



St Antony's Catholic Primary School



## Catholic Social Teaching

Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, was released on the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. Our school's Patron Saint, Antony of Padua was a student and missionary brother of St Francis and like Francis was the embodiment of Catholic Social Teaching in the practice of his faith. At St Antony's we aim to emulate St Antony and Christ in the way they exemplified *'Faith In Action'*. In his letter to the world of believers, Pope Francis encouraged us by his example saying, "Wherever you go, sow the seeds of peace and walk with the poor, the abandoned, the infirm and the outcast and the least of our brothers and sisters".

At St Antony's Catholic Primary School, children learn about Catholic Social Teaching through our assemblies, RE and RSHE Lessons taught and our annual SMSC projects which teach our children that *'faith is lived'*. We have worked with CAFOD, Caritas, Enabled Living, The Magpie Project for Refugees and Asylum Seeking Families, Peabody (Family Mosaic) for the aged, The Newham General Hospital and St Martin's Food Bank to plan and organise fundraising events. We have also had many pupil led Charity and Eco Projects, and outreach programmes supporting a range of charities, chosen by the children, to support initiatives close to their hearts annually.

Catholic Social Teaching encompasses a number of areas-these 9 are our focus:

- ❖ Dignity of the Human Person
- ❖ Solidarity/Caring and working together
- ❖ Stewardship/using our God given gifts and talents to make a difference
- ❖ Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- ❖ Family and Community
- ❖ Dignity of Work
- ❖ Distributive Justice/Rights and Responsibilities
- ❖ Promoting Peace
- ❖ Common Good/ Taking Care of Our Common Home: The Earth

Children learn about each of these areas and begin to develop their understanding of their responsibilities towards themselves, each other and people in the wider community as well as globally. They begin to see how we are all connected as a part of God's family. Children realise how interconnected people around the world are and they learn about the importance and sanctity of human life.

### What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by humble faith community in action. It is our

moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world that is becoming more influenced by and entrenched in secularism.

**At St Antony's we have agreed images and scriptures to help inspire our children's learning in the area of CST and social justice, chosen by our prayer and Liturgy pupil leaders, R.E Leaders and staff.**

We have linked these teachings with resources provided by **CAFOD** to guide our understanding of each principle. Catholic Social Teaching therefore is...

- ❖ Informed by **Gospel values** and the lived experience of Christian reflection.
- ❖ Deepens our **lived experience of Christian reality** from different historical, political, and social contexts.
- ❖ A source of **principles by which we should live and upon which we should reflect**, giving a criteria for making objective judgments and providing guidelines for purposeful action towards changing the injustices of our world.
- ❖ Inspiration which enables us in our daily struggle to live our faith in justice and peace.

## **Dignity of the Human Person**



### **The Heart and Mind of the Good Samaritan**

**We must recognise that we are all brothers and sisters who are all *'Wonderfully Made by God'* (Psalm 139) which requires us to respect, value and uphold true dignity for ourselves and all other human beings of all races, classes and faiths in our nation and globally. The Catholic Church teaches that as human beings we are all special because we are created in the image and likeness of God, so therefore we have an inherent worth and distinction among all God's creation. (Pacem in Terris & Laborem Exercens)**

## Family and Community



As humans we are not created to live alone, community is clearly linked in the history of humankind from creation. **The Catholic Church teaches that the family is the building block of Christian Society which promotes the common good for a community.** Every member of a family in society has a duty to support the philosophy of working for the common good of all and each family and individual member of society has a right to enjoy the benefits brought about by it. Each family is representative of God working in community.

