

Parish of St. John Vianney: *LiveSimply reflection and action*

January 2025: LIVING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR

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*

Speaking about the **World Day of Migrants** (29 Sept 2024), Pope Francis said that we are all "migrating", and called for solidarity with refugees and migrants, urging us to recognise their ongoing sufferings, and urged a renewed and deeper look, one capable of embracing the faces and stories of those who cross borders in search of hope.



PARISH ACTION FOR JANUARY:

To develop our awareness of the local support provided for destitute asylum seekers

Reflection: The Pope calls on us to remember our shared humanity. Indifference is a scandal. Hospitality is not a matter of generosity but a moral duty.

Action: What can we do? Offer a place where people can feel safe. Listen to their stories. Challenge fears and suspicions. See refugees as people with hopes, dreams and the right to a future. Build a culture of encounter: refugees are not threats, but people. Connect, understand, and support. Challenge systems that marginalise; reject indifference, embrace hospitality. Build a future where everyone is respected and treated with love. (*General Audience on August 28, 2024*)



This month's leaflet has been prepared by the group supporting our LiveSimply action C1. Some of the artwork is from St Paul's School. Help us achieve the [LiveSimply award](#) contact: tony.obrien@hotmail.com

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN LEEDS

The exact number of refugees (people who have been granted Leave To Remain, LTR) and asylum seekers (who have applied for and are awaiting LTR) currently living in Leeds is difficult to assess. The best source of information is *Migration News*, (available MIGRATIONYORKSHIRE.ORG.UK) which gives the latest estimates for the city.



Last year (2024), parishioners of St John Mary Vianney parish have been helping refugees and asylum seekers in a number of ways, including:

- Practical and financial support for accommodation, especially that provided by **WYDAN** (West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network) in Gipton, mainly for men, and by **ST MONICA'S HOUSING**, which has 2 houses in Harehills and Armley which are owned by the RC Diocese of Leeds/Catholic Care and which accommodate destitute women seeking asylum.
- Christmas gifts for St Monica's residents, and the provision of cooked meals and help for night sleepers at the former Methodist Chapel in Gipton used by WYDAN.
- £200 donated to each accommodation project by *Communita*, which provides refreshments after 9.30 a.m. Sunday Mass at IHOM Church.
- Many parishioners have donated money through the card readers available at the back of both of our Churches. WYDAN and St Monica's are the nominated charity for donations this month.
- Two of our parishioners are now trustees of St Monica's Housing.
- Volunteering at the Conversation Club which takes place at Wheeler Hall, St Anne's St, LS2 on Thursdays 1.30 - 3.30. Bus fares for asylum seekers who attend are paid for.
- Developing personal friendships with refugees and asylum seekers.
- Celebrating Refugee Week last year by organising a very well-attended Community Get-Together on 17th June 2024 at 10 am Sunday mass at St Paul's Church.



THESE ACTIVITIES RECEIVED AND APPRECIATE PAROCHIAL SUPPORT
NEW HELPERS WILL BE VERY WELCOME!