










**Catholic Social Teaching**

Catholic Social Teaching concerns what the Church has to say about Social issues and the way in which the Catholic faith should be lived out within society. These teachings are rooted in Scripture and especially in the teachings of Jesus found in the Gospels.

***Principles of Catholic Social Teaching***

There are seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

	The Dignity of the Human Person	Each person is made in the image and likeness of God and therefore every person's life and dignity must be respected and supported. This relates to all people at a local, national, global level and the Church calls upon us to be aware and act upon injustices and inequalities.
	Family and Community	Jesus showed us the importance of family in enabling his human nature to grow and to flourish. For the Church the family is core to its being. The Parable of the Good Samaritan shows us the Church's understanding of Community. Members of the Church are expected to help build and strengthen society.
	Solidarity & the Common Good	God has created us to live in communion with one another. Living in communion with one another is about serving God and serving others. The Common Good is about our interdependence upon one another as equal members of society and should be to the benefit of all.  The principle of the Common Good is seen as the basis for family life as well as within larger social structures such as business and government.
	Rights and Responsibilities	This relates to basic human rights which are founded on the dignity of the human person. The Church also tells us that we cannot have rights without responsibilities. Our responsibilities are rooted in Scripture.
	Option for the Poor and Vulnerable	The Church places emphasis upon helping the poor and those who are vulnerable. Charities such as CAFOD and Mission Together enable us to develop our understanding of poverty in all its forms across the world and to recognise ways in which they can be challenged.
	Stewardship of God's Creation	In the Creed we express our belief in God the Father as Creator. The Church's teaching show that we have a duty to ensure that the gift of Creation is shared with all and used wisely and respectfully to ensure its protection both now and for the future.
	The Dignity of Work	This can be found in the Scriptures and the Ministry of Jesus. Work brings dignity to the human person.