

# Social Justice Educator Toolkit



## Introduction

We work towards a more just and fair world not out of charity or goodwill, but because we believe it is a necessary response to the Gospel call of Jesus, and a matter of justice. Importantly, if this response is central to our faith, then it is also central to every Catholic school's identity, which should demonstrate the value it holds for the dignity of the human person, a preferred culture of community and its commitment to social justice and service for the common good.

(Learning Centred Schools: A Sacred Landscape).

Caritas Australia's resources aim to enable individuals to learn about their own worldviews, their essential inter-connectedness with the planet and those living on it, and the global issues that are the root causes of poverty. This equips each of us to make a stand to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity, and to make choices and engage in positive actions and leadership for a more just and fair world.

An active and effective social justice group, can contribute to the Catholic identity of your school , helping to fulfil the core mission of:

- giving prominence to the Gospel and person of Jesus Christ, as well as the Catholic Social Teaching principles;
- being committed to the Christian vision of the dignity of each human person;
- giving value and meaning to life, by encouraging students to aspire not to have more, but to BE more;
- challenging students to understand and make sense of the world we live in;
- enabling and empowering students to take action for a more just and fair world with direction, meaning, purpose and hope.

*"Let us not develop an education that creates in the mind of the student a hope of becoming rich and having the power to dominate. That does not correspond to the time that we live in.*

*Let us form in the heart of the child and the young person the lofty ideal of loving, of preparing oneself to serve and to give oneself to others. Anything else would be education for selfishness...."*

Archbishop Oscar Romero

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**Contents** (Please click on the hyperlinks to access the following resources.)

- [Calendar of Social Justice Days](#)—use this calendar to help plan what social justice days you will acknowledge throughout the year.
- [Audit](#)—This Catholic Social Teaching audit can help teachers and school communities to evaluate how they are incorporating the principles of Catholic Social Teaching into their teaching and learning and school activities.
- [List of prayers](#)—these can be used to begin or conclude social justice group meetings
- [Current Advocacy campaign—Hearts for Climate](#)—An opportunity for students to take action. (For all campaigns visit: [www.caritas.org.au/act](http://www.caritas.org.au/act) )
- [Be More Challenge guide](#)—A guide to setting your own challenges and taking action to bring lasting change.
- [See judge act model](#)—A great resource to help guide student social justice groups learn, reflect and take effective action.
- [Be More Challenge Guide](#) - A guide to setting your own challenges and taking action to bring lasting change.
- [Social Justice Action planner](#)
- [Catholic Social Teaching Kit: Solidarity learning experience](#)—A leadership themed learning experience available for lower, middle and upper primary students.
- [Catholic Social Teaching \(PowerPoint\)](#) - Use this introduction to the principles of CST for students to ensure that have a good understanding on why we are all called to work for justice and to ensure their social justice activities adhere to these Catholic Social Teaching principles.
- [Catholic Social Teaching Posters](#)—A set of six posters to display around your meeting room/classroom as an easy reference guide.

# Prayer Resources

Listed here are some prayers available for download from the Caritas Australia website. Please note that some prayers are only suitable for Upper Primary students. For all prayers, [please use this link](#).



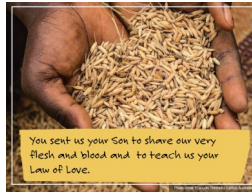
## [Catholic Social Teaching Prayer](#)

A prayer PPT based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching which could be used in class, during an assembly or part of a liturgy.



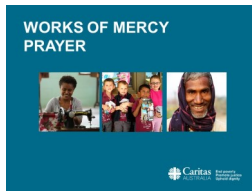
## [Food for All Prayer](#)

A prayer focusing on ensuring all people have enough nutritious food to eat.



## [Works of Mercy Prayer](#)

A prayer PPT based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.



## [Prayer of Oscar Romero](#)

An illustrated reflection of Romero's prayer. (Slideshow/PDF)



## [A Prayer for Our Earth](#)

A prayer based on Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.



## [A Prayer for Peace](#)

Pope Francis' prayer for peace with images.



## [Prayer for East Africa Food Crisis](#)

In response to the East Africa and Yemen food crisis, we pray.



## [International Women's Day Prayer](#)

A prayer PPT to honour the dignity and achievements of all women everywhere.



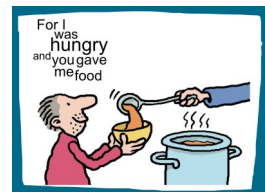
## [The Beatitudes](#)

A colourful cartoon version of Matthew 5: 1-12.



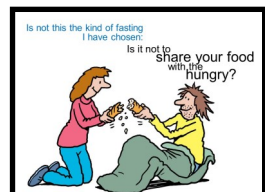
## [Matthew 25: 34-40](#)

A blend of cartoons and images exploring the Corporal works of mercy through scripture.



## [Isaiah 58: 6-9 True Fasting](#)

A colourful cartoon version of Isaiah 58.



# Social Justice Action– The process



*There are three stages which should normally be followed in the reduction of social principles into practice. First, one reviews the concrete situation; secondly, one forms a judgement on it in the light of these same principles; thirdly, one decides what the circumstances can and should be done to implement these principles. These are the three stages that are usually expressed in the three terms: observe, judge act.*

Pope John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra*, 1961 (# 236)

<b>See</b> – Describe the problem	<b>Judge</b> – Reflect on the situation in light of CST	<b>Act</b> –Plan a realistic and effective strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-What is the lived experience?</li> <li>-What is happening to people?</li> <li>-Are we listening to the people most directly affected?</li> <li>-What are the causes?</li> <li>-What are the consequences?</li> <li>-How are these linked?</li> <li>-Who are the decision-makers?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Are Gospel values being upheld or denied?</li> <li>-How do the Scriptures speak to this issue?</li> <li>-What does the Church have to say about it?</li> </ul>	<p>Does your plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Faith formation</li> <li>-Service to the most in need</li> <li>-Raising awareness</li> <li>-Advocating for change</li> <li>-Collaboration and coordination (Don't reinvent the wheel. Support existing organisations/networks)</li> <li>-Adequate resourcing</li> </ul>