

# Common Good

*The Common Good is central to Catholic Social teaching.*

*'The Common Good' means that, as children of God, we all have to take some responsibility for the wellbeing of each other, both locally and globally.*



*Key vocabulary: justice, injustice, respect, solidarity, difference, Social Justice, common good, dignity, Catholic Social Teaching.*

*Key Questions for the topic:*

*What is justice?*

*Why is there inequality in the world?*

*How can we work together to build a more fair and just world?*

*Justice for the good of all*





# 'that's not fair'

Think about the phrase 'that's not fair'. Discuss what it means and why it upsets people when something unfair happens?

Fairness is about everyone having an equal share of something or being treated exactly the same.

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For instance, fairness would mean giving each person the same sized slice of cake, even if they have already had one. Justice is more than fairness. Justice might mean taking into consideration whether one person has had nothing else to eat that day and giving them a bigger slice of cake than someone who has just had dinner. Being just does not always mean being fair.



# *'that's not fair'*

*Think of a time when you have been treated unfairly and jot it down on a white board.*

*Consider if the incident you thought of was unjust or just and why.*





# 'that's not fair'

## Key Questions:

- How and by whom were you treated unfairly/unjustly?
- Why do you think it happened?
- How did the unfairness/injustice make you feel?
- What could the person have done differently to make the incident fair/just for you?
- Why do you think it is important to consider what is good for other people?



# CAFOD



*CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, works to help stop injustice and unfairness around the world (globally) and to build a world which is a just and good place for everyone to live.*

## *Task:*

*Use the divided world resources and explore the unjust distribution of the world's resources.*

*After the activities, think about these questions:*

- Was the situation fair? Why? Why not?*
- Was the situation just? Why? Why not?*
- Why do you think injustice and unfairness exist in the world?*
- How did you feel about the situation/role you were in?*
- How will your feelings affect your behaviour in the future?*
- In what ways could the situation be improved, in order to have a more fair and just world for the good of all?*



# Task:

Play quiet music and reflect on times you have been treated justly or unjustly.

You will need two 'post it' notes.

- On one, write a feeling you experience when being treated in a just way. On the other, write a feeling you experience after being treated unjustly.
- Stick your post it notes in your book and give a brief explanation of what justice is.

Write the following sentence in your book and write some answers to these questions:

'Treat other people as you would like to be treated yourself...'

- How does this sentence make you feel?
- Why is it important to treat everyone with justice?
- What can I do to act justly and fairly at school and at home?
- How do I need to change?





*God asks us to live justly*





Micah was a prophet of the Old Testament. A prophet is one who hears the word of God and passes it on with courage and conviction.

Micah was teaching at about the same time as Isaiah, when the people of God were having great trouble and difficulties. Micah's message was one of hope for the future. He reminded God's people about the importance of living justly. This is what he said:

'This is what the Lord asks of you - that you act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.'

Micah 6: 8

DO  
justly

LOVE  
mercy

WALK  
humbly

MICAH 6:8



DO  
justly  
LOVE  
mercy  
WALK  
humbly  
MICAH 6:8

## Key Questions:

- What are the three key actions/attitudes of heart that the writer of Micah says the Lord asks of us?
- Remembering what we have learnt so far, explain what you think it means to do what is just?
- Who gives you tender love? And how do you do the same?
- What do you think it means to walk humbly with God? (e.g. listening to God, doing God's will, praying to God but being modest not arrogant, living in a simple way)





*Read Tata's story and think about how she follows Micah's message.*

*Task:*

*Write no more than three paragraphs to explain how you 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God'. Use the sentence starters on the following pages to help you. You can choose to include them in your writing if you wish. Try to come up with your own sentence starters if you can.*



## *Justice*

- *One thing that is not for the good of all in the world is...*
- *One thing that is just and for the good of all in the world is...*
- *When I see injustice in the world I can... I can be just by...*
- *(Repeat sentence openers above replacing "in the world" with "at home" or "at school".*

