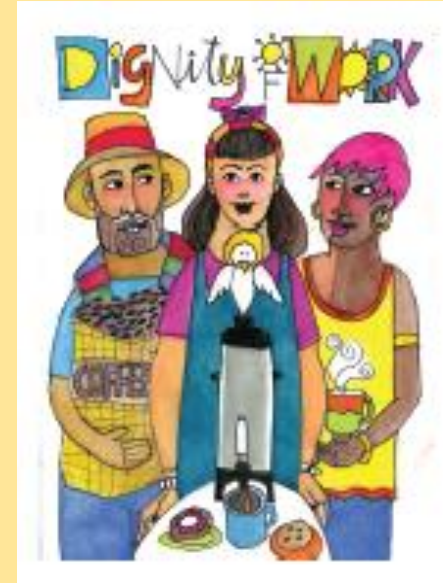


# Prayer & Reflection



Week beginning: **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

## **The Baptism of the Lord**

**Catholic Social Teaching**

**– The Dignity of Work and The Rights of Workers**

# The Wednesday Word

The logo for 'Hallow' is centered on a purple square. The word 'Hallow' is written in white, with a blue circle above the letter 'o' and a horizontal line above the 'o' and 'w'.

You are invited to 10 minutes of prayer and reflection every Wednesday.

Join Jonathan Roumie (Jesus- The Chosen), Jeff Cavins, Mark Wahlberg, Chris Pratt and Gwen Stefani as we reflect on the Gospel on the day.

**8am**

**12:40pm (First lunch)**

**1:30pm (Second lunch)**

**Venue- School Chapel.**

# CONFIRMATION



# 2026

## The Parish of St John The Evangelist, Gravesend.

The preparation programme for young people in Years 8-13 at school or 13 years of age by 1 September 2026, who are interested in being confirmed in 2026 **begins at the end of January 2026.**

Please see [Susanne](#) for more details.



# The Dignity of Work and Participation

This is one of the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

You might be more familiar with some of the others, such as looking after the poor or caring for the environment.



**“A small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the teeming masses of the labouring poor a yoke little better than that of slavery itself.”  
Pope Leo XIII Rerum Novarum 1891**

