

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.

'that's not fair'

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?

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.



Task:

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

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 page 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.

Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest country in the world!



Nearly **40 million people** in **Brazil** live in **poverty**.

Many of them **struggle** to **survive** in the **countryside** so make **their way** to the **cities**. Here they often end up **living** on the **streets** or in **shanty towns**.

This is an old hotel in **São Paulo** now housing homeless families.

The families pay about £4 a month to help keep the building in a **good condition**.

This community is supported by **CAFOD**.





She has been **living** in the building for several **years**. She lives with her **mother**, her two brothers, her six **cousins** and her three **aunts**.


They all **share** two rooms and a kitchen.

Meet Tata

Tatá likes living in this block.

Here are some of the children who live in the same building as Tatá.

It's **better** than **living** on the streets.



I **missed** lots of **lessons**, I had **to go** to the **market** with my **father** really **early** in the **morning**. He **bought things** in the market to **sell** on the **streets** and I went with him so I **missed school**. When I did **go** I was so **tired**, I fell **asleep**.

Tatá's father died about a year ago. At school, Tatá is repeating her first year.

Each floor has **representatives** who go to **monthly assemblies** and help take **decisions** about the **running of the building**.



After the families had lived in the building for two years, a party was organised to celebrate.




Tatá enjoyed **celebrating** with many of the **communities'** 320 children.



We have a little **notebook** and we write down **everything** we see to bring to the **meetings**.

Tatá and her friend **Ninha** are children's coordinators in the building. They talk about how to treat their building with respect, how to look after and clean it and how to organise their games and toys.



This is what the Lord asks,
'**Act justly**, **love tenderly** and **walk humbly** with God.'

How do you think Tatá is **living out** this message?

How can **you** live out this **message**?

What **do you** think are the **challenges** for Tatá?

What challenges do **you** face?

Explain how you 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God'.

Act with 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...

Love tenderly and gently with care

- 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 smooth gradient from light blue on the left to bright yellow on the right. Overlaid on this are several white, ethereal, wavy lines that resemble smoke or light trails, creating a sense of movement and depth. In the upper right quadrant, a white cross is visible, appearing to glow with a bright light source at its center, casting a soft radiance across the surrounding area.



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 Lordin 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.”

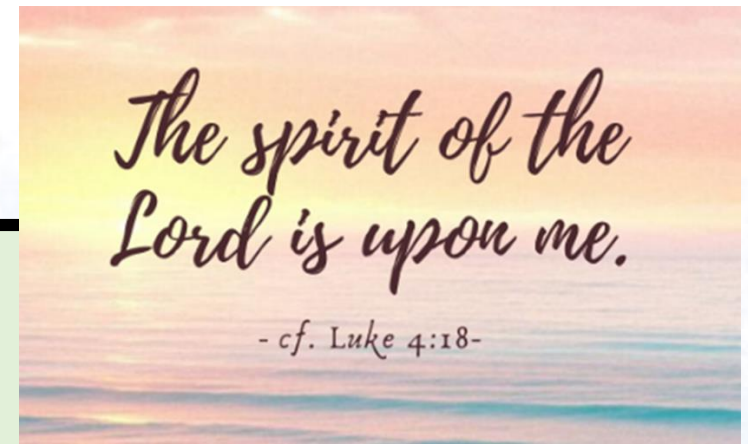
He rolled up the **scroll**, gave it back to the synagogue attendant and sat down. All the people in the synagogue were looking at him as he said to them, “This passage of Scripture came true today while you heard it being read.”

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:

