



Catholic Social Teaching Quotations (2017)

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 Teaching, and comprises Scripture, the writings of the Saints, Papal encyclicals, and documents from Bishops Conferences around the world.

The teachings 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.

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 2018 will be available in the future. 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>)



June

Pentecost Sunday (4 June)

"An evangelising community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives: it bridges distances....and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others."

Evangelii Gaudium para.24

Trinity Sunday (11 June)

"Our world is being torn apart by wars and violence.....Let everyone admire how you care for one another and how you encourage and accompany one another."

Evangelii Gaudium para. 99

Corpus Christi (18 June) (For World Refugee Day)

"Above all the current crisis should not be reduced to a simple matter of numbers. Migrants are persons with their own names, stories and families."

Pope Francis

25 June (International Day in support of victims of Torture)

"Whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as....torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself.... are infamies indeed. They poison human society but they do more harm to those who practise them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover they are supreme dishonour to the Creator"

Gaudium et Spes para.27



July

2 July

At times we find it hard to make room for God's unconditional love in our pastoral activity. We put so many conditions on mercy that we empty it of its concrete meaning and real significance. That is the worst way of watering down the Gospel.

Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, para 311

9 July

Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport.

Pope Francis "In his own words"

16 July

The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. *1 Jn 4:19*), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 24

23 July

But I want you to make yourselves heard in your dioceses, I want the noise to go out, I want the Church to go out onto the streets, I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable, everything to do with clericalism, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves.

Pope Francis, Address to Rio WYD Pilgrims from Argentina, 25 July 2013

30 July

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.

Pope Francis, Laudato Sii



August

6 August (The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed on 6 August, and 9 August 1945 respectively. The first, and thus far only uses of nuclear weapons in war)

If the consciousness of universal brotherhood truly penetrates into the hearts of men, will they still need to arm themselves to the point of becoming blind and fanatic killers of their brethren who in themselves are innocent, and of perpetrating, as a contribution to Peace, butchery of untold magnitude, as at Hiroshima on 6 August 1945?

Blessed Pope Paul VI, Message for World Day of Peace, 1967

13 August

The right to water, as all human rights, finds its basis in human dignity and not in any kind of quantitative assessment that considers water as merely as economic good. Without water, life is threatened. Therefore the right to safe drinking water is a universal and inalienable right

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (2004), para. 485

20 August (International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on 23rd August)

Whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society ... they are supreme dishonour to the Creator.

Blessed Pope Paul VI, Gaudium et Spes, 1965

27 August (World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation is observed on 1st September)

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things

Pope Francis, Laudato Si, para 223



September

03 September

The bread you store up belongs to the hungry; the cloak that lies in your chest belongs to the naked; the gold you have hidden in the ground belongs to the poor.

St Basil the Great

10 September

We need to go forth from our own communities and be bold enough to go to the existential outskirts that need to feel the closeness of God. He abandons no one, and he always shows his unfailing tenderness and mercy; this, therefore, is what we need to take to all people.

Pope Francis, Message to Pilgrims gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 16 November 2013

17 September (Nearest Sunday to UN International Day for Peace (21st September))

The only path is to renounce violence, to begin anew with dialogue, with the attempt to find peace together, with a new concern for one another, a new willingness to be open to one another.

Pope Benedict XVI, Good Friday, 2011

24 September (Nearest Sunday to World Day against the Trafficking in People (26 Sep))

Therefore, as we fix our gaze on the Holy Family of Nazareth as they were forced to become refugees, let us think of the tragedy of those migrants and refugees who are victims of rejection and exploitation, who are victims of human trafficking and of slave labour.

Pope Francis, Angelus, 29 December 2013



October

01 October

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, Proclamation of the Year of Mercy

08 October

Do we realize that something is wrong in a world where there are so many farm workers without land, so many families without a home, so many laborers without rights, so many persons whose dignity is not respected? ...So let's not be afraid to say it: we need change; we want change.

*Pope Francis, Address to the Second World Meeting of Popular Movements, Bolivia, 9 July
2015*

15 October (Nearest Sunday to World Day for eradication of poverty (17 Oct))

When I fed the poor, they called me a Saint. When I asked why the poor had no food, they called me a Communist.

Archbishop Hélder Câmara

22 October

Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor, so that they are not abandoned to the laws of an economy that seems at times to treat people as mere consumers.

Pope Francis, Address to Archbishop Justin Welby, 14 June

29 October

We cannot remain spectators before the suffering of so many people who are worn out by hunger, violence, and injustice. ... If I do not draw near to that man, to that woman, to that child, to that old man or that old woman who is suffering, I do not draw near to God.

Pope Francis, Audience on 27 April 2016



November

5 November

What we would like to do is change the world--make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute, the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, in other words--we can, to a certain extent, change the world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world.

Servant of God Dorothy Day (Born 8 November 1897)

12 November (Remembrance Sunday)

Lasting peace however is not just a matter of structures and mechanisms. It rests above all on the adoption of a style of human coexistence marked by mutual acceptance and a capacity to forgive from the heart. We all need to be forgiven by others, so we must all be ready to forgive. Asking and granting forgiveness is something profoundly worthy of man; sometimes it is the only way out of situations marked by age-old and violent hatred.

Pope St. John Paul II, Message for World Day of Peace 1997

19 November

(International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on 25 Nov)

Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love. ... She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain. As mother of all, she is a sign of hope for peoples suffering the birth pangs of justice.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 286

26 November (World AIDS Day is observed on 1 December)

Our response to persons with AIDS must be such that we discover Christ in them and they in turn are able to encounter Christ in us. Although this response undoubtedly arises in the context of religious faith, even those without faith can and must look beyond suffering to see the human dignity and goodness of those who suffer.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Called to Compassion and Responsibility: A Response to the HIV/AIDS Crisis, 1989



December

03 December (Nearest Sunday to International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (2 Dec))

The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason - selfish or ideological, commercial, or totalitarian—lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, para 2414

10 December (International Human Rights Day – the Anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Where Human Rights are not respected, defended and promoted, where violence or fraud is done to man's inalienable freedoms, where his personality is ignored or degraded, where discrimination, slavery or intolerance prevail, there true Peace cannot be.

Blessed Pope Paul VI, World Day of Peace 1969

17 December (International Migrants Day is observed on 18 December)

I would like to ask you all to see a ray of hope as well in the eyes and hearts of refugees and of those who have been forcibly displaced. A hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendship, in the wish to participate in the host society also through learning the language, access to employment and the education of children...We can and must all nourish this hope!

Pope Francis, 24 May 2013

24 December

God's heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself "became poor". The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor. Salvation came to us from the "yes" uttered by a lowly maiden from a small town on the fringes of a great empire.

Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, para 197

31 December (Nearest Sunday to World Day of Prayer for Peace)

Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty.

Saint Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr