



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

*“Supporting Catholic schools to provide excellent education where pupils flourish,
and Christ is made known to all.”*

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) A brief overview. What is Catholic Social teaching?

CST is rooted in scripture and is our moral compass in living out our faith in the world. We are called to walk in the footsteps of Christ and bring his love and Gospel to our world.

Pope Francis:

“Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer here, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.

Themes and Principles in Catholic Social Teaching:

Dignity of God’s people:

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Jeremiah 1:5

We recognise and believe that all individual human people are unique and made in the image and likeness of God gifting each one us an inherent worth and distinction. God is present in all people regardless of circumstances or position and we are called by our faith to love each one we meet just as God’s love for us is infinite.

Community and Participation (and the common good)

You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person. You are handing over to them what is theirs. Saint Ambrose 340-397 AD)

We were not created to live alone and in living on earth together, we seek the common good of our societies. Individually, we have a responsibility to support, develop and safeguard our communities and people. The fruits of the earth belong to each one of us – we are not the individual owners. We are co-owners.

Care for Creation

Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. (Genesis 2:15)

Each one of us has been created by God. Our world has been created by God. We have been entrusted to care and safeguard it for future generations of God’s people. Our environment can shape our lives - we have responsibility for protecting and sharing it; sustaining it’s powerful influence in our lives for the good.

Dignity in Work

A small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the teeming masses of the labouring poor a yoke little better than that of slavery itself. Rerum Novarum.

Work is a valued medium for improving our own and the lives of others. For employers this means providing acceptable places of work, safe working conditions, work-home balance, fair salaries, non-exploitive practices, a positive and valued ethos. For employees this means respecting the work and fairly earning a day's pay. Every person – employer and employee is called to be treated with due regard and respect. The human person is above profit and gain.

Peace and Reconciliation

The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me...to let the oppressed go free. Luke 4:18

Jesus made Peace a central theme in his ministry. He is the Prince of Peace. The Gospels signpost and challenge us to reflect on our own attitudes, assumptions and bias. We are prompted to seek peaceful resolutions to discord; to reject violent and oppressive choices. We are inspired to respect difference; to welcome diversity to find peaceful ways of living together.

Solidarity:

Individually we can do much. Collectively we can highlight injustice, focus on issues that threatened our world, our peace, our Together we can bring about change for the greater good. Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean.

This article has been informed by and has been edited to give a brief overview for subject leaders in Catholic Schools. Please go the websites below for further information and the work of these agencies in catholic social teaching.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Catholic-social-teaching>

<http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/principles/>