## *Love*

- *I am kind and loving at home when I...*
- *I am loving to people around the world when I ...*
- *I am kind with my friends when I...*
- *I am loving to people who live in poverty when I...*





## *Walking humbly with God*

- *One way I walk with God is when I...*
- *One way I learn how to walk with God is when I...  
When I try to walk humbly with God it feels...*
- *God walks with me when...*





*God sent Jesus to bring the Good  
News to everyone*

The background features a soft gradient from light blue on the left to yellow on the right. A glowing white cross is positioned in the upper right quadrant, emitting a bright light. Overlaid on this are several flowing, white, ethereal lines that create a sense of movement and depth.





After Jesus was baptised by John, he began his mission. Luke tells of Jesus reading from the prophet Isaiah and making clear to everyone what he had come for. In the reading, we are told that Jesus says he has been anointed and specially chosen to bring the good news of justice to our world.

Read God's Story 3 page 95 (on the next page)  
'Jesus begins his mission' (Luke 4:14-22).  
Highlight paragraph 3 'The Spirit of the Lord  
.....in any way.'

Pick out and list what Jesus intends to do

## JESUS BEGINS HIS MISSION

(based on Luke 4:14-22)

Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned to Galilee. News about him spread all through that place. He taught in the **synagogues** and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazareth where he had been brought up and went into the synagogue as he usually did. He stood up to read. He was given the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place and read:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has chosen and anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the broken hearted. He has sent me to set free all those who are imprisoned or oppressed in any way.”

He rolled up the **scroll**, gave it back to the synagogue attendant and sat down. All the people in the synagogue were looking at him as he said to them, “This passage of Scripture came true today while you heard it being read.”

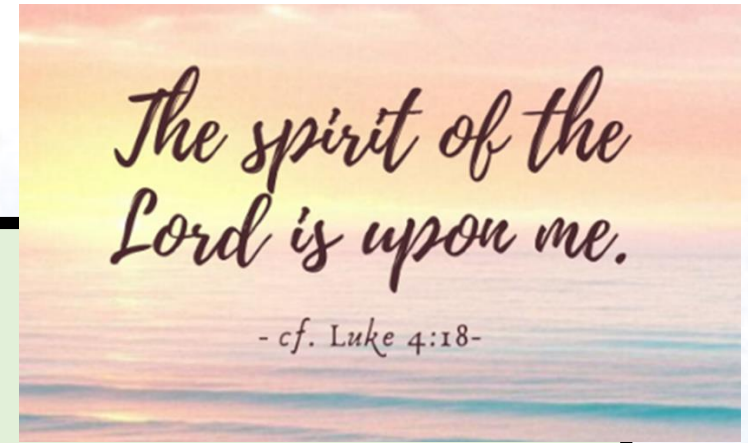
Everyone was impressed by him and marvelled at the wonderful and powerful words that he spoke.



The spirit of the  
Lord is upon me.

- cf. Luke 4:18-





## Key Questions:

- How can poverty hold people captive?
- What do you think would cause people to be broken hearted?
- Why do you think Jesus would want to heal the broken hearted?
- How do you think the people in the synagogue felt when they heard Jesus speak these words?
- Who helps us today to understand God's Good News?
- What do you think "Good News" for our world might be?

## *Task:*

*'Thought for the Day' is a short reflection broadcast every day on Radio 4. It is based on a religious issue, belief or question.*

