



'The water that I will give them will become a spring of water within, welling up to eternal life.'
John 4:14

Springhill Catholic Primary School RE Newsletter

Together, we will do our best for Jesus.

Our new topic is Catholic Social Teaching:



What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

Catholic Social Teaching is how God wants us to behave.

It offers us a way of

- thinking,
- being and
- seeing the world,

which is rooted in Jesus' teachings.

"We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people. Every act of cruelty towards any creature is contrary to human dignity."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si: On the Care of Our Common Home

Our main themes in the Catholic Social Teaching topic are different for each year group. We will learn:

FS - We are called to be loved and to share our love with others, particularly those in need.

Y1 - We are given the important role of being stewards of God's Creation.

Y2 - About the Church's social teaching, particularly the Christian duty to be a light to others and lead by example by reaching out to those in need.

Y3 - About the Church's social teaching, particularly the Christian duty to value all as a child of God and show them dignity and respect.

Y4 - About the Church's social teaching, through the vehicle of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (all brothers and sisters) and the question posed to Jesus, 'Who is my neighbour?'

Y5 - How Jesus reached out to all, particularly the marginalised. The Church's social teaching, particularly the Christian duty to see Christ in all we meet and to show them respect and dignity.

Y6 - We can all make a difference, however small, to improve our common home. The Church's social teaching, particularly the Christian duty to lead by example and reach out to those in need.



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There are 9 principles to Catholic Social Teaching:



Human Dignity

We believe every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect.

Distributive Justice

We must make sure that everyone is given the resources they need to live.

Promoting Peace

Peace is a cornerstone of our faith. Christ, the Prince of Peace, sacrificed himself with love on the cross.

Common Good

The common good means that the fruits of the earth belong to everyone. No one should be excluded from the gifts of creation.

Solidarity

Solidarity arises when we remember that we belong to each other. We reflect on this in a special way at Mass. Solidarity encourages us to stand side by side with our sisters and brothers, especially those living in poverty.

Subsidiarity

People who make decisions should listen to everyone and give everyone the chance to share their opinions.

Participation

Everyone should be able to work and use the talents God gave them.

Stewardship

In his *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis invites everyone on the planet to consider how our actions are affecting the earth and the poorest people. Everything is interconnected, and all of creation praises God. It is our Christian vocation to care for creation.

Preferential Option for the Poor

The option for the poor reminds us of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people. God's love is universal; He does not side with oppressors, but loves the humble.



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We will be exploring the meanings behind the CST principles through both our RE lessons and our daily collective worships.
To help your children understand further, you may wish to read the following Bible extracts with them at home:

- **The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats** Matthew 25:31-46
- **The Good Samaritan** Luke 10:25-37
- **Christ is like a single body** 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
- **Man charged with looking after Creation** Genesis 1:26-31

