



Justice and Peace Scotland

Catholic Social Thought Quotations (2018)

The church has a long tradition of teaching which speaks to issues of human rights, development, peacebuilding and social justice. This is called Catholic Social Thought, and is comprised of Scripture, teachings of the Saints, Papal encyclicals, and documents from Bishops Conferences around the world, collated together in documents known as ‘Catholic Social Doctrine’, or Catholic Social Teaching. It is a constantly evolving body of work, as the Church reads the ‘signs of the times’, and responds to situations of injustice. We have also included teachings from contemporary Catholic figures, recognised for their faith and work for social justice, peacebuilding, and integral human development as part of the Church’s mission to witness to Christ in the world.

The quotes below have been collated with the intention of being included in parish newsletters / bulletins to reflect either the Mass readings for that week, or a significant date in the social justice calendar. They can also be used in schools, or for personal/ group prayer or reflection.

These teachings are shared (week by week) as jpeg images, appropriate to the quote, on the Justice and Peace Scotland Facebook and Twitter (@JandPScotland) accounts, and all members are encouraged to share them through parish, diocesan, and personal accounts.

Anyone with an interest in obtaining these pictures independently (e.g – for inclusion on a parish website in advance) should contact office@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

CST quotes for Sundays in 2019 will be available December 2018. For more information please contact the Justice and Peace Scotland office. Or alternatively sign up to the J&P Scotland newsletter (details on the website - <https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/MagazineENews.aspx>)



January

7 January (Nearest Sunday to International Day of Awareness of Human Trafficking (8th Jan))

“Human trafficking will never be truly defeated without eliminating the consumerism that feeds it and prosecuting those actors in receiving countries, including our own, that benefit because of the exploitation of vulnerable human beings.”

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, On Human Trafficking, 2007

14 January

"In prayer our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of situations of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity."

Pope Francis, Address at St. Patrick in the City, Washington, D.C, 24/09/2015

21 January (Closest Sunday **before** Holocaust Memorial Day (UK) (27 Jan))

We wish to remember. But we wish to remember for a purpose, namely to ensure that never again will evil prevail, as it did for the millions of innocent victims of Nazism. How could man have such utter contempt for man? Because he had reached the point of contempt for God. Only a Godless ideology could plan and carry out the extermination of a whole people.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Speech at Yad Vashem, 23/03/2000

28 January

The Church is called to bear witness to Christ by taking courageous and prophetic stands in the face of the corruption of political or economic power; by not seeking her own glory and material wealth; by using her resources to serve the poorest of the poor and by imitating Christ's own simplicity of life.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio, para. 43



February

4 February

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

Saint Teresa of Kolkata

11 February

I try to give to the poor people for love what the rich could get for money. No, I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds; yet I willingly cure him for the love of God.

Saint Teresa of Kolkata

18 February (Nearest Sunday to World Day of Social Justice (20 Feb))

Love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to the Church as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word.

Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, para 22

25 February

God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2016



March

4 March (Nearest Sunday to International Women's Day (8 March))

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!

Saint Catherine of Sienna

11 March

The Gospel calls us to be close to the poor and the forgotten, and to give them real hope.

Pope Francis, @Pontifex, 16/01/2016

18 March (Nearest Sunday **before** the Feast of Oscar Romero)

When the church hears the cry of the oppressed it cannot but denounce the social structures that give rise to and perpetuate the misery from which the cry arises.

Blessed Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr

Palm Sunday (25 March)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

Luke 4:18–19



April

Easter Sunday (01 April)

If you want to honour the body of Christ, do not scorn it when it is naked; do not honour the Eucharistic Christ with silk vestments, and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness.

Saint John Chrysostom

08 April (Nearest Sunday before International Street Child Day)

If you break a computer it is a tragedy, but poverty, the needs, the dramas of so many people end up becoming the norm. ... In so many parts of the world there are children who have nothing to eat, that's not news, it seems normal. It cannot be this way!

Pope Francis, General Audience, 5/06/2013

15 April

We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know him in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone any more. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship.

Servant of God Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness

22 April

Evangelisers thus take on the 'smell of the sheep' and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 24

29 April (Nearest Sunday to the Feast of St Joseph the Worker / International Workers Day (1st May))

The Book of Genesis tells us that God created man and woman entrusting them with the task of filling the earth and subduing it, which does not mean exploiting it, but nurturing and protecting it, caring for it through their work.

