

Prayer & Reflection

First Sunday of Advent



Week beginning: **Monday 1st December**

Homelessness = Welcome,

Catholic Social Teaching = Option for the Poor

Season of Advent – Week 1

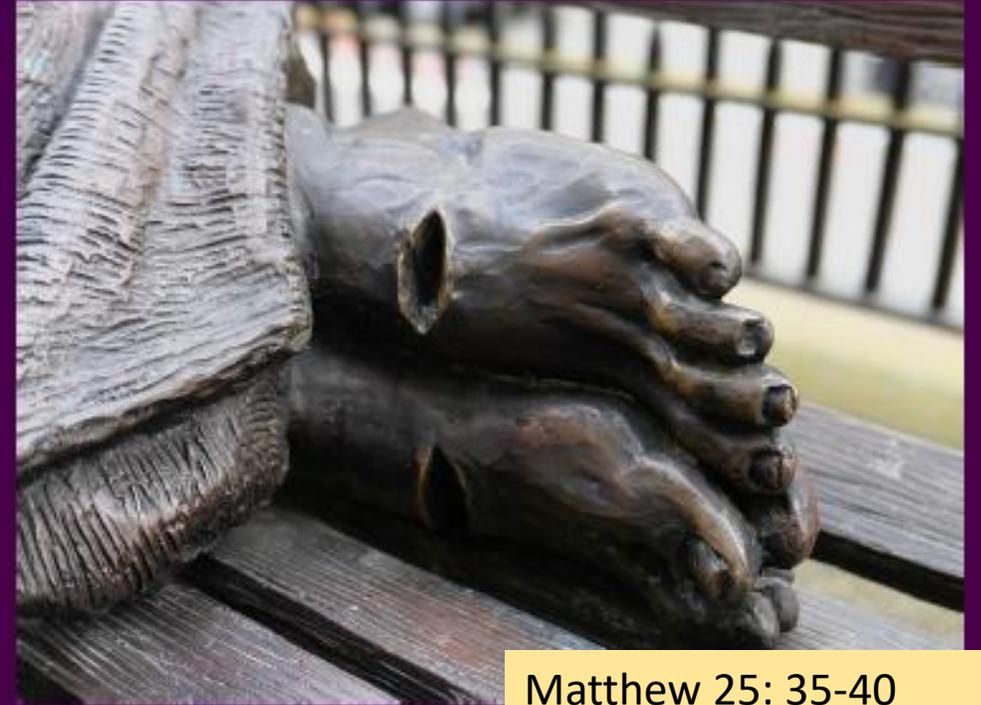


Take a moment to look at this sculpture by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz.

Copies of this work can be found in many countries across the world.

What is your reaction to it?

These are the feet of the sculpture. What is your reaction to it now?



Matthew 25: 35-40

We give thanks for all the **HARD WORK** that charities, organisations, churches, and many individuals do for those in need.





Giving
Hope
Today

Reflection Task

- Turn to P33 in your student diary.
- Which theme (s) do you think links to the Shoebox Appeal to help the Salvation Army?

CST 101

THEMES FROM CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.



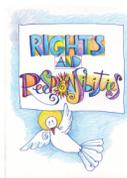
LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. Human life is threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.



CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.



OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.



THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.



SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Blessed Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.



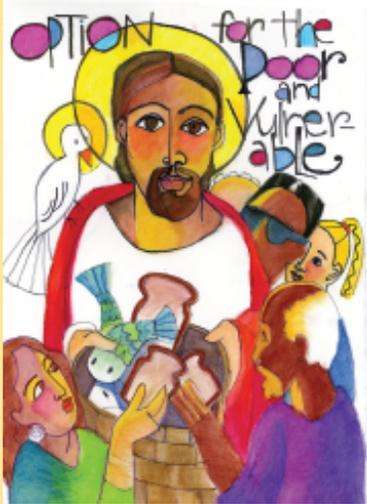
CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.



Text for this poster is drawn from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*, © Copyright 2017, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. All rights reserved. Photos courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS.

¹ Paul VI, *For the Celebration of the Day of Peace* (Rome: January 1, 1972).