### **Stewardship: using our time, talents and treasure for greater good**



*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10*

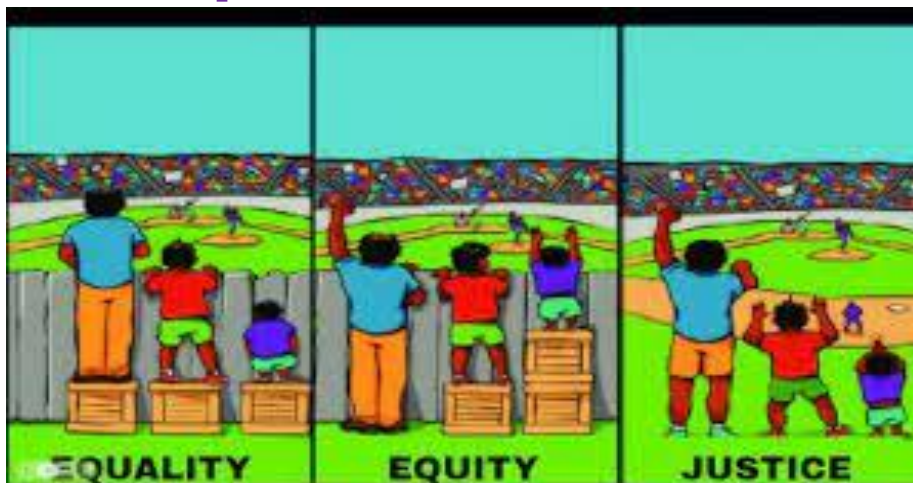
**Respect for all human life means respecting all of God's creation. We must fully engage with our environment and take responsibility for it; live sustainably, live so that there are enough resources for everyone across the globe.** Our environment directly influences our lives, and Catholic Social Teaching recognises that undervaluing nature and our global home makes us all poorer. Climate change is happening because we as God's stewards have not been faithful to fairness for all-resulting in rich countries and their industries creating serious environmental problems that have placed not only the poorest at risk...but all humanity. We need to use our time, talents and treasures more responsibly.

## Dignity of Work



Work gives meaning to the lives of all human beings. There is dignity in all forms of work done by all genders which brings value and balance in our lives. Catholic Social Teaching holds that work is not to be drudgery, but creative, positive and an intrinsically good. It is not however, all for yourself or ways to accumulate power and influence, but is rather to play our part in being co-creators in God's loving act of creation.

## Rights and Responsibilities/Distributive Justice



Under the United Nation's Charter all human beings across the world have specific rights which are established and agreed by the vast majority of nations across the world. However, **Distributive Justice is served when we commit to the fact that with every right, all children and adults have attendant responsibilities.** For example all children have the right to an education but they also have the responsibility not to waste their opportunities in school but make the most of their educational opportunities to secure a better future. All adults and children have the right to have access to clean water, food and medical care, but all also have the responsibility not to waste water, food or to abuse the medicines to which they have been given access. **Distributive Justice refers to the extent to which equality and equal opportunity are available to all in a way that serves their real needs. This means that those who have more should NOT be given the same as those who have the least as this is not equality but injustice.** A fair society ensures that those who need more get more and gives needed access to fundamental goods and services such as: food, water, clothing, housing, health care, work and education to all in the measure that they need to live a good life.



## Solidarity: Working Together To Create Parity



Solidarity is a concept that Jesus preached for Christians to follow and is one of the most fundamental and deeply meaningful human founding concepts of the social teaching of the Church. **It is based on the belief that together we can make a difference and together we are much stronger-“One Body but many parts” 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12.** When we value our fellow human beings, we respect each other as unique individuals who brings talents and skills that makes the world a better place for all. It encourages us to stand up for what is right for one another. (Populorum Progressio, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis & Centesimus Annus)

## Democracy & Participation/ Subsidiary: Everyone has a Say



Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers who are robbed of their human and civil rights across the world because of their faith, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status: whether they are poor, homeless, low paid and on zero rated contracts, marginalised, refugees, asylum seekers or undocumented. **Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God-Luke 11:42**

## Preferential Option for the Poor



Catholic Social Teaching encourages us all to make the poor among and around us our preferred option for help and support. **The primary purpose of this special commitment to the poor is to enable them to become valued participants in the full life of society.** It is to enable all people of the world to share in and contribute to the common good. The deprivation and powerlessness of the poor wounds the whole community. The extent of their suffering is a measure of how far we are from being a true community of persons. These wounds will be healed only by greater solidarity with the poor. (Sollicitudo Rei Socialis & Centesimus Annus)

## Promoting Peace



The Church teaches us that God's justice and peace is central to the Gospel and represents a challenge to many contemporary attitudes and assumptions in our world today. Pope Benedict XVI challenged Christians to be true peacemakers—bringing forgiveness and non-violent solutions to situations of current and historical hurt and violence leading to the dehumanisation and exploitation of human beings globally. ***“Know Jesus...Know Peace....No Jesus...No Peace!”***