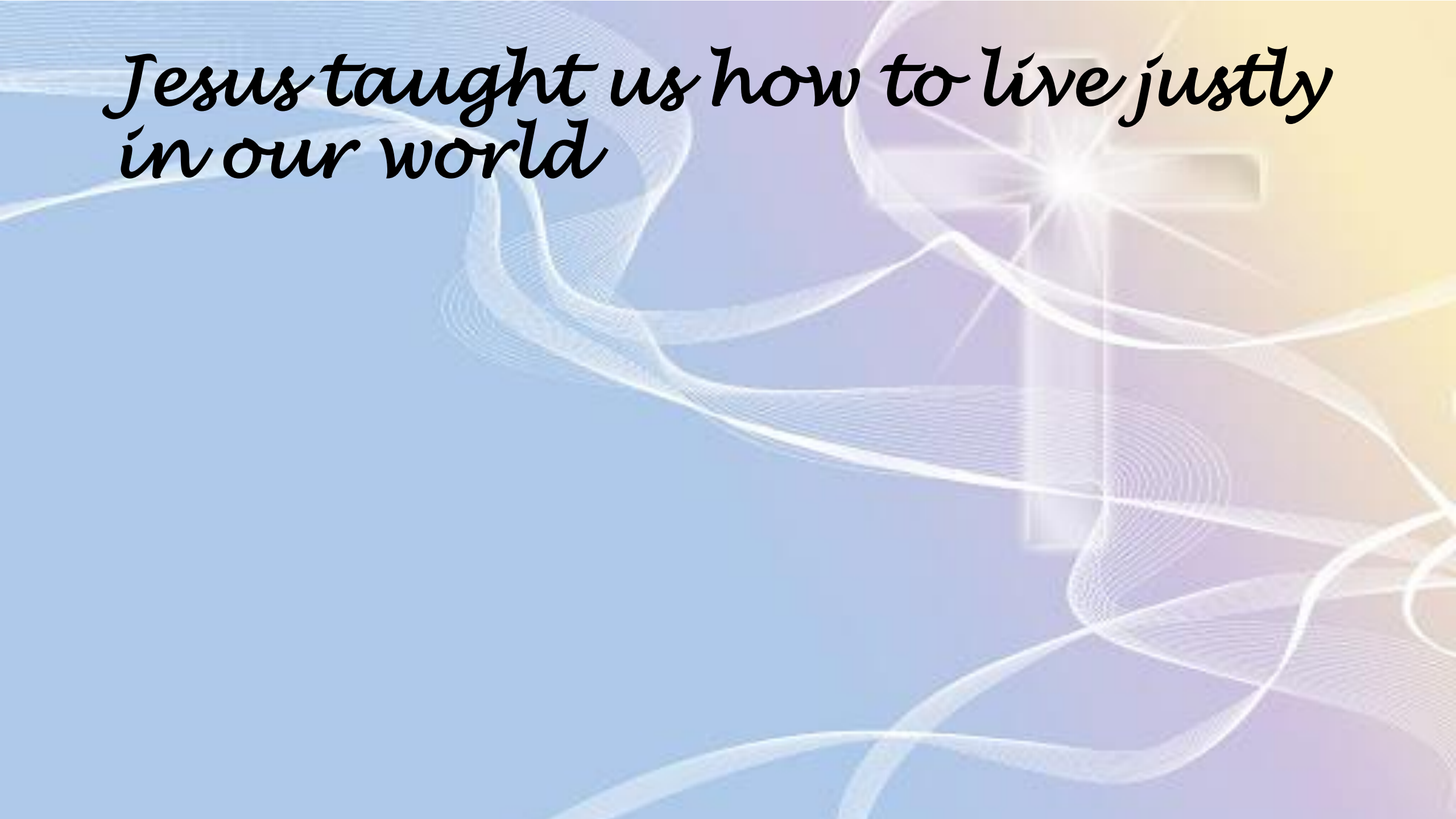
*You have been invited to speak on the programme for about 2 minutes and the title you have been given is: "God sent me to bring the Good News".*

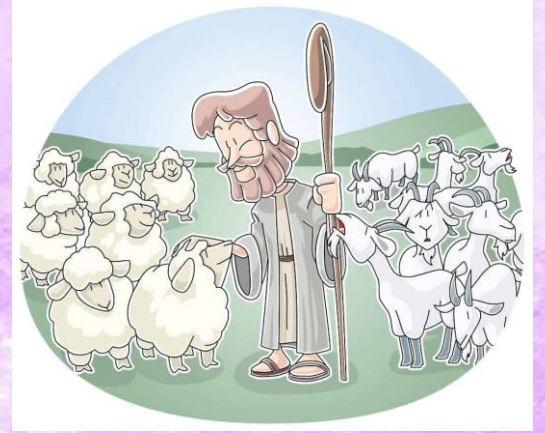
*Give advice to the listeners that explains how they should live, to make the world a better place.*

