

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

July 2025: CANCEL DEBT, CHOOSE HOPE

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*

At the end of every seven years, you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbour. (Deuteronomy 15:1-2)

And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. (Leviticus 25:10)

ACTION FOR JULY: to become more aware of the debt crisis affecting many developing countries and to consider our Christian response to poverty and injustice

Reflection: In his letter proclaiming the **Jubilee Year of Hope**, Pope Francis invited us all to be “tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind”. His model was the biblical Jubilee in the Book of Leviticus (Leviticus 25). Taking place every fifty years, the Jubilee marked a great societal ‘reset’, with land returned to its original owners, debts cancelled, relationships restored, and creation renewed.



Pope Leo has also signalled his intention to maintain Pope Francis’s message, urging religious believers to say “no” to a global economy “that impoverishes peoples and the Earth”.

Action: We sing in one of our well-known hymns, *He sent me to give the Good News to the Poor* (Hymn 227 in our hymn books). In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” (Matthew 25:35). Could you be better informed and offer a welcome to those needing our help and support?

Help us achieve the [LiveSimply award](#) contact: tony.obrien@hotmail.com

Please take this leaflet home to share with family and friends

To respond to the plight of others with actions and words, we need to be informed, provide a Christian response when views are promoted that many people would find offensive and take positive action.

- **Many of the world’s poorest countries have been plunged into a new debt crisis.** The number of low and middle-income countries in debt crisis has more than doubled since 2015. 54 countries around the world are now in debt crisis. Despite facing significant poverty burdens, countries are having to make huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, leaving them unable to properly fund essential services.
- CAFOD’s current campaign calls for **cancellation of unjust debts** and for new laws to protect vulnerable countries. Find out more and sign the petition at the back of church, online: <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/the-new-debt-crisis> or via the QR code on the right.



- Watch the evening news on **Wednesday 9 July** for coverage of a mass lobby of Parliament on this issue.

- **UK overseas aid** was recently cut to **0.3% of GDP**. The aid budget is intended to improve social conditions in vulnerable countries. It plays an important role in tackling the reasons that make people feel they have little choice but **to leave their homes**.



- In his poem *We Refugees*, Benjamin Zephaniah wrote: “We can all be refugees. Nobody is safe. All it takes is a mad leader, or no rain to bring forth food. **We can all be refugees**. We can all be told to go. We can be hated by someone, for being someone.”
- Could you join others in the parish and volunteer with asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds at WYDAN and St Monica’s Housing, or can you help financially?