



Justice and Peace Scotland

Catholic Social Thought Quotations (2019)

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 2020 will be available December 2019. 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

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

Cry out with a hundred thousand tongues. I see that the world is rotten because of silence.

Saint Catherine of Sienna

13 January (World Day of Migrants and Refugees)

Christians, strong in the certainty of their faith, must demonstrate that by placing the dignity of the human person with all his or her needs in first place, the obstacles created by injustice will begin to fall. They are aware that God, who walked with the refugees of the Exodus in search of a land free of any slavery is still walking with today's refugees in order to accomplish his loving plan together with them.

Refugees: A Challenge to Solidarity, Pontifical Council "Cor Unum", For the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, 1992

20 January

"Do whatever he tells you!". To serve the Lord means to listen and to put into practice his Word.

Pope Francis, Homily on the Wedding at Cana, 8 June 2016

27 January (Holocaust Memorial Day (UK))

Those who remain silent are responsible.

Saint Edith Stein

Edith Stein, also known as Teresa Benedicta of the Cross was a 20th Century Carmelite nun. Born to a Jewish family, she became Catholic after a period of atheism. Following the rise of Nazism in Germany she wrote to Pope Pius XI asking him to publicly condemn Nazism and "put a stop to this abuse in Christ's name". She moved to the Netherlands to avoid the threat of the Nazis, but they ultimately invaded. Sr Teresa asked her superiors for permission to offer herself to Jesus as a "sacrifice of atonement for true peace". On 20 July 1942 the Dutch Bishops' Conference condemned the racism of the Nazi regime in a message read in all churches. As a retaliation the Nazis ordered the arrest of all Jewish converts, who previously had been spared. After incarceration in Amersfoort and Westerbork she was taken to Auschwitz with 986 other Jews including her sister on 7 August 1942. It is likely she was part of a mass execution two days later.



February

3 February

In Krakow, I asked you several times: “Can we change things?” And you shouted: “Yes!” That shout came from your young and youthful hearts, which do not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a “throw-away culture” nor give in to the globalization of indifference. Listen to the cry arising from your inner selves!

Pope Francis, 13 January 2017, Presentation of the Preparatory Document ahead of the 2018 Synod on “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment”

10 February

The Gospel offers a vision of life and of the world that cannot be imposed, but only proposed, as the good news of the gratuitous love of God and of peace. The message of truth and of beauty can help people escape from the loneliness and lack of meaning to which the conditions of postmodern society often relegate them.

Synod on The New Evangelization, 2012

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

God is not indifferent. He does not look away from our human pain. The God of mercy responds and takes care of the poor, of those who cry out in desperation. God listens and intervenes in order to save, raising men able to hear the groan of suffering and to work in favour of the oppressed.

Pope Francis, General Audience, 26 January 2016

24 February

In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves.

Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus



March

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

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue

Psalm 31: 25-26

10 March

Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2015

17 March

Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 259

24 March (Feast of Oscar Romero)

A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what gospel is that?

Saint Óscar Romero

31 March

Some consider reconciliation as an impossible dream which ideally might become the lever for a true transformation of society. For others it is to be gained by arduous efforts and therefore a goal to be reached through serious reflection and action. Whatever the case, the longing for sincere and consistent reconciliation is without a shadow of doubt a fundamental driving force in our society, reflecting an irrepressible desire for peace.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Reconciliatio et Paenitentia, para 3



April

7 April (Nearest Sunday before International Street Child Day)

I don't know a more irreligious attitude, one more utterly bankrupt of any human content, than one which permits children to be destroyed.

Fr. Daniel Berrigan S.J

Palm Sunday (14 April)

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert

Isaiah 35:5-6

Easter Sunday (21 April)

Christ gave His life to redeem the world. The life of Christ was a life of sacrifice.

The life of a Christian must be a life of sacrifice.

We cannot imitate the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary by trying to get all we can.

We can only imitate the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary by trying to give all we can

Peter Maurin

Peter Maurin was a French social activist, theologian, and co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. After spending time as a De La Salle Brother in France, and homesteader in Canada he moved to New York. He was greatly inspired by the life of St Francis of Assisi and engaged in direct action for and with the poor. He educated and instructed Dorothy Day in Catholic social thought, and his own programme intended to 'build a new world in the shell of the old'. Maurin encouraged Day, a trained journalist, to publish the Catholic Worker newspaper. His own contributions styled as Easy Essays reflecting his thoughts on a wide range of issues. Maurin's model of urban houses of hospitality to care for the destitute, rural farms to educate city dwellers on agriculture, and roundtable discussions to clarify thought and initiate action remain the basis of the Catholic Worker Movement. Peter Maurin died on 15 May 1949.