Pope Francis, General Audience, 1/05/2013



May

6 May

The motivating concern for the poor - who are, in the very meaningful term, "the Lord's poor" must be translated at all levels into concrete actions, until it decisively attains a series of necessary reforms. ... But those demanded by the situation of international imbalance... must not be forgotten.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Sollicitudo rei Socialis, para 42

13 May (Ascension of the Lord)

In His solemn prayer for the Church's unity, Christ Our Lord did not ask His Father to remove His disciples from the world: "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from evil." Let no man therefore imagine that a life of activity in the world is incompatible with spiritual perfection. The two can very well be harmonized.

Pope Saint John XXIII, Mater et Magistra, para 255

20 May (Pentecost)

An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 183

27 May (Trinity Sunday)

All must consider it their sacred duty to count social obligations among their chief duties today and observe them as such. For the more closely the world comes together, the more widely do people's obligations transcend particular groups and extend to the whole world. ...under the necessary help of divine grace, there will arise a generation of new women and men, the moulders of a new humanity.

Gaudium et Spes, para 30



June

3 June (Corpus Christi)

These fundamental duties can be summarized this way: basic justice demands the establishment of minimum levels of participation in the life of the human community for all persons. The ultimate injustice is for a person or group to be treated actively or abandoned passively as if they were nonmembers of the human race. To treat people this way is effectively to say they simply do not count as human beings.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Economic Justice for All, para 77

10 June

The laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God. They live in the world, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven.

Lumen Gentium, para 31

17 June (Nearest Sunday to World Refugee Day)

If the “dream” of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees’ and migrants’ contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more of a universal family and our earth a true “common home.”

Pope Saint John Paul II, Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2004

24 June (Nearest Sunday to Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June))

At the centre of all Catholic social teaching are the transcendence of God and the dignity of the human person. The human person is the clearest reflection of God’s presence in the world; all of the Church’s work in pursuit of both justice and peace is designed to protect and promote the dignity of every person. For each person not only reflects God, but is the expression of God’s creative work and the meaning of Christ’s redemptive ministry.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, The Challenge of Peace, para 15



July

1 July

“Not all of us can prevent a war; but most of us can help ease sufferings — of the body and the soul.”

Dr Ruth Pfau, Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Dr Ruth Pfau was a German-born nun who served as a medical missionary in Pakistan for over 50 years. She became known as Pakistan’s Mother Teresa, and is credited with eradicating leprosy in the country. Following her death in August 2017 she was the first Christian in Pakistani history to be honoured with a State Funeral.

8 July (Sea Sunday)

“Since time immemorial seafarers have fulfilled the obligation to rescue people in distress at sea under any conditions.”

Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care for Migrants and Itinerant People, Sea Sunday Message, 2015

15 July

“He sees beyond our rank in society. He sees beyond this, to our dignity as sons and daughters, a dignity at times sullied by sin, but one which endures in the depth of our soul. He came precisely to seek out all those who feel unworthy of God, unworthy of others.”

Pope Francis, Homily at Plaza de la Revolución, Holguín, 21 September 2015

22 July

“Nevertheless, he [the Good Shepherd] goes looking for that one, because every one is very important to him and that one is in the most need, is the most abandoned, most discarded; and he goes to look for it.”

Pope Francis, General Audience, 4 May 2016

29 July

“Today Christ tells us it isn’t enough to distribute bread to those who haven’t got any. The essential thing is to work toward the creation of a more just world, in which there will no longer be a minority owning too much, among such multitudes of hungry people.”

Archbishop Hélder Câmara



August

5 August

“Weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, create nothing but a false sense of security.”

Pope Francis, Address to Participants ‘Prospects for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons and for Integral Disarmament, 10 November 2017

The use of nuclear weapons against the people of Hiroshima (6 August), and Nagasaki (9 August) in 1945 are commemorated this week.

12 August

“The Church encompasses with love all who are afflicted with human suffering and in the poor and afflicted sees the image of its poor and suffering Founder. It does all it can to relieve their need and in them it strives to serve Christ.”

Lumen Gentium, para 8

19 August (Sunday before International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its abolition (23 August))

“We warn and adjure earnestly in the Lord ... that no one in the future dare to vex anyone, despoil him of his possessions, reduce to servitude, ... in contempt of the rights of justice and humanity, bought, sold, and devoted sometimes to the hardest labour.”