**IT'S IN YOUR HANDS TO  
MAKE THE WORLD A  
BETTER PLACE**



*Jesus taught us how to live justly  
in our world*





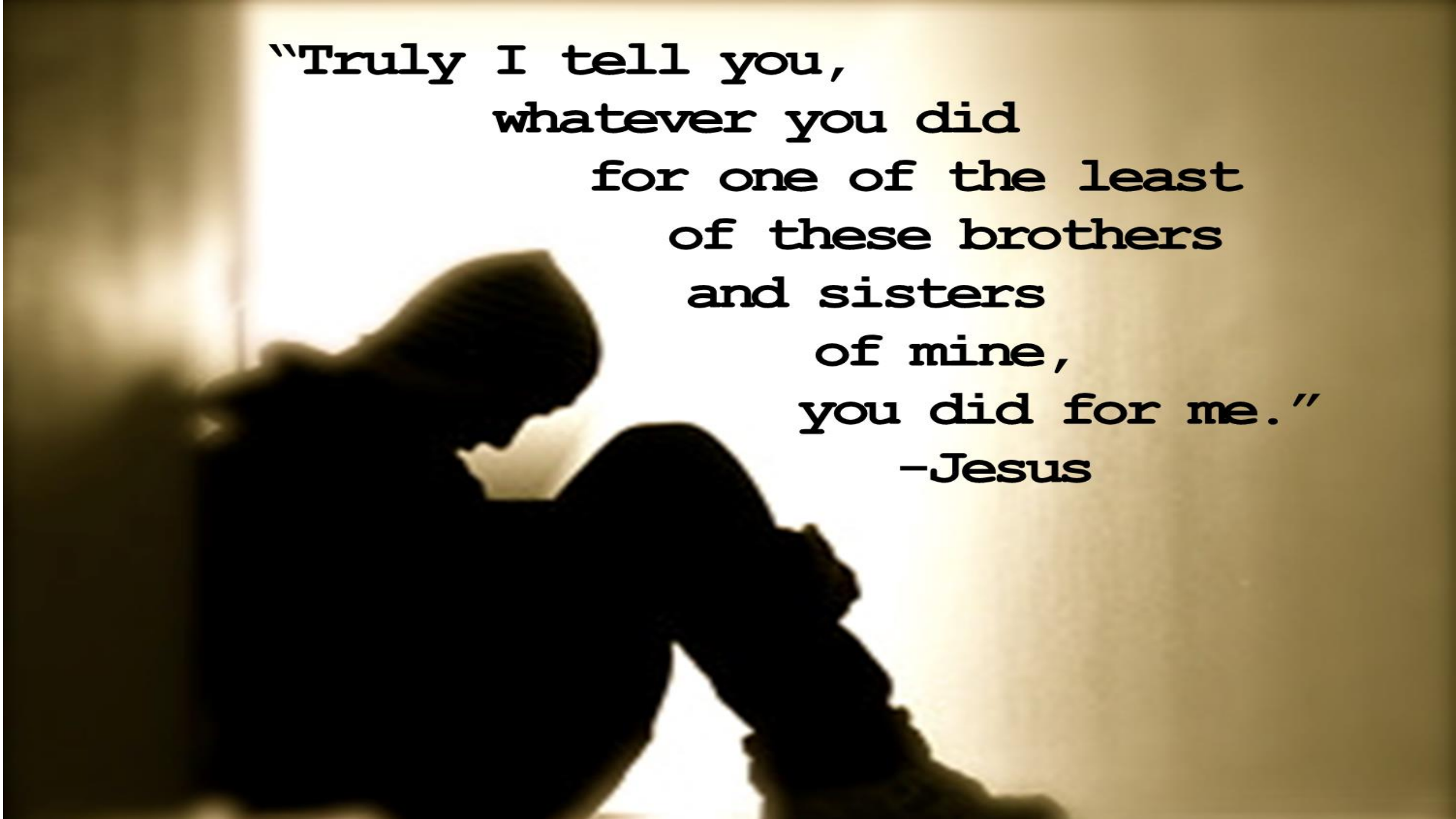
*Read Matthew 25:31-45*

*This is a parable about how God will judge everybody at the end of time. Jesus tells us that whenever we look after one another, we have looked after him. He tells us we should have an attitude of care for our sisters and brothers all the time.*

*This parable is about living justly for the good of everyone.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sDWuzUe78Y>



A silhouette of a person sitting on the floor, looking down, against a bright background. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, with their head bowed and hands resting on their knees. The background is a soft, warm glow, possibly from a window or a light source, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

“Truly I tell you,  
whatever you did  
for one of the least  
of these brothers  
and sisters  
of mine,  
you did for me.”  
-Jesus

## *Key Questions:*

- What does this parable tell you about Jesus?*
- What do you think the King will say to those on his left?*
- What would you say to them?*
- What does the parable have to say to us today?*
- How does the Scripture reflect belief in the common good/good for all?*
