

Building the Civilisation of Love

An introduction to Catholic Social Teaching

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Prayer

Glory be to the father, the son and the Holy Spirit +

Come Holy Spirit. We welcome you here in our midst.

Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our time together.

Be in every thought and word; in every intention and motive.

Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us.

Thank you, for calling us through the Gospel and for each other.

Guide us as we work together for the common good.

Bind us together across our traditions - and move our heart's desire closer to the heart of your desire for us.

Lord, give us the grace do your will, and make our mission a joy.

In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Catholic Social Teaching - what is it?



Encyclicals

<u>Rerum Novarum</u> Of New Things (1891)	<u>Quadragesimo Anno</u> On the Fortieth Year (1931)	<u>Mater et Magistra</u> Mother and Teacher (1961)	<u>Pacem in Terris</u> Peace on Earth (1963)
<u>Dignitatis Humanae</u> Human Dignity (1965)	<u>Gaudium et Spes</u> The Joys and Hopes (1965)	<u>Populorum Progressio</u> The Progress of Peoples (1967)	<u>Laborem Exercens</u> Through Work (1981)
<u>Sollicitudo Rei Socialis</u> The Social Concern of the Church (1987)	<u>Centesimus Annus</u> The One Hundredth Year (1991)	<u>Veritatis Splendor</u> The Splendor of the Truth (1993)	<u>Evangelium Vitae</u> The Gospel of Life (1995)
<u>Deus Caritas Est</u> God is Love (2005)	<u>Caritas in Veritate</u> Charity in Truth (2009)	<u>Evangelii Gaudium</u> The Joy of the Gospel (2013)	<u>Laudato Si'</u> On Care for Our Common Home (2015)
https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/about/catholic-social-thought		<u>Fratelli tutti</u> Brothers and Sisters All (2020)	<u>Dilexit Nos</u> He Loved Us (2024)

Themes

A word cloud of themes centered around 'human', 'person', 'love', 'jesus', and 'god'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with the most prominent words in the center and smaller words towards the edges. The colors of the words range from dark blue to light blue.

democracy friendship duty local
business unity peace participation
scripture economy people kingdom society
belonging place moral community renewal service
faith love sin disciple life meaning
church person human international
commongood heaven formation work responsibility transcendence
dignity social law labour truth political
laity beings civic man earth new world jesus christ
creation vocation god capital institutions
rights gospel economic family nature
relationship freedom market subsidiarity cooperation
state system trinitarian

Components

The Primacy of God, the person of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit

Stated purpose:
to build a **civilisation of love**.

Imago Dei

The Human Person, the Family
Natural law, moral order
Culture of life

Integral ecology

Human beings and the natural world
Economic, social, environmental, cultural
The common good – a shared life, a settled pluralism of identities and a balance of interests

Political economy

Importance of labour value
Constraining the powers of capital and state
Strengthening civil society
Right to private property, universal destination of goods
Resist commodification and dehumanisation

Agency

Freedom
Relational power
Subsidiarity
Vocational responsibility
Local institutions

Social Peace

Importance of relationship
Solidarity – local, global
Balance:

- rights and responsibilities
- affirms both belonging to place and right to migrate

Theology of the human person

The Primacy of God, the person of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit

Imago Dei

The Trinity

Relational beings

The Human Person

Catholic
anthropology

Personalism



CST – what it's not

- ✗ utopian
- ✗ abstract
- ✗ partisan
- ✗ anti-capitalist, pro-state, anti-state
- ✗ theocracy
- ✗ identity politics
- ✗ coercive

CST is...

Not only...

- A set of principles
- Focused on charity, social action and campaigning
- Focused on global issues

But also...

