

Catholic Social Teaching

A word cloud of Catholic Social Teaching principles. The words are arranged in a roughly triangular shape, with 'Catholic Social Teaching' at the top. The words include: Justice (orange), Truth (green), Dignity (orange), Solidarity (green), Subsidiarity (red), Human (green), Person (yellow), Love (yellow), Freedom (purple), Common (green), and Good (purple). The words are of varying sizes and orientations, with some being vertical and others horizontal.

Justice
Truth
Dignity
Solidarity
Subsidiarity
Human
Person
Love
Freedom
Common
Good

What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Catholic Social Teaching has been developed over the last one hundred and fifty years, although its roots can be traced back to scripture and the writings of Catholic theologians such as St Thomas Aquinas and St Augustine of Hippo. Many of our Popes have written encyclicals which focus on our human dignity and our Common Good. They contain a rich treasury of the heart of Christ. As human beings we are made to be social. We cannot live without love, and love does not exist in isolation. Our call to live in holiness must be modelled after Christ himself if we are to be authentic Catholic Christians.

The seven strands of Catholic Social Teaching

Dignity of the human person

Family and Community

Solidarity and The Common Good

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Stewardship of God's creation

1. Dignity of the Human Person

Compassionate and Loving
Attentive and Discerning

Each person is made 'in the image and likeness of God.'
Thus it follows that 'every person's life and dignity must
be respected and supported from conception until the end
of their natural life on earth.'

Caritas in Action

1. Dignity of the Human Person



Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.

Jeremiah 1:5

Then God said, 'And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us.' So God created human beings, making them to be like himself.

Genesis 1:26-27

I. Dignity of the Human Person

Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that "everyone should look upon his neighbour (without any exception) as 'another self,' above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity."

CCC 1931



1. Dignity of the Human Person

St Maximilian Kolbe
Feast Day 14th August





2. Family and Community

Compassionate and Loving

The family, in which the various generations come together and help one another grow wiser and harmonise personal rights with the other requirements of social life, is the foundation of society.'

Gaudium et Spes



2. Family and Community

The vocation of humanity is to show forth the image of God and to be transformed into the image of the Father's only Son. This vocation takes a personal form since each of us is called to enter into the divine beatitude; it also concerns the human community as a whole.

CCC 1877



2. *Family and Community*

The Holy Family

Feast Day

*On the Sunday within the
Octave of Christmas*



3. Solidarity and the Common Good

Learned and Wise Faith filled and Hopeful

Promoting the common good cannot be pursued by treating each individual separately and looking for the highest 'total benefit', in some kind of utilitarian addition. Because we are interdependent, the common good is more like a multiplication sum, where if any one number is zero then the total is always zero.

If anyone is left out and deprived of what is essential, then the common good has been betrayed.

Choosing the Common Good



3. Solidarity and the Common Good

So in Christ we, though many form one body and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the gift given to each of us

