

St Peter's, Flushing support for an orphan, Roberto, in Croatia, through SOS Children's Villages

In October 2017, the parishioners in St Peter's Flushing commenced their sponsorship of a young orphan Roberto Mujagic, then 6 years old, who was being cared for by the Charity SOS Children's Villages in Lekenik in Croatia.

Life is sometimes unpredictable and as a result of a variety of unfortunate circumstances, the children cared for by SOS Children's Villages, have all had to find a new homes. The SOS Children's Village in Lekenik is one such haven, the orphaned children the living there are provided with a safe, peaceful and stimulating environment essential for a happy childhood.

Roberto, who is now 11 lives in a House in the SOS village, with other orphaned children of a similar age, that is overseen by a 'Housemother', who cares for their needs.

The SOS Children's Village of Lekenik is set in the countryside, near a Forest which is tailor made for adventures. Schools serving this SOS Village are 5 minute walk away from where the children live and complimented by a library, football field and a large SOS Social Centre where a wide range of workshops and programs are made available for the children. The daily life of the village revolves around these centres and supported by a dedicated team of co-workers from SOS Housemothers and Aunts to Psychologists and Village Handymen, all of whom are committed to raising the 74 children that live this SOS Children's Village.

During the year the children participate in a wide ranges of activities to help them develop and gain self-confidence. Their progress is closely monitored by the team caring for them and the parishioners at St Peter's, in common with the sponsors of other children, receive regular progress reports on the children that they are sponsoring.

Under the sponsorship scheme, the Parish agree to contribute an agreed amount on an annual basis to support Roberto and any funds donated above and beyond the annual commitment is set aside for the Charity as a 'nest egg' which will be given to Roberto when he eventually leaves the Village to begin his working life.

It is a joy to receive news of Roberto's progress and development in the knowledge that the support and prayers of the Parishoner's of St Peter's are assisting him after a difficult start in life.