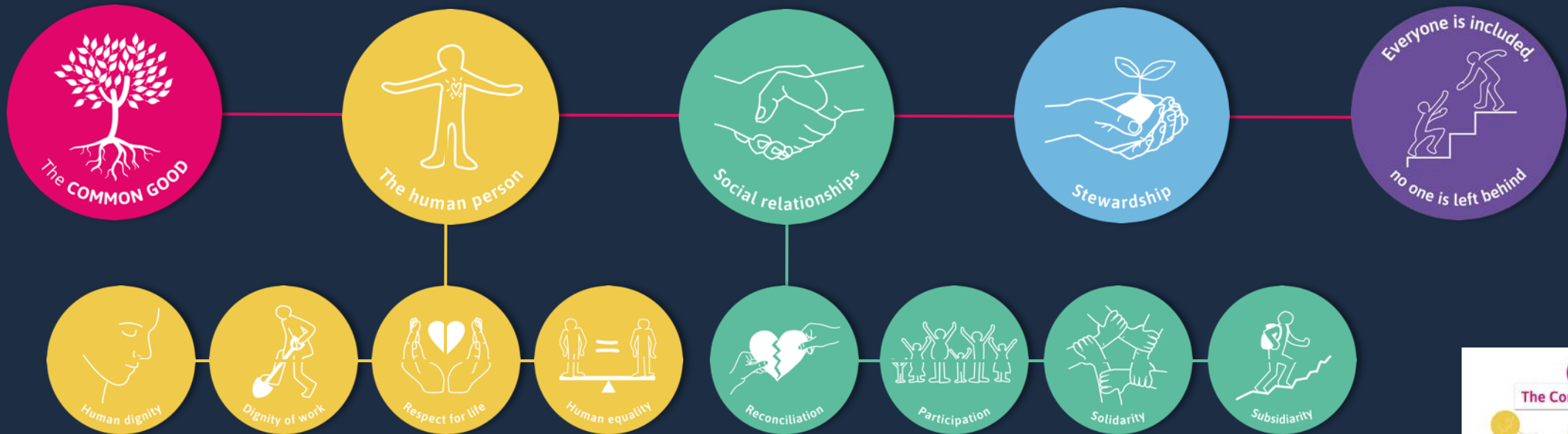
- ✓ Provides a Catholic worldview
- ✓ A framework for good judgement
- ✓ Is realised at multiple levels, beginning in the local
- ✓ Is grounded in reality but also prophetic
- ✓ Theology of the Holy Spirit in practice



Different from competing ideologies

Post modernism (identity politics, Critical Theory, intersectionality, equity, 'diversity, equity and inclusion)	Welfarism	Libertarianism	Transhumanism
Capitalism	Statism	Communism	Liberation Theology
Race & Gender activism	Individualism	Liberalism Classical liberalism, Neoliberalism, Hyper liberalism	Utilitarianism
Totalitarianism	Authoritarianism		
Conservatism	Socialism	Party politics Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green, SNP etc	

CST's key principles



<https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/about/common-good-thinking>





**What stands out
from what you've
heard so far?**

What is CST for?