- Jesus showed us a just way to live. What does living justly mean - in our homes, schools, parish and local communities?*
- What is CAFOD doing to make the world a better and just place?*



## *Task:*

*Write a persuasive letter to a friend in the class asking them to think of ways they can look after vulnerable people/people in need and explaining why (using Jesus' teaching & Gospel values) they should be doing this.*



*Catholic Social Teaching is about  
continuing the work of Jesus*





*Catholic Social Teaching is a most important part of the Catholic faith - it is a way of showing that we do what we say - in other words, we practise what we preach. It is what the Church teaches about how we need to be concerned for others, especially the poor and those who are in need.*

*Catholic Social Teaching includes statements and letters written by the Pope or groups of bishops. It shows how the Catholic faith is important for our world today.*

*It inspires CAFOD and many Catholics to put faith into action.*



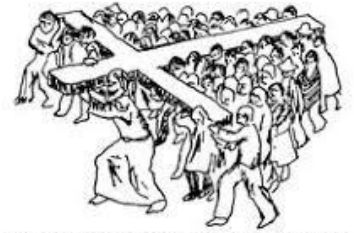


Catholic Social Teaching looks at Scripture and especially the example of the life of Jesus and reminds us that we should take care of one another and be concerned for the good of everyone. We see this in the lives of people we call 'saints' and in the lives of good people in our homes and parishes.