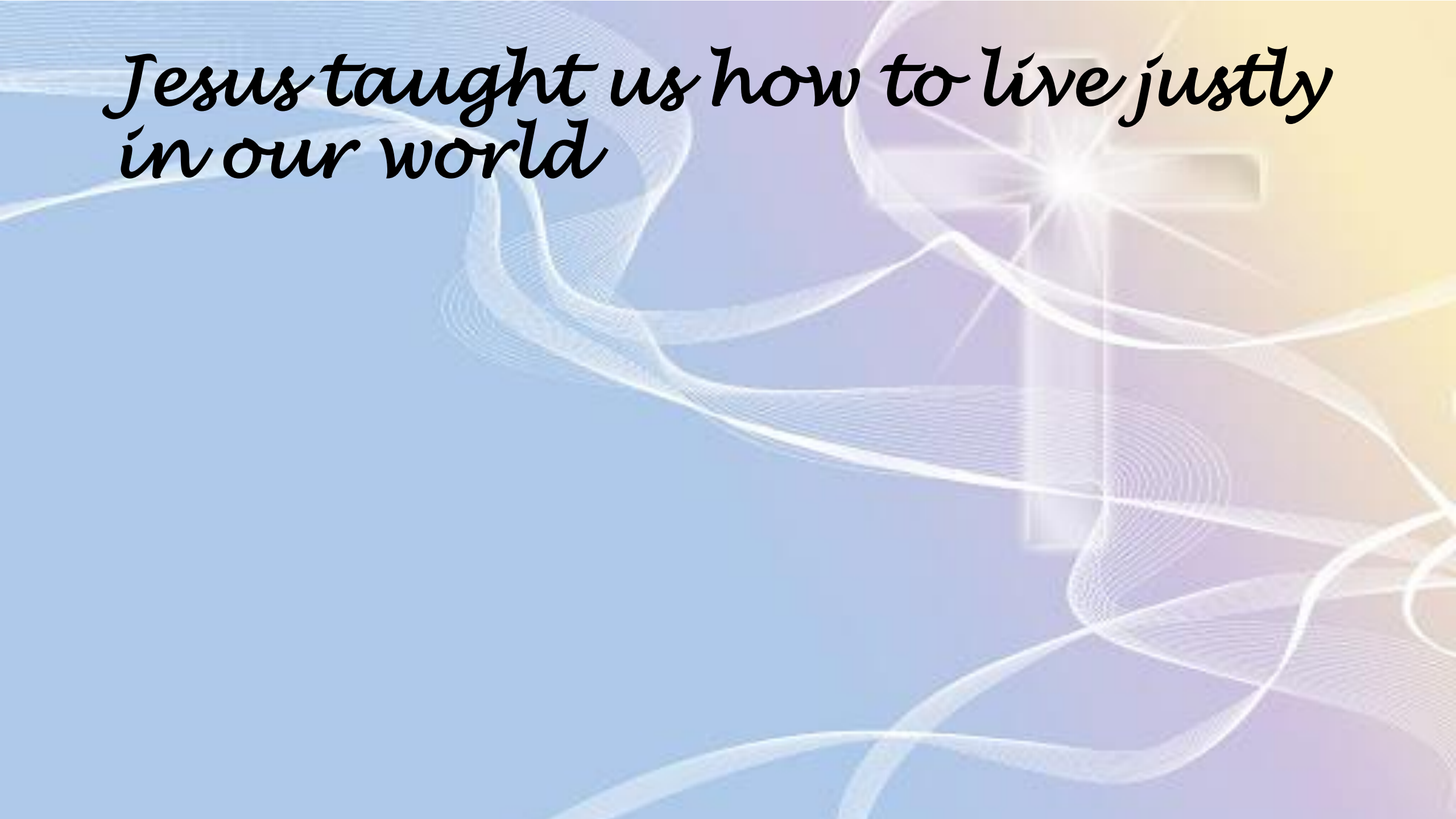
'Thought for the Day' is a short reflection broadcast every day on Radio 4. It is based on a religious issue, belief or question.

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" .

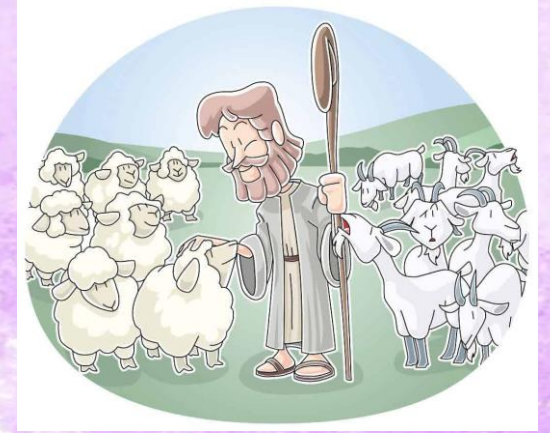
Give advice to the listeners that explains how they should live, to make the world a better place.

**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>

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*

The background features a soft gradient from light blue on the left to pale yellow on the right. A faint, large white cross is centered in the upper right quadrant. Overlaid on this are several thin, white, wavy lines that flow across the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

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.