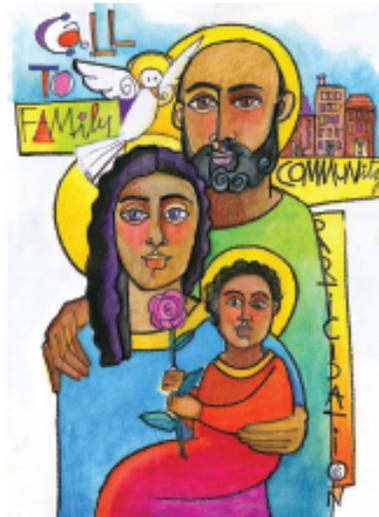


OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

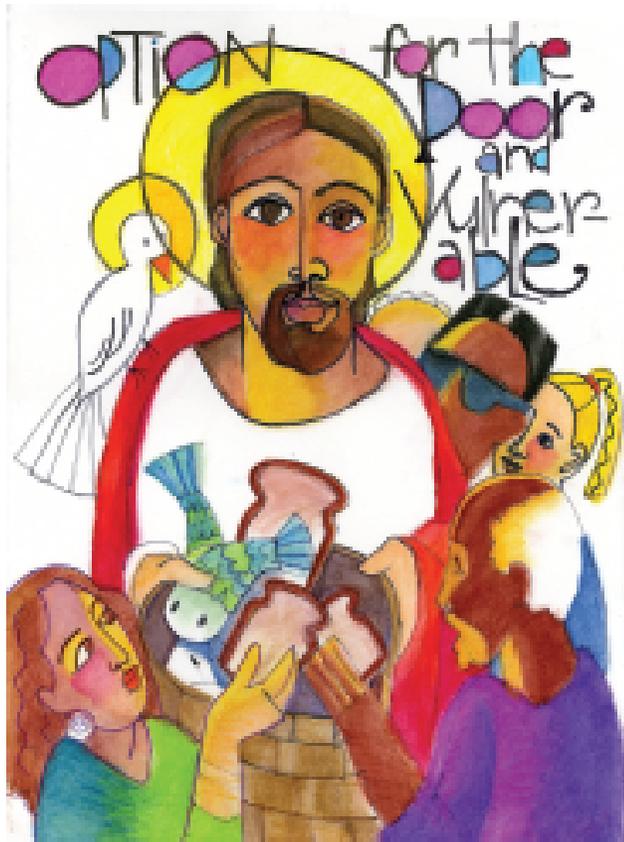
Inspired by Christ calls us to participate in our school community to help support the poor and vulnerable.

Please help to support the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.



CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

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"Truly I tell you,
whatever you did
for one of the least
of these brothers
and sisters
of mine,
you did for me."
-Jesus

able
y
or, our
ment
needs

REFLECTION

Please think about the homeless during Advent and your preparations for Christmas. Please pray for the homeless, and if you can donate to one of the charities which help the homeless in the UK.



**PLEASE
PRAY
FOR ME**

Prayer

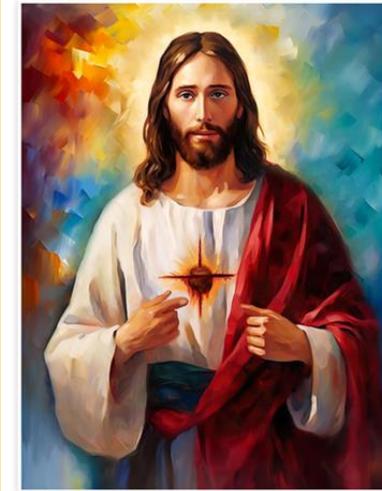
Lord,

Bless the homeless, this day and every day.

Keep them from physical and emotional harm.

Fill their hearts with hope for the future - and
for today, comfort the homeless as they walk
their difficult paths.

St John the Evangelist, pray for us. Amen



inspirati a christo
Go Forth Today and
Be Inspired by Christ

Sunday Gospel = First Sunday of Advent

First Sunday of Advent



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark.

They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away.

So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.

Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, stay awake!