# The Dignity of Work and Participation

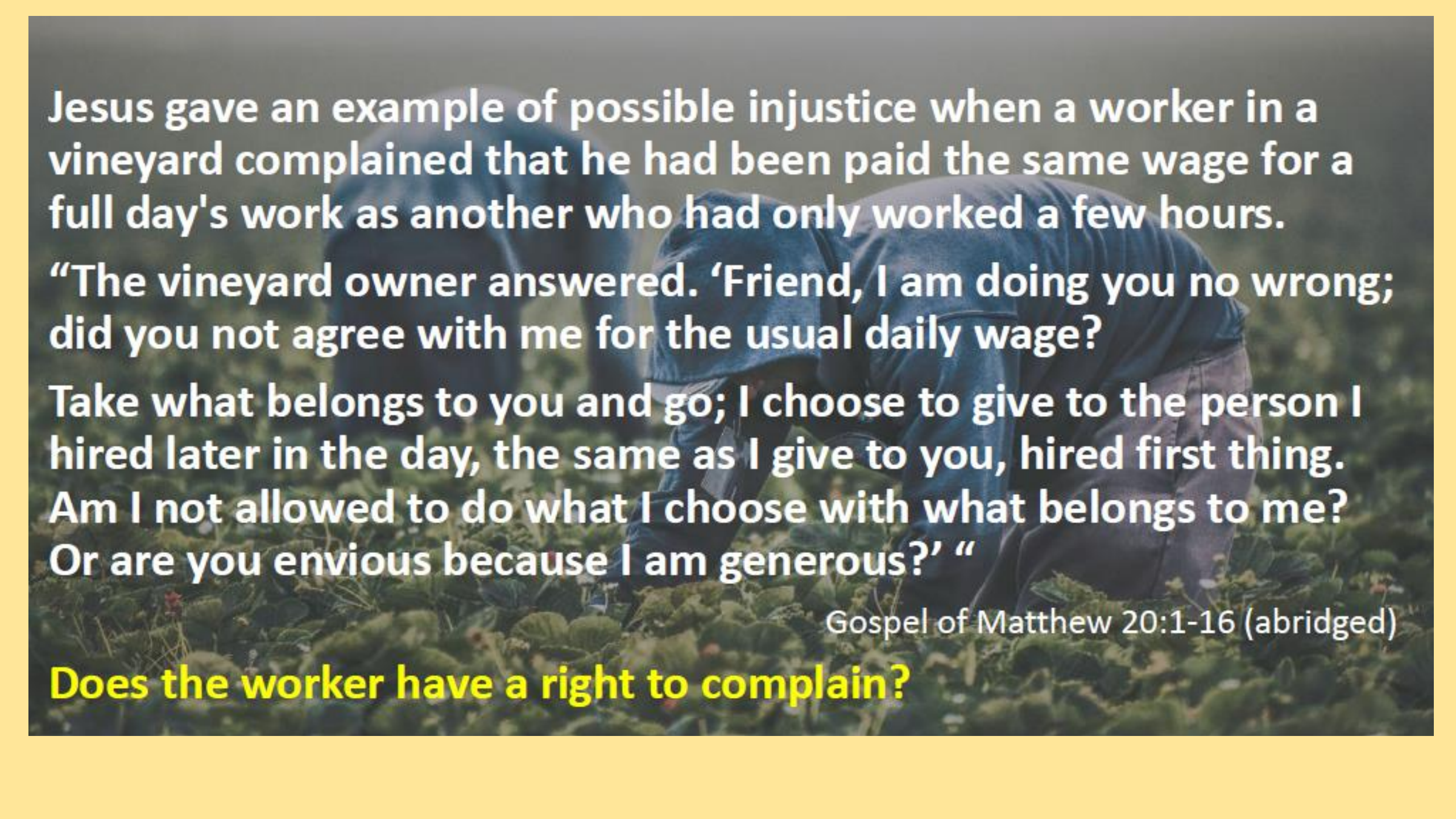
## What does it mean:

The human person should always come before the pursuit of profit.

Workers have the right to join trade unions, to a just wage, to spend time with their families and to rest.

Work is an essential part of our human dignity, and everyone has the right to participate.



A person wearing a blue jacket and a dark cap is bent over, working in a vineyard. The background is a soft-focus view of green grapevines and leaves. The text is overlaid on this image.

Jesus gave an example of possible injustice when a worker in a vineyard complained that he had been paid the same wage for a full day's work as another who had only worked a few hours.

“The vineyard owner answered. ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’

Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to the person I hired later in the day, the same as I give to you, hired first thing. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ “

Gospel of Matthew 20:1-16 (abridged)

**Does the worker have a right to complain?**

## What do you think about these headlines about the fashion industry?



### REFLECTION TASK

Remember that the Dignity of Workers means that everyone has the right to a decent and fair wage.

CAFOD founded the Fairtrade Foundation in 1992 along with Christian Aid, Oxfam, the World Development Movement and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

CAFOD reminds us we are all part of the global trading system - which means we have the power to change it.

Changing the products we buy and choosing products from Fairtrade companies is one of the ways we can help tackle poverty, and help respect the Dignity of Workers in other countries.



**PLAY YOUR PART**  
**Change the world by**  
**thinking about FAIR TRADE**

# FAIR TRADE FASHION

IS YOUR CLOTHING ETHICAL?



## Fairtrade facts

- More than 1.65 million farmers and workers in 74 countries now get a better deal from Fairtrade
- Over 500 Catholic parishes across England and Wales are certified Fairtrade
- One in every three bananas sold in the UK is Fairtrade

## Prayer for the Dignity of Work

We pray for workers everywhere, that they will be able to take pride in the work they do, be treated with dignity and receive a fair wage in return for their labour.