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

Consequently, if the organization and structure of economic life be such that the human dignity of workers is compromised, or their sense of responsibility is weakened, or their freedom of action is removed, then we judge such an economic order to be unjust.

Pope Saint John XXIII, Mater et Magistra, para 83



May

5 May

Sometime in your life, hope that you might see one starved man, the look on his face when the bread finally arrives. Hope that you might have baked it or bought or even kneaded it yourself. For that look on his face, for your meeting his eyes across a piece of bread, you might be willing to lose a lot, or suffer a lot, or die a little, even.

Fr. Daniel Berrigan S.J

Daniel Berrigan was an American Jesuit priest, peace activist and poet. He joined the Society of Jesus after high school and became a prolific writer, academic, and activist on the side of the poor. He became involved with opposition to the Vietnam War, and was instrumental in organising Christian resistance to it. As a member of the Catonsville Nine he burned draft papers, and went on the run, becoming the first priest to appear on the FBI's Most Wanted list. Three years in prison did nothing to stop him, and he became an icon of nonviolence and the peace movement, founding the Plowshares Movement, opposing war, capital punishment, and ministering to people living with HIV in New York. He died on 30 April 2016.

12 May

In Jesus, God completely committed himself in order to restore hope to the poor, to those who were deprived of dignity, to strangers, to the sick, to captives, and to sinners, whom he welcomed with kindness. In all this, Jesus was the living expression of the Father's mercy."

Pope Francis, Jubilee Audience, 20 February 2016

19 May

Let us ask the Lord for the grace that a new wave of love for our neighbour may sweep over this poor world.

Venerable Pope John Paul I

26 May

The kingdom of God is not far from us, but is near and often hidden in the holiness of daily life.

Pope Francis, Homily at Casa Santa Marta, 13 November 2014



June

3 June

Jesus taught his disciples to pray by asking the Heavenly Father not for "my" but for "our" daily bread. Thus, he desired every person to feel co-responsible for his brothers so that no one would want for what he needs in order to live. The earth's produce forms a gift which God has destined "for the entire human family".

Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, 12 November 2006

Pentecost (9 June)

"Do not grieve or complain that you were born in a time when you can no longer see God in the flesh. He did not in fact take this privilege from you. As He says: 'Whatever you have done to the least of my brothers, you did to me'."

Saint Augustine of Hippo

16 June (Nearest Sunday to World Refugee Day (20 June))

Immigrants dying at sea, in boats which were vehicles of hope and became vehicles of death. That is how the headlines put it. ... I felt that I had to come here today, to pray and to offer a sign of my closeness, but also to challenge our consciences lest this tragedy be repeated. Please, let it not be repeated!

Pope Francis, Visit to Lampedusa, 8 July 2013

During the first pastoral visit of his pontificate Pope Francis travelled to the island of Lampedusa, a common arrival site for migrants travelling on routes through northern Africa. Pope Francis placed a wreath in the sea, prayed for those who lost their lives, and celebrated Mass.

Corpus Christi (23 June) (Nearest Sunday to Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June))

We suffer with those who have disappeared, those who have had to flee their homes, and those who have been tortured.

Saint Óscar Romero

30 June

By drawing closer to the poor, little by little we become their confidants and counsellors in the worst moments of this earthly pilgrimage. We can give them the comforting words of faith and often we succeed, not by our own merit, in putting on the right road people who have strayed without meaning to."

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati



July

7 July (Sea Sunday)

We ask for peace and freedom for the many men and women subject to old and new forms of enslavement on the part of criminal individuals and groups.

Pope Francis, Blessing Urbi et Orbi, Easter 2015

14 July

Never hesitate to hold out your hand; never hesitate to accept the outstretched hand of another.

Pope Saint John XXIII

21 July

Meanwhile, the Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 88

28 July

God loves all men and women on earth and gives them the hope of a new era, an era of peace. His love, fully revealed in the Incarnate Son, is the foundation of universal peace. When welcomed in the depths of the human heart, this love reconciles people with God and with themselves, renews human relationships and stirs that desire for brotherhood capable of banishing the temptation of violence and war.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Message for World Day of Peace, 1 January 2000



August

4 August

We beg all governments not to remain deaf to this cry of humanity. That they do all that is in their power to save peace. They will thus spare the world from the horrors of a war whose terrifying consequences no one can predict.

*Pope Saint John XXIII, Message to President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev,
October 1962*

At the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis Pope John XXIII wrote to both the United States of America and the Soviet Union. The message was broadcast the next day on Vatican Radio, and dominated headlines around the world, including Pravda; the official newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party. The events of October 1962 are thought to be the closest the world has ever come to nuclear war. It is considered that the intervention of Pope John prevented further escalation. This week the anniversaries of the use of nuclear weapons against the peoples of Hiroshima (6 August), and Nagasaki (9 August) in 1945 are remembered. These remain the only times in human history nuclear weapons were used in conflict.

