been made by human hands. He points out that for all the attempts to disprove it, there is no known cause for its totality. With the odd magic trick thrown in to illustrate points, Max shows that the inference to the best explanation is that it is a living witness to the resurrected Christ.

Using hard evidence and magic, Max shows that this is not, and cannot be, a Medieval forgery. The very nature of it as an object is one that could only have been interacted with by God himself.