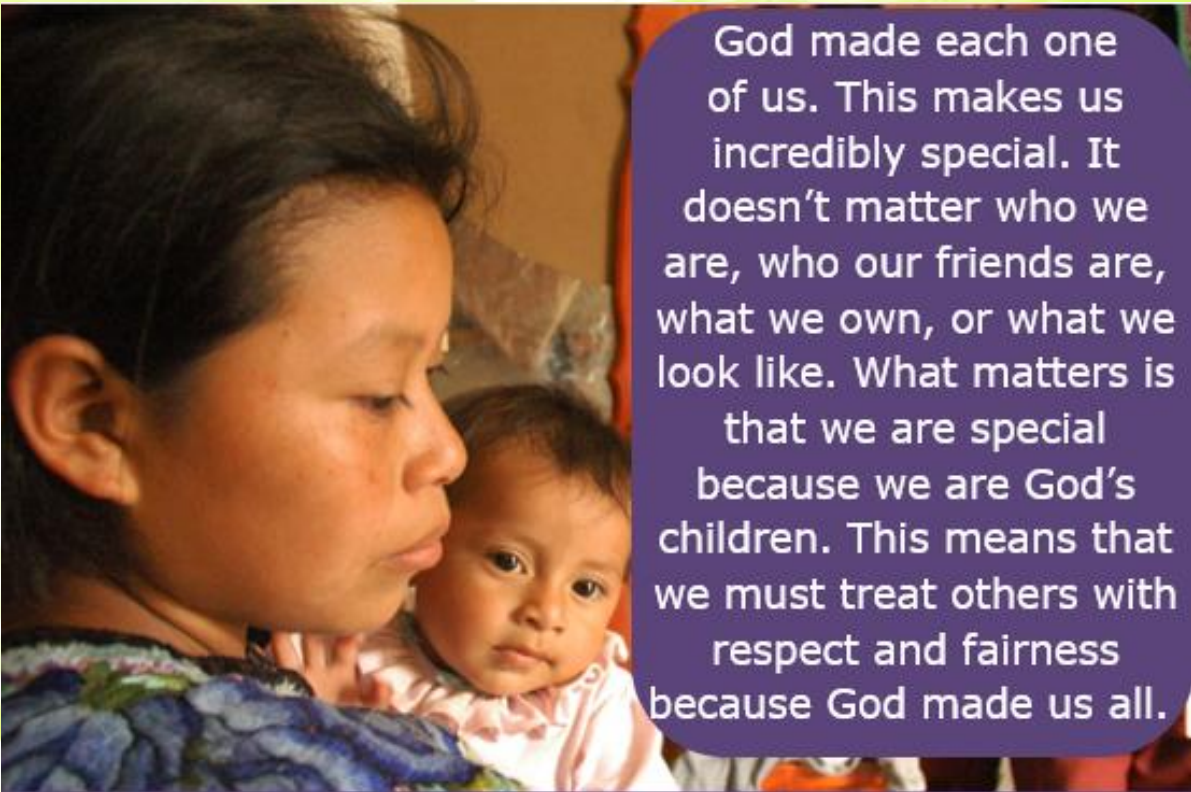
It inspires CAFOD and many Catholics to put faith into action.



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.

Read on to look at the Catholic Social Teaching Principles.





God made each one of us. This makes us incredibly special. It doesn't matter who we are, who our friends are, what we own, or what we look like. What matters is that we are special because we are God's children. This means that we must treat others with respect and fairness because God made us all.