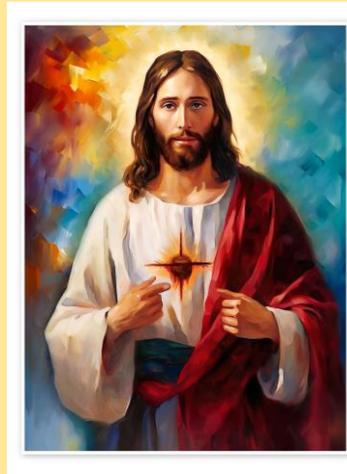
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into.

So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Reader = the Gospel of the Lord.

RESPONSE = Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Explanation of this week's Gospel reading



In this gospel reading Jesus warns that His coming will be sudden, like the days of Noah. People will be taken unexpectedly, so stay awake and be ready at all times. The First Sunday of Advent starts a new season of hope and preparation. Advent is a time for watching, waiting, and preparing for Christ

In this gospel, there are **THREE** key messages:

- 1. Staying Awake for Christ:** Advent reminds us to stay watchful and ready. Jesus urges us to be aware and prepared, not caught off guard by his coming.
- 2. Turning from Distractions:** The Gospel warns of the dangers of letting daily life distract us from Christ's arrival. Advent is a call to put aside what pulls us from God and make room for Him.
- 3. Beginning Again with Faith:** Advent opens a new church year and invites us to refresh our faith. We are called to enter the season with hearts open to grow closer to God.



REFLECTION TASK

Think about pressing a reset button in your life today.

Use the power of prayer to develop your faith and trust in Jesus.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying,
"I am the Light of the world; the one who
follows Me will not walk in the darkness,
but will have the Light of life."

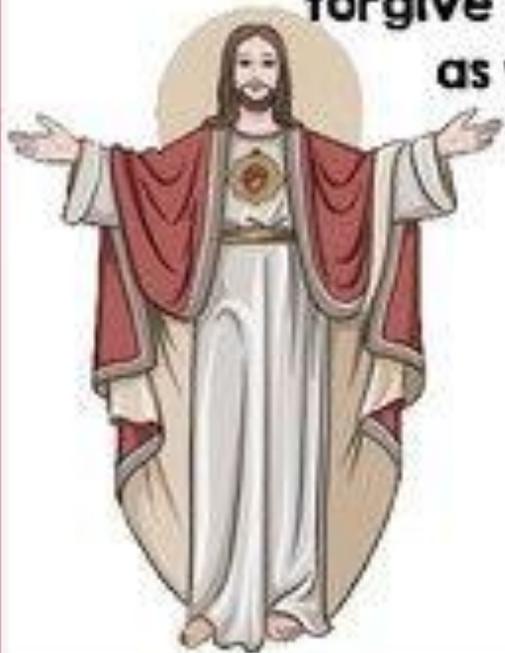
John 8:12



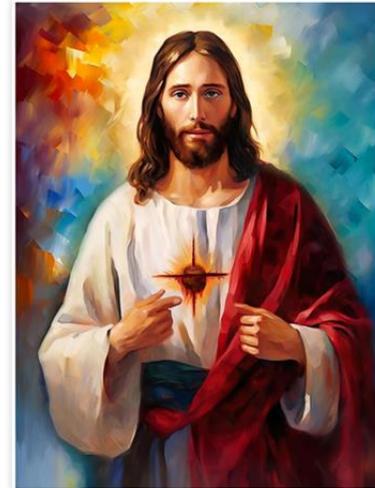
Our Father

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name; Thy
Kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread; and
forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass
against us;
and lead us not
into temptation,
but deliver us
from evil.

Amen.



**St John the Apostle and Evangelist,
pray for us. Amen**



**inspirati a christo
Go Forth Today and
Be Inspired by Christ**

St John's School Prayer

God our Father,
You have revealed to us, Your Word through St. John the beloved disciple.
We thank you LORD for our school community.
You have formed our diversity into one family that is Inspired by Christ.
At St. John's School, we seek to journey together,

Help us today to achieve our mission of Excellence and Service to Others.
We ask you LORD to increase our knowledge and understanding today.
May we become the people you have called us to be.
Keep us growing every day in kindness and in respect for one another.
We ask for your guidance so that we may do our best, and embrace all
opportunities that you grant us today.

St. John the Apostle & Evangelist, Pray for us.
Amen



inspirati a christo
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Be Inspired by
Christ