Pope Gregory XVI, In Supremo Apostolatus

‘In Supremo Apostolatus’ is the Papal Bull issued by Pope Gregory XVI on 3 December 1839 condemning both the slave trade, and the institution of slavery.

26 August

The world is not something indifferent, raw material to be utilized simply as we see fit. Rather, it is part of God's good plan, in which all of us are called to be sons and daughters in the one Son of God, Jesus Christ

Pope Benedict XVI, Sacramentum Caritatis, para 92



September

2 September

“The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today.”

Saint Francis of Assisi

9 September

“Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words.”

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

16 September (UN International Day of Peace is observed on 21 September)

“True justice is the harvest reaped by peacemakers from seeds sown in the spirit of peace.”

James 3:18

23 September (Sunday before World Day against the Trafficking in People (26 Sep))

“The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. ... Such situations are an affront to fundamental values which are shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person.”

Pope Saint John Paul II, Letter “Twenty-First Century Slavery – The Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings”, 2002

30 September (The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi is observed on 4 October)

“I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, he can work through anyone.”

Saint Francis of Assisi



October

7 October

Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!

Pope Francis, @Pontifex 26 April 2013

14 October (Sunday before World Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 Oct))

“It is not from your own possessions that you are bestowing alms on the poor, you are but restoring to them what is theirs by right. For what was given to everyone for the use of all, you have taken for your exclusive use. The earth belongs not to the rich, but to everyone. Thus, far from giving lavishly, you are but paying part of your debt.”

Saint Ambrose

21 October

“To remain silent when you see something wrong which you could do something about, is to make oneself an accomplice in evil.”

Saint John Bosco

28 October

“By faith, countless Christians have promoted action for justice so as to put into practice the word of the Lord, who came to proclaim deliverance from oppression and a year of favour for all.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Porta Fidei



November

4 November

And it is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. It is love that will make us want to do great things for each other. No sacrifice and no suffering will then seem too much.

Servant of God Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day was an American journalist who co-founded the Catholic Worker Movement, born on 8 November 1897, and died 29 November 1980. Praised by Pope Francis during his visit to the USA for her 'social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints.' Her cause for canonisation is open.

11 November (Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday 2018)

“War should belong to the tragic past, to history: it should find no place on humanity’s agenda for the future.”

Pope Saint John Paul II

18 November (World Day of the Poor 2018)

Love has no meaning if it isn’t shared. Love has to be put into action.

Saint Teresa of Kolkata

25 November (Feast of Christ the King, and International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women)

“I pledge to protect and defend vulnerable people in the name of Jesus”

The Matthew 25 Pledge

Matthew 25:35-45 is the description of the coming of Christ the King, where Jesus says: How you treat the most vulnerable is how you treat me. The Matthew 25 Pledge began in the USA in early 2017 as a response to the political climate following the targeting of specific minority groups during Presidential election campaigning. It is described as a “rising up at the grassroots level and among faith leaders — within faith communities, congregations, denominations, seminaries, and faith-based organizations. Rather than just watching, grieving, and feeling sorry for what is happening to the most marginalized, who are named in the 25th chapter of Matthew, Christians can pledge to join together in circles of support in the name of Jesus.”



December

2 December (World AIDS Day is observed on 1 December)

“I have had time to journey with them and reflect with them, on the issues. I find myself now understanding that, “the Name of Jesus is written on the forehead of people who are HIV+”. They bear the wounds of suffering, of stigma and often rejection.”

Fr. John Sherrington CP Provincial of the Passionists of England & Wales, 4 December 2011

9 December (Nearest Sunday to International Human Rights Day (10 December))

“Every State has the primary duty to protect its own population from grave and sustained violations of human rights, as well as from the consequences of humanitarian crises, whether natural or man-made.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, 18 April 2008

16 December

“The exercise of solidarity within each society is valid when its members recognize one another as persons. Those who are more influential, because they have a greater share of goods and common services, should feel responsible for the weaker and be ready to share with them all they possess.”

Pope Saint John Paul II, Sollicitudo rei Socialis, para 39

23 December

“He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.”

The Canticle of Mary, Luke 1:51-53

30 December (Nearest Sunday to World Day of Prayer for Peace (1 January))

We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.

Pope Francis,

Dialogue with Eugenio Scalfari, La Repubblica

