

LIVE SIMPLY PARISH ADDRESS 11-12th March 2023

This morning I want to talk to you about 'Live Simply' and to see if there is any interest in our becoming a 'Live Simply' Parish.

'Live Simply' is an initiative sponsored by CAFOD, the Catholic bishops agency for Overseas Development. It asks parishes to make three commitments

- To Live Simply
- To Live in solidarity with the poor;
- To Live sustainably.

Many of us, individually and domestically, will already be living out some or all of these commitments. We have tried to simplify how we live, rejecting many aspects the consumerist society, we are mindful of the poor and give from what we have, and we are conscious of the impact which our decisions have on the environment. But what might the call to 'Live Simply' mean for us as a parish community?

If you consider parish life as it is, you will find many examples of our outreach to the poor. You Can Be Santa, our support of the Salvation Army Foodbank, our SVP, our contributions to CAFOD and the outreach facilitated by the Mercy Fund are all examples of how we reach out to those in need. But if we were to become a 'Live Simply' parish there would be challenges. Is helping the poor always living in solidarity with them? Again, what would a 'simplification' of parish life look like and what would living 'sustainably' mean for us as a parish?

For each parish living out these commitments will mean different things. Today, we not proposing answers to these questions, but you should find on your seat a short questionnaire which we would ask everyone to complete. Simply put, we are asking whether you think our parish should aim to become a CAFOD Live Simply parish or not? If you believe these are important questions, that we should be striving to answer them, and that being a 'Live Simply' parish will help us do this, then you should answer yes on the questionnaire you found on your seat. If you don't think we should be addressing these questions by becoming a 'Live Simply' parish you should answer no. Please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire and return it to the baskets in the porch as you leave.

If you simply don't have time today or see this message later, then the questionnaires can be completed either online or through the presbytery door until the 19th."