We pray for employers, that they will be motivated by compassion and a concern for the common good, leading them to value people more than profit.

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



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



# Sunday Gospel = The Baptism of the Lord

Matthew 3:17

*and behold, a voice out  
of the heavens said,*

**"This is My  
Beloved Son,  
in whom I am  
well-pleased."**



# THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READING

## A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 3: 3-13

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him.

John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and yet you are coming to me?"

Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness."

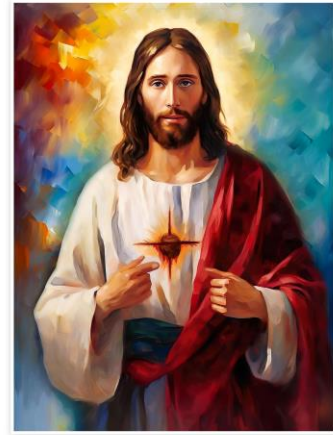
Then he allowed him.

After Jesus was baptised, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

**Reader = the Gospel of the Lord.**

**RESPONSE = Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



# Explanation of this week's Gospel reading

The gospel for the Baptism of the Lord describes Jesus' baptism by John – and show us the Holy Trinity as the nature of god.

**The Holy Trinity:** The baptism scene reveals the simultaneous presence of the Father (voice from heaven), the Son (Jesus being baptised), and the Holy Spirit (descending like a dove).

By being baptised - Jesus wanted to show his support and understanding for us as people. He wanted to share in our humanity and weaknesses. By being baptised, Jesus stood with those who were seeking forgiveness and a new start. Jesus showed that he was not distant from us but very close, sharing in our struggles.



## REFLECTION TASK

When we think about Jesus' baptism, we should also think about our own baptism. Our baptism prepares us to share in the work of Jesus. We are called to care for one another, to help those in need, to show mercy and love, and to guide others toward God's goodness.

Baptism makes us part of God's family and gives us a mission to share God's love with others. Just as Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are also given the strength to do good in our lives. We can bring hope to those who are sad, help those who are struggling, and show kindness to everyone we meet. Through our actions, we can show the love of God in the world – we can Be Inspired by Christ!



# WORD OF THE WEEK

Matthew 3:17

*and behold, a voice out  
of the heavens said,*

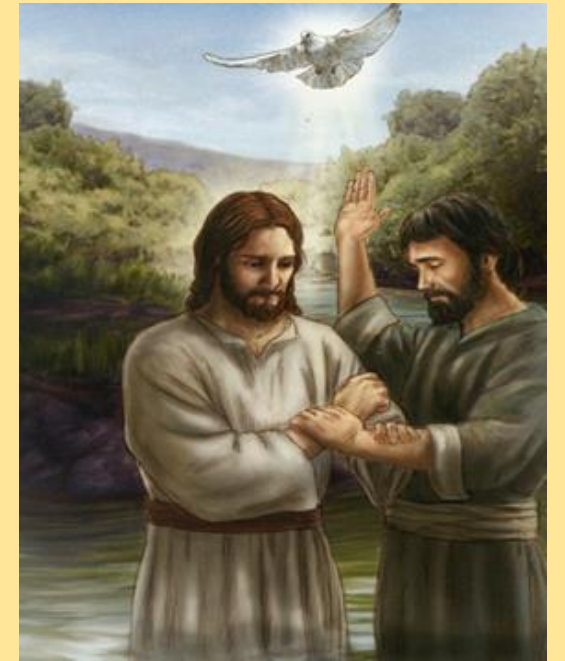
**"This is My  
Beloved Son,  
in whom I am  
well-pleased."**

# A Prayer from the Baptism of the Lord

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed Him to be Your Son, anointing Him with the Holy Spirit.

Grant that we may be faithful to our call as Children of God, listening to you, guided by Your Spirit, to fulfil our unique and definite purpose.

Help us today to Be Inspired by Christ, to provide Service to Others, and to strive towards Excellence for All.



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



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