

Parish of St. John Vianney: LiveSimply reflection and action

AUGUST 2024: LIVING SUSTAINABLY WITH CREATION

Our LiveSimply Prayer. Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for the world You created for us to share. We ask you to give us the grace to work together, to live more simply, more sustainably, and in solidarity with the poor. *Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Extract from **Laudato Si'** - **Pope Francis' Encyclical on care for our common home**

*Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as **a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness.** Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could **raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty.** Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise. (Para. 12)*

ACTION FOR AUGUST: Do one thing which will enhance our natural environment, at home, or in our local area

Reflection:

Five members of our parish were inspired by a recent visit to the **Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall** in the Diocese of Salford. We went with parishioners from other Leeds parishes to see **how we can live more sustainably with creation.** We have just bought four fruit trees to be planted in the church grounds at IHOM. When we admire the beauty of nature are **our** minds raised to God? Does **our** home environment help us to raise our minds to the Creator?



Scene from the garden of the Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall, Diocese of Salford
www.laudatosicentre.org.uk

Action: Small actions can go a long way, like simple gestures of kindness with people. Look over the page to see if there is **one thing we can to.**

Thank you to the parish 'garden' team, who helped with this month's leaflet. To help us achieve the [LiveSimply award](#) please contact: tony.obrien@hotmail.com

Some ideas for improving our natural environment at home and in the local area

We can grow a plant, even if it's just on a windowsill. Are our children encouraged to grow and **look after their own plants** with care and attention? -----



If we're cutting the hedge or mowing the grass, do we always compost or use the brown bin? **Sustainability is also 'the work of human hands'.** -----

We could leave part of our garden untouched, so wild flowers can grow there. What about leaving logs for garden bugs and insects? -----



If we find litter outside our house, **how do we feel?** Do we bin it or leave it? Discuss with family! (We could take the plunge and join a local litter picking team. There are lots about (www.litterfreeleeds.co.uk)

When we prune or water our plants we might use the time to be **thankful for the mystery of nature...mmm!...** are we using water responsibly? Could I install a water butt - plenty of free water this year! -----



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