



Catholic Schools Week 2025

# Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ

19–25 January 2025

Thursday: Life to the Full,  
for and with Others





## Introduction

'Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.' (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 10)

## Suggested Activities

- Have students write things they can do in the service of others on Post-It notes. Display these notes on the classroom wall or prayer space. A random selection of these could be read out loud or compiled into a presentation.
- Have students consider who the 'important others' are in their lives. Each student could choose one of their important others and consider how best to help this person live their life to the full.
- Complete Worksheet 1 on social justice issues, included below (p. 4).
- Complete Worksheet 2 on economic justice, Included below (p. 5).
- Organise mini-workshops where students can engage in role-playing scenarios. Each student can take on a character that represents a different experience of homelessness (a teenager couch-surfing, a refugee in direct provision, etc.).
- Have students create art, poetry or digital media projects that reflect their understanding of homelessness and social justice.
- Conduct a brief prayer service or prayer moment as included below (p. 3).
- Explore the diversity in your school. Take a survey on how many nationalities are represented. Consider whether your school is welcoming, and how the school could improve in this regard.
- Invite speakers from local organisations that work with homeless populations, such as social workers, advocates or individuals with lived experiences of homelessness.
- Explore the stigma associated with homelessness. Discuss societal perceptions and the challenges faced by homeless individuals, particularly focusing on refugees and those in direct provision.
- Facilitate group discussions on topics such as 'What does it mean to be homeless?' and 'How can society better support those experiencing hidden homelessness?'



## Prayer Service

### Opening song

'Refugee' by Paddy Casey: <https://open.spotify.com/track/3Do6dQkR5xc7UdARHCYJSK>

### Prayer of the Faithful

Lord, we pray for those who are deprived of justice all around the world. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord, help us to be aware of those close to home that are in need of care and justice. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord help those who are feeling alienated, ignored, left out, marginalised in our school, parish and society. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord, inspire us to do something to promote justice in our school, parish and society. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord, help us to appreciate the diversity that exists in our school, parish and society. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

### Scripture

'For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his faithful ones.' (Ps 37:28)

'May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. ... May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy.' (Ps 72:2, 4)

'The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.' (Ps 103: 6)

### Closing Song

'You Care for Me' by The Porter's Gate, John Guerra and Valerie Guerra:

<https://open.spotify.com/track/3n3DFcLiQsOukrzPGVccq>





## Worksheet 1

Choose a social justice issue you feel strongly about (e.g., homelessness, inequality, racial discrimination – where people are treated unfairly).

Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you feel strongly about this issue?

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2. Which 'others' are badly affected in relation to this issue?

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3. What is making it difficult for these others to live a full life?

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4. What practical steps can you take to improve the situation?

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## Worksheet 2

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow.

The Church's social doctrine has always maintained that justice must be applied to every phase of economic activity, because this is always concerned with man and his needs. Locating resources, financing, production, consumption and all the other phases in the economic cycle inevitably have moral implications.

(Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 37)

1. What is the connection between our religious faith and economic activity?

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2. How can our use of money have moral implications?

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3. How can money be used to promote social justice for others?

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4. How can social justice contribute to our well-being and the well-being of society?

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