Look at the Catholic Social Teaching  
PPT







CATHOLICSOCIALTEACHING

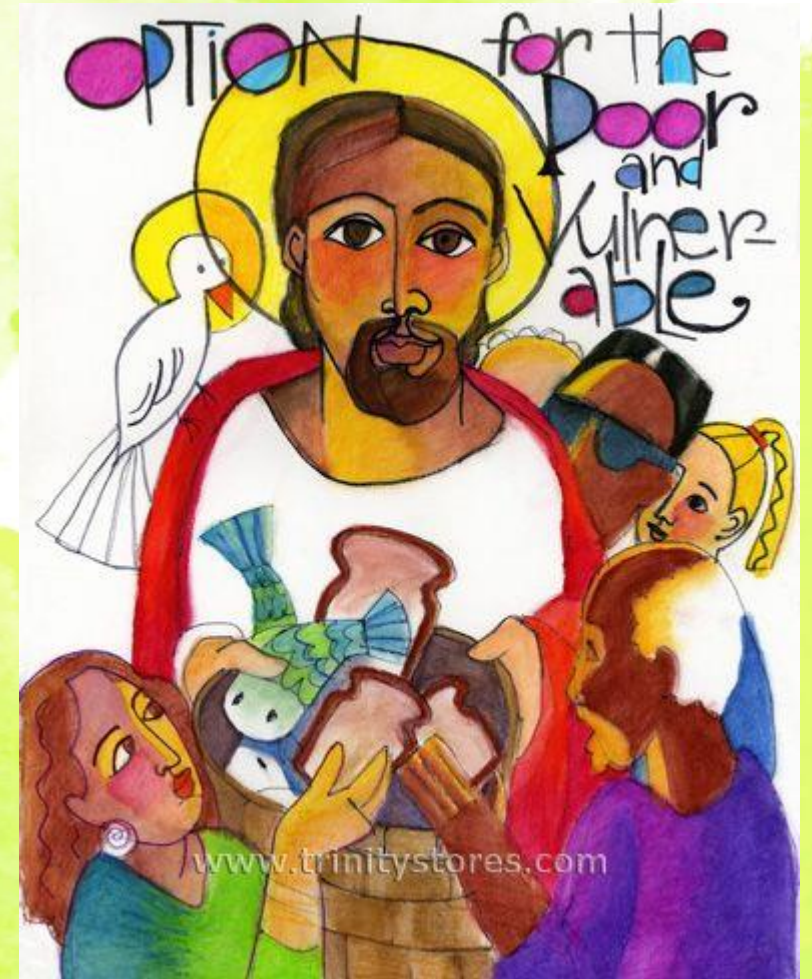
## *Key Questions:*

- What are the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching?*
- Why do you think Catholic Social Teaching is important?*
- What aspect of Catholic Social Teaching appeals to you most and why?*
- What beliefs and values inspire or motivate you the most?*
- Where do Catholic beliefs come from?*
- How might Catholic Social Teaching lead to a change in the way people live their lives?*

## Task:

Look at key principles of Catholic Social Teaching from the worksheet and the Catholic Social Teaching PowerPoint.

Design a school prospectus/leaflet showing how these values are actually lived out in the ordinary, everyday life of the school.





*Jesus gave Christians a new way  
of living*



# *The Beatitudes*

*Look at the Beatitudes PowerPoint and then answer these questions:*

- What kind of a world is being described?*
- Give examples of real people who exemplify one or more of the Beatitudes. What makes these people special?*



The

# Beatitudes

The 'Happy Attitudes'



# *The Beatitudes*

## *Task:*

*Write your own modern-day Beatitudes, based on the key elements of Catholic Social teaching, e.g. 'You will be blessed when you fight for the rights of workers. God will be beside you'.*

*Describe how religious belief and Catholic Social Teaching give some explanation of the meaning and purpose of human life.*



# Reflection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ym8yOdCFGPc>

*Remembering, celebrating and responding to the experience of justice for the good of all and the work of Christians for the common good of all*



## *Some questions to think about:*

- *What is justice?*
- *How can we build a fair and just world?*
- *What is the difference between fairness and justice, unfairness and injustice?*
- *How can we help to promote the dignity and common good of all?*



*What can you remember about the following:*

- *Beatitudes are a guide from Jesus about how to live life.*
- *How Jesus brought the Good News of justice to our world.*
  - *What is meant by 'Common Good'?*
- *The ways we can act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God.*
  - *How Christians can work for the Common Good.*
- *Something about Catholic Social Teaching.*



# *Let us pray ...*

*For those who are not treated with respect...*

*We join with them in hope*

*For those who stand against injustice.*

*We join with them in hope*

*For those who are affected by earthquakes and floods...*

*We join with them in hope*

*For those who do not have enough food...*

*We join with them in hope*

*For those who do not have clean water...*

*We join with them in hope*

*For those who are suffering because of war...*

*We join with them in hope*

*For those who work for the good of others*

*We join with them in hope*

*We remember the times we have not been treated fairly and how we felt.*

*We join together in hope and action to help build a more just world for the good of all.*



*Go forth...*

*How can you help to bring  
about justice?*