11 August

The most deadly poison of our time is indifference.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe OFM Conv.

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

May the power of Christ, which brings freedom and service, be felt in so many hearts afflicted by war, persecution and slavery.

Pope Francis, Blessing and Message 'Urbi et Orbi' 2014

25 August

Truth and justice must stand above my comfort and physical well-being, or else my life itself becomes a lie.

Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, para 38



September

1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation)

The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity.

Pope Francis, Laudato Sii, para 201

8 September

“We must speak to them with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips.”

Saint Peter Claver S.J

Peter Claver was a Catalan Spanish Jesuit priest. Whilst a seminarian in Colombia he witnessed the harsh conditions and brutal treatment of African slaves being bought to the New World and sold. Upon his ordination he committed his ministry to those in slavery, and over 40 years would enter newly arrived slave ships offering comfort, food, and medicine where he could. He would accompany slaves to the market where they were sold, and travelled round the slave estates visiting them. On these visits he made a point of avoiding hospitality offered by slave owners, preferring to stay in the slave quarters. His Feast Day is observed on 9 September.

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

Peace is principally the attainment of the common good in society at its different levels, primary and intermediary, national, international and global. Precisely for this reason it can be said that the paths which lead to the attainment of the common good are also the paths that must be followed in the pursuit of peace.

Pope Benedict XVI, Message for World Day of Peace 2013

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

How I wish that all of us would hear God’s cry: “Where is your brother?” (Gen 4:9). Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing each day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labour? Let us not look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 211

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

It would be considered a theft on our part if we didn't give to someone in greater need than we are.

Saint Francis of Assisi



October

6 October

Believers themselves must constantly feel challenged to live in a way consonant with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. They need to be encouraged to be ever open to God's grace and to draw constantly from their deepest convictions about love, justice and peace.

Pope Francis, Laudato Sii, para 200

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

When a poor person dies of hunger, it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that person what he or she needed.

Saint Teresa of Kolkata

20 October

The dignity of the human person and the common good rank higher than the comfort of those who refuse to renounce their privileges. When these values are threatened, a prophetic voice must be raised.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 218

27 October

If you want God to hear your prayers, hear the voice of the poor. If you wish God to anticipate your wants, provide those of the needy without waiting for them to ask you.

Saint Thomas of Villanova

Thomas of Villanova was a Spanish Augustinian Friar. With a reputation for both intelligence and being skilled at preaching he was made an advisor to Emperor Charles V, and later Archbishop of Valencia. He began his episcopacy by visiting every parish and assessing the needs of the poorest, and sending the money intended for redecorating his residence to a local hospital. He became known for his personal austerity, selling his mattress to give the money to the poor, and wearing the same habit he had received as a novice, mending it himself. He became known as the Father of the Poor, and in addition to distributing arms sought to address the causes of poverty. He died on 8 September 1555 and was canonised 1 November 1658.



November

3 November

Where were the saints to try to change the social order, not just to minister to the slaves, but to do away with slavery?

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.

10 November (Remembrance Sunday 2019)

They will hammer their swords into sickles, reshape their spears into pruning hooks. One nation will not attack another. They will not practice war anymore.

Isaiah 2:4

17 November (World Day of the Poor 2019)

The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1397

24 November (Feast of Christ the King)

The church would betray its own love for God and its fidelity to the gospel if it stopped being . . . a defender of the rights of the poor . . . a humanizer of every legitimate struggle to achieve a more just society . . . that prepares the way for the true reign of God in history.

Saint Óscar Romero



December

1 December (World AIDS Day)

We must look carefully for the unjust structures that make HIV and AIDS possible. We need to combat the racist, sexist, homophobic, “classist”, self-righteous, colonialist and economic unjust system. A lot of energy is lost by faith traditions when they fail to address these issues.

Fr. Robert Kaggwa M. Afr., Response in the debate ‘Can you drink the cup that I will drink? HIV/AIDS: Meeting the Challenges, Exploring the Questions’

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

Since rights and the resulting duties follow naturally from human interaction, it is easy to forget that they are the fruit of a commonly held sense of justice built primarily upon solidarity among the members of society, and hence valid at all times and for all peoples.

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

15 December

Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.

G.K Chesterton

Brave New Family: G.K. Chesterton on Men and Women, Children, Sex, Divorce, Marriage and the Family

22 December

We must not seek the child Jesus in the pretty figures of our Christmas cribs. We must seek him among the undernourished children who have gone to bed at night with nothing to eat.

Saint Óscar Romero

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

Without justice and love, peace will always be a great illusion

Archbishop Hélder Câmara