***The St Vincent’s de Paul (SVP) Society***

The St Vincent’s de Paul (SVP) Society is an international Christian voluntary network rooted in parish communities. The SVP mission is to tackle poverty in all its forms by offering practical and emotional support to people in need.

This objective resonates very closely with the CAFOD ‘LiveSimply’ campaign, whereby individuals and parishes strive to:

-live simply;

-sustainably with creation; and

-in solidarity with people in poverty.

Poverty is most often viewed from a financial perspective. Accordingly, the SVP responds to requests to meet unexpected household expenses, such as replacing a broken fridge, or maybe purchasing a bicycle needed for work. Financial assistance also helps cover the cost of a weekly food shop, often the consequence of a temporary household budgeting crisis. Additionally, links established with local primary and high schools have identified several ways to help parents struggling with material and scholarly needs.

‘Poverty of Opportunity’ is another area where the SVP tries to overcome often small but highly impactful obstacles faced by individuals in our community. For example, mobility issues that prevent a person from going to weekly mass, or to an important hospital appointment, can be easily resolved by the simple offer of lift. Similarly, helping-out with minor DIY can be a godsend for a housebound person unable to find a tradesperson to do a simple household task. Occasionally, larger projects come along, such as supporting a multi-agency effort to settle a refugee family locally.

A third, and just as critical, poverty issue relates to personal feelings of loneliness and social exclusion. To help combat this, the SVP provides a befriending service for anyone who feels they’d benefit from seeing a friendly face every so often, and who may also benefit from other practical help if needed.

Can you help the SVP fight poverty in our parish? Volunteering a bit of time, making a financial donation, and offering prayers will all help make a big difference to individuals and families in our parish and the wider community.

To find out more, please have a word with

Russell Brynes

Pete Delamere

James O’Malley

at church, or telephone us on 07904664898