

Parish of St. John Vianney: LiveSimply reflection and action

JUNE 2024: 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

From **Laudato Si'** - [Pope Francis' Encyclical on care for our common home](#)

A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real **if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion, and concern for our fellow human beings.** We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. (Paragraphs 91, 208).

ACTION FOR JUNE: to become more conscious of the urgent and different needs of those around us and to give our practical support

Reflection: Pope Francis isn't the only one calling us to action: *"Give something, however small, to one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."* – **St Gregory of Nazianzus** (4th century). Every small item in the SVP food collection basket helps. *"Christians should not just be pulling people out of the river. We should be going upstream and seeing who is pushing them in."* – **Archbishop Desmond Tutu.** 'Going upstream' may mean asking election candidates how they would tackle poverty. We might need to become better informed?



Easter at IHOM:
a call to action?

Action: Turn over the page for some ideas for June's **LiveSimply action.** Is there **one thing** that we and our families can do together?

Thank you to the **Parish SVP Group** for help with this month's leaflet.
To help us achieve the [LiveSimply award](#) please contact: tony.obrien@hotmail.com

What do we know about local poverty? What can we do?

Did you know that nearly **40%** of households in Leeds are **struggling to make ends meet**? There is information about poverty in Leeds at observatory.leeds.gov.uk/leeds-poverty-fact-book/

The poverty of isolation and spiritual deprivation, exacerbated by the pandemic, has a devastating effect on people of all ages. Its relief through befriending is a primary tenet of the SVP. **Could you be a volunteer befriender?** Can you come to an SVP information meeting this month? Please see **the parish bulletin for details.**



St. Vincent's food bank

St. Vincent's Centre works to support vulnerable families in Leeds. You can find out what they do at:

svp.org.uk/stvincentsleeds/what-we-do

We are all good at something. How can we use our gifts to help others? Parish SVP: contact

andrew.winfield44@gmail.com

Could we have a good look in our cupboards? What things do we never use? Can we give them a new home?

How about **growing food for others?** Look out for nearby community food projects such as the **Incredible Edibles planters** near St Paul's Church.



*SVP's annual parish party:
do you know someone who
might benefit?
Can you help?*

X

In this **general election**, what questions could we ask the candidates about how they intend to tackle poverty?

Please take this leaflet home to share with family and friends