Romans 12: 5-6

You shall love your neighbour as yourself

Matthew 22: 39

3. Solidarity and the Common Good



St Therese of Lisieux
Feast Day 1st October

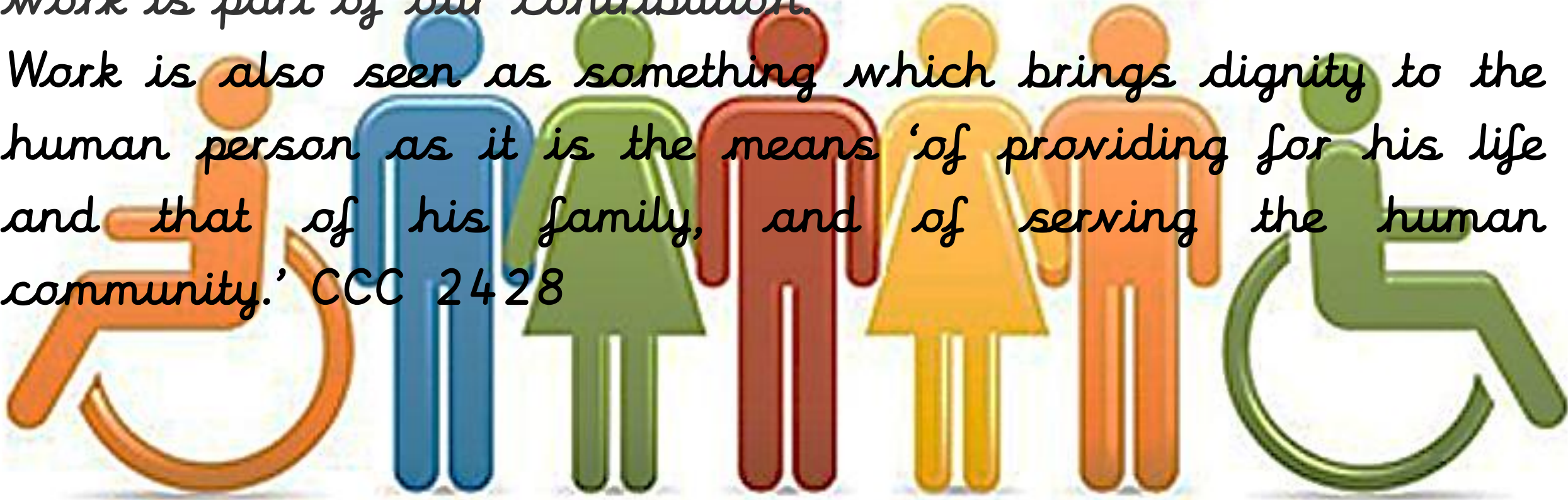


4. The Dignity of Work

Attentive and Discerning

For the Church work is seen as a continuance of the gift of Creation whereby we are 'co-creators of Gods world and work is part of our contribution.'

Work is also seen as something which brings dignity to the human person as it is the means 'of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community.' CCC 2428





4. The Dignity of Work

Go and work in my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is right. Matthew 20:4

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for human masters.

Colossians 3:23



4. The Dignity of Work

Jesus became like us in all things, devoted most of the years of his life on earth to manual work at the carpenter's bench.

