



Racial Justice Sunday



What is racism?

What is justice?

What is racial
justice?



Before we begin...



This year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in [Fratelli Tutti](#) speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.



Context



prosperity
respect dignity
equality reliability
freedom peace
responsibility
justice
faith hope

The theme is 'A Time to Act'.

Racial issues and inequalities were identified nationally and internationally in 2020 generating awareness, emotion and outrage.

In light of this, Racial Justice Sunday 2021 is particularly significant.

Action is needed to further the cause of racial justice but what can we do?

Theme: A Time to Act



In recent years Pope Francis has repeatedly used four verbs encouraging positive and direct action in relation to migrants and refugees, **‘Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate’**.

These same words are essential to advancing the cause of racial justice. None can be omitted, it is as necessary to have plans to *Promote* and *Integrate* as it is to *Welcome*.

What do you think this means? How can we make ALL people feel welcome, protected and included?



Action is needed

As we gather together,
we pray for all those
who are suffering
from racial injustice
in our community
in our nation
and throughout the world.

Help us to act now
to build God's kingdom on earth so
it is a place of racial justice, equality
and diversity.

Amen



Gather



At the beginning of his public ministry Jesus outlines his Mission in the synagogue in Nazareth:

‘He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour’ (Luke 4)

His ministry was one of compassionate involvement, concern for the disadvantaged. Aware of obstacles, including those of the Law, which limited joy and fulfilment Jesus acted. He confronted, sometimes angrily, what undermined a person’s dignity.



Listen (Luke 4:18)





What do you think this Gospel reading means?

In which way can you live out this Gospel and protect the dignity of others?

How can you build a world of fairness and equality?

How can you stand up for what is right and challenge what is wrong?



Reflect

Let us
pray



Lord Jesus Christ,
in your ministry
you were approached by people
of many different nations and cultures.
You listened to their cry for help,
treated them with love and compassion,
and brought them healing and wholeness.



In our own time may we provide
to all those who are suffer
the help that they need
and the care that they require.



May we respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit
to dream of a world made new
where the poor are not forgotten
but are given the opportunity
to live and flourish
with good health and equal prospects.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen



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