

## THE LIVE SIMPLY AWARD - FURTHER ACTION (TALK – 1 OCTOBER 2017)

You will remember that earlier this year (in March) we began the process of becoming a *Live Simply Parish*. In this we have two aims:

1) To bring the three church and Mass communities in our Parish **closer together**. 2) To collaborate with one another in responding effectively to the needs of the **poor**, and in promoting the **welfare of the world** which is our home.

For this purpose **CAFOD** has developed a programme of action that can be followed by parishes. The Agency confers an **Award** on those Parishes which successfully complete the programme. To achieve the **Award** our parish will need to show :

**Firstly**, that we 'Live *Simply*'. In other words that we are not always seeking 'more' but are working so that each of us has 'sufficient'.

**Secondly**, that we live in *Solidarity* with people in poverty. The idea of 'Solidarity' is one of the foundation stones of Catholic Social Teaching – that we must all take care of one another. This particular part of the scheme is concerned with how we show this care towards the poorest – whether that be in our local area or more globally.

**Thirdly**, that we live *Sustainably* with creation. Are we playing our part in looking after God's creation? What are we doing to respond effectively to the Climate Change which is coming about?

All the different parts of our parish will need to take part. It will impact on each and all of us: as **individuals**; as members of a **local church** or particular Mass community; as members of a parish **group**; and also when we come together to celebrate as a **whole parish**. We will need to ask some searching questions of ourselves both as individuals and as a parish community. We will be challenged to consider afresh what the Gospels are calling each one of us to do. This process presents an opportunity for individual, family, and parish **renewal**.

There are only about 25 parishes in England and Wales that have obtained this Award. In our own Diocese there is only *one* parish – St Benedict's, in Garforth. **We hope to be the next!**

On the first Sunday of each month, beginning today, a special Leaflet will be distributed - like this one [*hold aloft*]. This will feature a short teaching of Pope Francis from his recent Letter '*Laudato Si'*'. In this he urged us to act responsibly for the welfare of humanity, and of our planet. And some practical courses of action will be suggested for us to carry out. Each month there will be a particular focus on one of the three main themes: Living Simply, in Solidarity, and Sustainably. There will also be a prayer which we will say in a moment.

In Our Lady of Kirkstall we already do many things that are in line with the aims of the **Award** – hopefully, as the months go by, we will find ways of doing lots more: for the **poor** and for the **world**. [*Invite congregation to join together in saying the **Live Simply Prayer***]