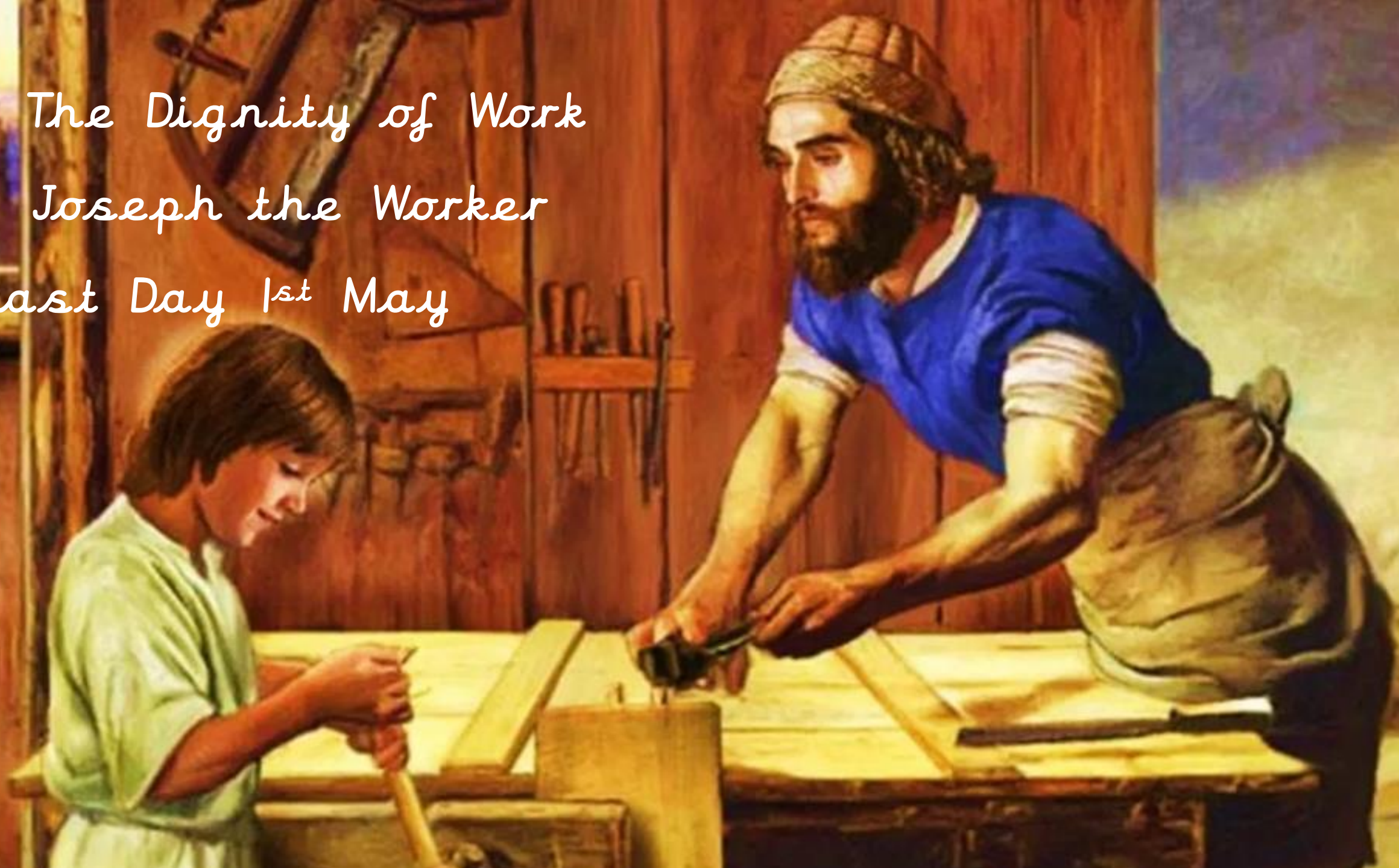
St. Pope John Paul II



4. The Dignity of Work

St Joseph the Worker

Feast Day 1st May



Every human has rights and responsibilities.

Attentive and Discerning

Man has the right to live. He has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest and finally the necessary social services. In consequence, he has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from his work; widowhood; old age; enforced unemployment; or whenever through no fault of his own he is deprived of the means of livelihood.'

Pacem in Terris

Every human has rights and responsibilities.



Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:16

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8-9

Every human has rights and responsibilities.



*St Vincent de Paul
Feast Day 27th September*

6. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Intentional and Prophetic

The Church's love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition.' This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. Love for the poor is even one of the motives for the duty of working so as to 'be able to give to those in need.' It extends not only to material poverty but also to the many forms of cultural and religious poverty.

CCC 2447





6. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted.

He had sent me... to let the oppressed go free. Luke 4:18

Blessed is the poor, theirs is the Kingdom of God. Luke 6:20



6. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

For the Church, a preference for the poor is not optional”

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

Pope Francis



6. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable



*St Teresa of Calcutta
Feast Day 5th September*



7. Stewardship of God's Creation

Intentional and Prophetic

We are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged.

Laudato Si



7. Stewardship of God's Creation

You laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Hebrews 1:10

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2: 15

7. Stewardship of God's Creation

“Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude”

Pope Francis

7. Stewardship of God's Creation

Canticle of the Sun

Song written by St. Francis of Assisi (excerpt)

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord **Brother Sun**,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through **Sister Moon**
and the stars, in heaven you formed them
clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through **Brother Wind**,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which
You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through **Sister Water**,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste

Praised be You, my Lord, through **Brother Fire**,
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful
and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through **Sister Mother Earth**,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.



St Francis of Assisi

Feast Day 4th October