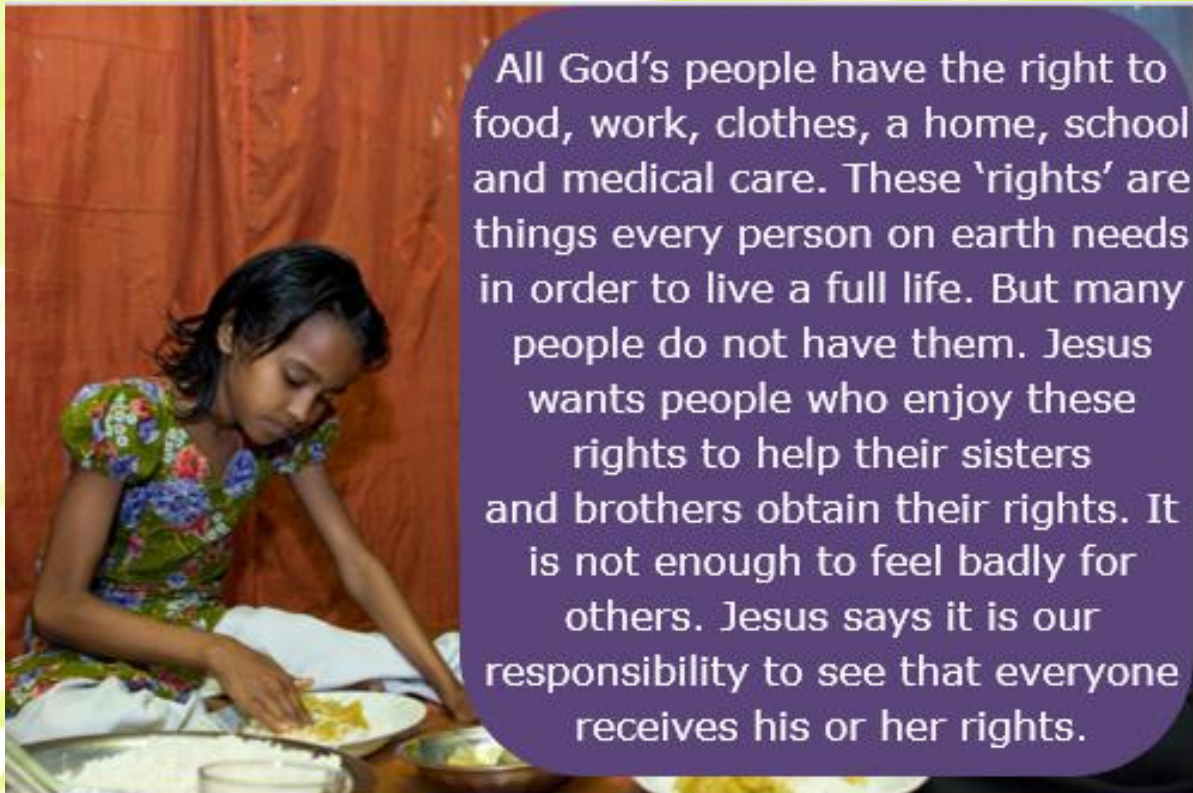
The dignity of the human person

Catholic Social Teaching Principles



Jesus understood that people need each other. We all need our families, friends and neighbours. He tells us that these important people can help us. Jesus says we must help them too. Doing this, we create a loving community where everyone can live life to the full.

We are called to live as family and community



All God's people have the right to food, work, clothes, a home, school and medical care. These 'rights' are things every person on earth needs in order to live a full life. But many people do not have them. Jesus wants people who enjoy these rights to help their sisters and brothers obtain their rights. It is not enough to feel badly for others. Jesus says it is our responsibility to see that everyone receives his or her rights.

Rights and responsibilities

Catholic Social Teaching Principles

We are called to stewardship

The earth and all life on it is God's creation. We are called to take care of it because it is a holy gift from God and the only place we can live. When we make bad or thoughtless use of the world's resources, many people suffer. When we make good choices about how we treat other living things (people, animals, plants) we help all living things to live as God intends. Making wise choices about the care of God's creation is called good stewardship.

Every person needs food, water, work, housing, school, and medical care. Those who do not have these are poor. Our Church teaches that these sisters and brothers must be treated with extra respect and extra care and have access to what they need. Those who are not poor must share what they have with others because the gifts of God's world are for all people.



An option for the poor and vulnerable

Catholic Social Teaching Principles

Everyone's work is of value. There are many kinds of work. In each job, workers deserve to be treated with respect, work safely, work reasonable hours, and earn fair wages. They deserve this because they are made by God. Our work gives us the means to live, but it is also a chance to use the talents God gives us. Our work is our way of cooperating with God to help create a better world.



The dignity and rights of workers

Solidarity



The world's peoples are interdependent (we need each other). When we walk alongside and learn from each other, we call this solidarity. Even with huge distances between us, we are still one family—the family of God.

