

## **BACKGROUND NOTES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS**

### **About the Theme – Universal Church**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Throughout their education, your child is preparing to live and work in a changing, global society. In this topic, they will be learning about global justice issues, and put their faith into action in order to build a just and fair world. Each year group will learn about a different aspect of our **Universal Church**, through scripture, prayer, stories and a range of different activities.

Through the Universal Church topics children will explore key principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

#### **The Dignity of the Human Person**

God made each of us, which means each of us is very special. It is not important if you are tall or small, or happy or sad, or if you have many toys or no toys. What is important is that each of us is special because of God's love. And we must treat others in a caring way because they were made by God too.

#### **We Are Called to Live as Family and Community**

Jesus knows that people can only be happy if they have families and friends. He tells us that we can let these important people help us. He asks us to help them too.

#### **Rights and Responsibilities**

All of God's people need these things: food, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor to help when they are sick. Every single person on earth needs these. Some people have what they need, but many people don't. Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others. Jesus wants us to take care of this.

#### **We Are Called to Stewardship**

God made the earth and sky. God made all the people all over the world. God made the spiders and dogs and butterflies and tigers and pandas and all the other animals. God made the tulips, the trees, the tomatoes and all the plants. And, God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job.

#### **An Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

You need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor and a job for the grown-up who takes care of you. So does everybody else on the whole Earth. But there are many people who do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra good care of these people.

#### **The Dignity and Rights of Workers**

All people work in some way. Their work should be safe and helpful to them because God made them. By our work, we help ourselves and others, and we show our love to God.

#### **Solidarity**

All people are God's children. That makes us brothers and sisters. We are connected to each other. It is as if everyone in the world held hands! We can be very different from each other, but we are still one family—God's family.

#### **Promotion of peace**

When we fall out with our friends we must say sorry, try to put things right and then try to be even better friends. We must always try to live in peace and get on with everyone. This is not easy but Jesus wants us to keep on trying.

## Overview

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b><u>YEAR 6</u></b> <b>Common Good</b> <b>UNIVERSAL CHURCH</b>
justice injustice respect solidarity difference Social Justice common good dignity Catholic Social Teaching	<p>The common good is central to Catholic Social teaching and is linked to social justice. At the heart of this teaching is respect for the human person made in the image of God; the social well-being and development of all; peace between all peoples; understanding of the equality of all and respect for difference; human solidarity and an awareness of being part of God's global family.</p> <p>Children know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Justice for the good of all</li><li>• The work which Christians do for the common good of all</li></ul> <p><b>See Background Notes for Parents and Carers</b></p> <p><b>Week 1:</b> Explain how fairness is about everyone having an equal share of something or being treated exactly the same. Justice is more than fairness. Justice might mean taking into consideration individual circumstances and not treating everyone the same. Being just does not always mean being fair.</p> <p>Ask children to think of a time when they think they have been treated unfairly and write or sketch it. Was the incident unjust or just and why? Give them some questions to consider. Talk about CAFOD and how it works to help stop injustice and unfairness around the world. If possible ask children to visit the website to explore the work of CAFOD.</p> <p><b>Week 2:</b> Read the passage from the beginning of Jesus' mission when he says he has been anointed and specially chosen to bring the good news of justice to our world. Read Matthew 25:31-45 show the PowerPoint of the parable of the sheep and goats if possible. Explain that it is a parable is about living justly for the good of everyone.</p> <p>Ask children to think about how they could change something in their life to make the world a just place and design an action plan poster. If accessible the CAFOD website will have some ideas.</p> <p><b>Week 3:</b> Talk about Catholic Social Teaching, the Church teaching on how we need to care for others, especially the poor and those who are in need. The 'common good' literally means 'for the good of all'. When the key principles at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching are lived out, then the common good is achieved, Share the CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching for Children PowerPoint or read the Key Principles.</p> <p>Ask children to look at key principles of Catholic Social Teaching and design a school prospectus showing how these values are actually lived out in the ordinary, everyday life of the school.</p> <p><b>Week 4:</b> Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about about justice, working for the Common Good and Catholic Social Teaching. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship.</p>

## Year 6

**Year 6** children learn about the Common Good and how Christians work for the good of all.

All of the resources for this topic are available from the CAFOD website

<https://comeandsee.cafod.org.uk/>

This is free to access when you register with an email address. For those unable to access the PowerPoints there are information sheets below. Children may also like to explore KidzZone <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Kidz-Zone>

**Week 1:** Talk about the phrase 'that's not fair'. Discuss what it means and why it upsets people when something unfair happens? Explain how fairness is about everyone having an equal share of something or being treated exactly the same.

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.

*Think of a time when you feel you have been treated unfairly and write or sketch it. Do you consider that the incident you thought of was unjust or just and why? Consider these 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?*

Talk about CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, and how it works to help stop injustice and unfairness around the world (globally) and to build a world which is a just and good place for everyone to live. If possible ask children to visit the website to explore the work of CAFOD.

**Week 2:** Talk about Jesus' mission which started after Jesus was baptised by John. In Luke's Gospel he 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 (see below).

Read Matthew 25:31-45 (see below) show the PowerPoint of the parable of the sheep and goats if possible. Explain that it 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.

*Remembering all that you have read spend some time thinking about how you could change something in your life to make the world a just place. Design an action plan poster of what you could do. If you can visit the CAFOD website you will find some ideas.*

**Week 3:** 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 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.

The 'common good' literally means 'for the good of all'. When the key principles at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching (see previous learning) are lived out, then the common good is achieved. The common good is at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching and is linked to justice for everyone. It is about ensuring that each person is able to live in a way which respects their human dignity. The common good is inspired by the way Jesus related to people. He cared for the poor, weak, and those whom others regarded as strangers or outcasts. Christians are encouraged to put their faith into action to achieve the common good.

If possible share the CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching for Children PowerPoint or read the Key Principles (see below).

*Look at key principles of Catholic Social Teaching and design a school prospectus showing how these values are actually lived out in the ordinary, everyday life of the school for the common good, that is the good of all.*

**Week 4:** Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about justice, working for the common good and Catholic Social Teaching. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship (see below).

Week 2 *Jesus begins his mission* (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.

In paragraph 3 ‘*The Spirit of the Lord .....in any way.*’ identify and list what Jesus intends to do.

- Q How can poverty hold people captive?
- Q What do you think would cause people to be *broken hearted*?
- Q Why do you think Jesus would want to heal the *broken hearted*?
- Q How do you think the people in the synagogue felt when they heard Jesus speak these words?
- Q Who helps us today to understand God’s Good News?
- Q What do you think “*Good News*” for our world might be?

## Week 2 The Parable of the Sheep and Goats based on Matthew 25:31-45

One day Jesus was talking to his friends. He was telling them a parable about how God will judge everyone at the end of time. The story pictures a king sitting on his royal throne with people from all nations gathered around him. He will divide them into two groups, one on his right, the other on his left.

Then he will say to the people on his right,

“Come, you are blessed by my Father.

Come and live in the kingdom, which has been prepared for you since the beginning of the world.

When I was hungry you gave me food to eat.

When I was thirsty you gave me something to drink.

When I was a stranger you took me into your home.

When I was without clothes you shared yours with me.

When I was ill you took care of me.

When I was in prison you came to visit me.”

They will say to the king,

“When did we see you hungry and give you food to eat?

When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?

When did we see you a stranger and take you home with us?

When did we see you without clothes and share ours with you?

When did we see you ill and take care of you?

When did we see you in prison and come to visit you?”

And the king will reply,

“Whenever you did these things for any one of my brothers and sisters you did them for me.”

- Q What does this parable tell you about Jesus?
- Q What do you think the King will say to those on his left?  
What would you say to them?
- Q What do you think were the motives of those who showed care? Remember they were surprised that they were serving the King?
- Q What does the parable have to say to us today?
- Q How does the Scripture reflect belief in the common good/good for all?
- Q Jesus showed us a just way to live. What does living justly mean – in our homes, schools, parish and local communities?
- Q What is CAFOD doing to make the world a better and just place?
- Q Can you identify anyone today who has made a change in their life for the good of other people? Describe the change they made, and explain how that change has affected the lives of others.

## Week 3 Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

### **The dignity of the human person**

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.

### **We are called to live as family and community**

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.

### **Rights and responsibilities**

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.

### **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.

### **An option for the poor and vulnerable**

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.

### **The dignity and rights of workers**

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.

### **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.

### **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.

## Week 4

### Act of Worship THE COMMON GOOD

Year 6

**'The work of Christians for the common good of all'.**

Gathering  
Together

You may like to set up a focal table:

Table with a cloth, a cross and a candle

Bible if possible opened at Matthew 25:31-40

Globe/map of the world

By making the Sign of the Cross Christians are witnessing to their belief that God loved us so much he sent his Son who died on the cross to show his love for all people.

So let us pray: **In the name of the Father...**

We have been reflecting on the importance of justice in our lives and in the world and thinking about how we can work together to build a more fair and just world.

Pray the 'Your kingdom come' prayer (if you can access the PowerPoint on the CAFOD website [cafod.org.uk/comeandsee](http://cafod.org.uk/comeandsee)). Or say the Our Father.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

*Lead us to worship only you, Lord, and not money,  
to put people before profit  
and 'being' before having'.*

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

*Inspire us to work together to change the world  
so that everyone has enough  
and all can live life to the full..*

**Forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

*Create in us the desire  
to live in harmony with creation  
so all people may flourish  
and your kingdom come.*

**Amen.**

The Word  
of God

We are going to listen now to 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.

If you can access the PowerPoint of the parable of the sheep and goats on the CAFOD website ([cafod.org.uk/comeandsee](http://cafod.org.uk/comeandsee)) read Matthew 25:31-40, as you show the children the slides.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

One day Jesus was talking to his friends. He was telling them a parable about how God will judge everyone at the end of time. The story pictures a king sitting on his royal throne with people from all nations gathered around him. He will divide them into two groups, one on his right, the other on his left.

Then he will say to the people on his right,

“Come, you are blessed by my Father.

Come and live in the kingdom, which has been prepared for you since the beginning of the world.

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When did we see you ill and take care of you?

When did we see you in prison and come to visit you?”

And the king will reply,

“Whenever you did these things for any one of my brothers and sisters you did them for me.”

The Gospel of the Lord

### **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

#### **Response to the Word**

As we reflect on the Word we say a Litany.

The response to the litany is: ‘*We join with them in hope*’

***‘We join with them in hope’***

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*

God our Father,  
Help us as we join together in hope and action  
to help build a more just world for the good of all.  
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

**Going**

**Forth**

In the light of all that we have learned in this topic let us reflect for a moment in silence and ask, 'What can I do to act justly and fairly at school and at home? How do I need to change in order to make the world a better place?'

We give praise to God as we say together:

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**