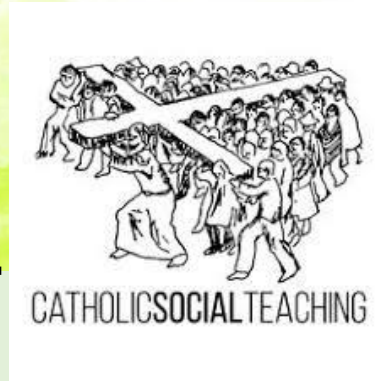
Catholic Social Teaching Principles

Promotion of Peace



We are called to forgive others. When we have done something wrong we must try to put things right not just by saying sorry but by changing our behaviour. Jesus teaches us to live in peace with one another. He says we must forgive those who hurt us and make friends again. This is not easy and we all need to work at promoting peace in order to have one just world.

Catholic Social Teaching Principles



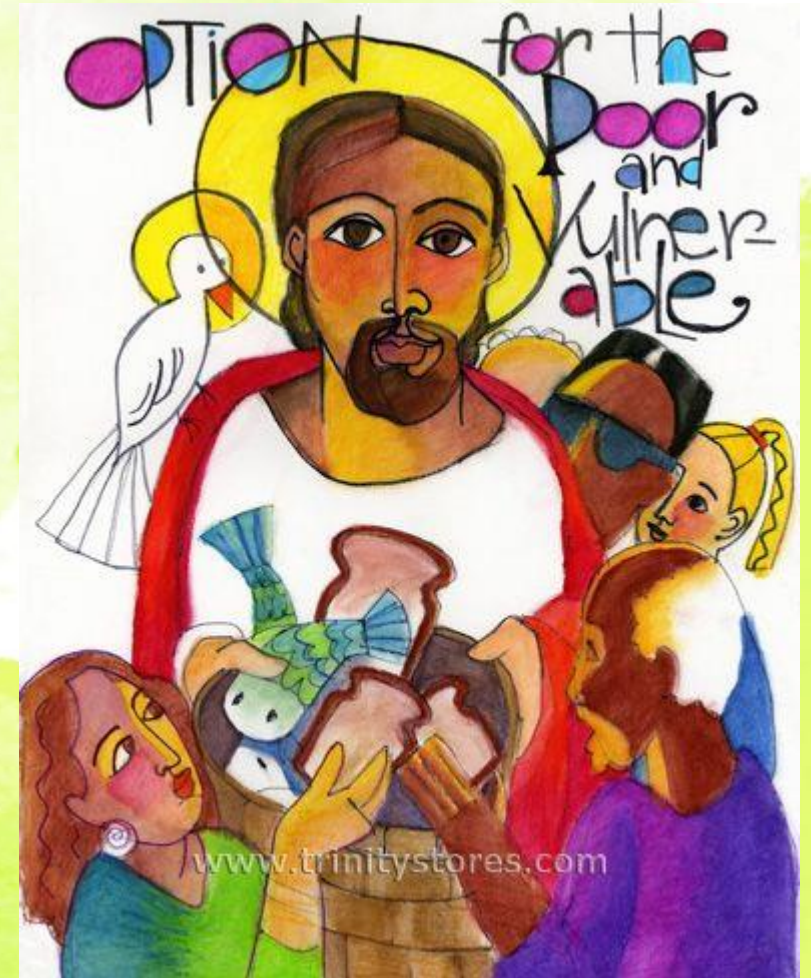
Key Questions:

- *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.



*Catholic Social
Teaching Principles*

*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?*



You are blessed when you have an open and generous heart.



When you share what you have with others God is very close to you.



God is there to comfort you as you reach out to those who are sad and lonely.



You are blessed when you comfort those who grieve.

The Beatitudes

You are blessed when you are gentle and patient.



God will treat you with the same kindness which you give to others.



You are blessed when you work for justice and respect for all. God wants you to have fullness of life.

The Beatitudes



You are blessed when you forgive others from your heart. God will always welcome you with forgiveness too.

You are blessed when you search for what is right and good.



When you do this, you will learn to recognise the presence of God in all around you.

The Beatitudes

**You are
blessed when
you try to be a
peacemaker.**



**When you try to stop quarrels from starting or
when you are the first to say sorry,
you are behaving as a child of God.**



**You are
blessed when
you respect
and stand up
for the rights
of others. God
will give you
life to the full.**

*The
Beatitudes*



You are blessed when you are teased for trying to live in God's way.

When others make life difficult for you, God is very close to you and will help you to be strong.



Which Beatitude will you live out this week?

The Beatitudes

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?*