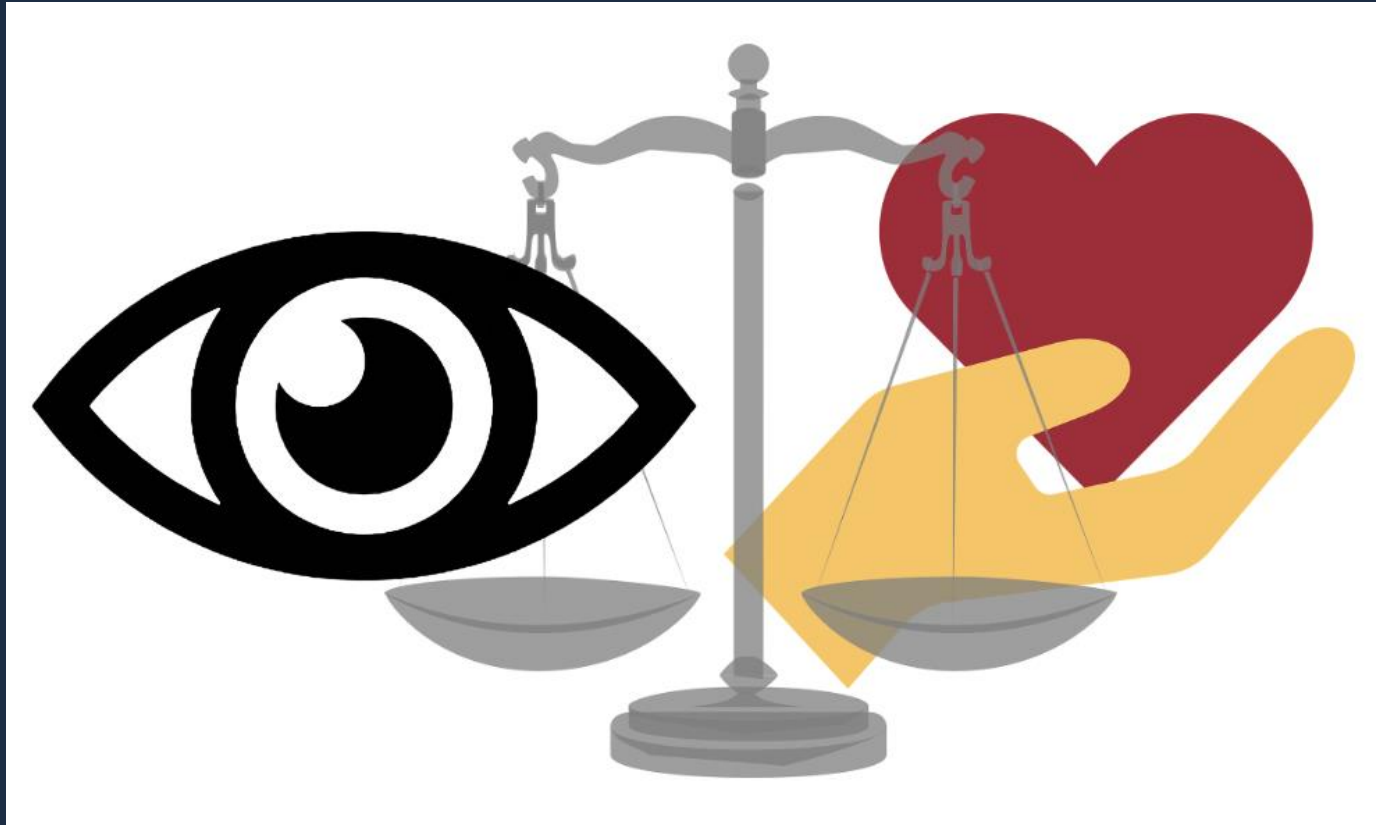
Justice



The common good



Reading the signs of the times



See, Judge, Act



**What is the one question
your table would like to raise?**

Break



**Back in our seats
by 3.05pm**

Building the Civilisation of Love



Ingredients:

- People matter more than things
- Sharing the revealed truth of God
- Respect for human life - a gift from God
- Daily gestures of sacrifice and care
- Looking out for others
- Building up the common good

The Breach

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt,
You shall raise up the foundations of many generations,
You shall be called the Repairer of the Breach,
The Restorer of Streets to live in.

Isaiah 58:12

Preferential option for the poor



Subsidiarity



Subsidiarity - levels of responsibility

Justice: through right relationships and righteousness

- Integral ecology - people and planet
- An economy that serves society
- Ecology of daily life rooted in place
- The common good
- Intergenerational justice



To prevent the domination of the human person

Vocational responsibility at multiple levels

- **Individual** - personal responsibility, social dimension of evangelization
- **Family** – building block of society
- **Local** - local institutions and relational power
- **Regional** - decentralised capital and regional institutions
- **National** – maintain a balance of power between state, markets & civil society
- **International** – solidarity through relationships not globalised power

Local institutions

“A wide range of intermediate bodies with economic, social and cultural purposes, enjoying real autonomy with regard to the powers pursuing their specific aims in honest collaboration with each other.”

John Paul II



Local institutions

- sports clubs, local businesses, associations, regional banks, mutuals, charities, places of worship, guilds, hospices, unions, universities, community trusts, schools

Covenant and place



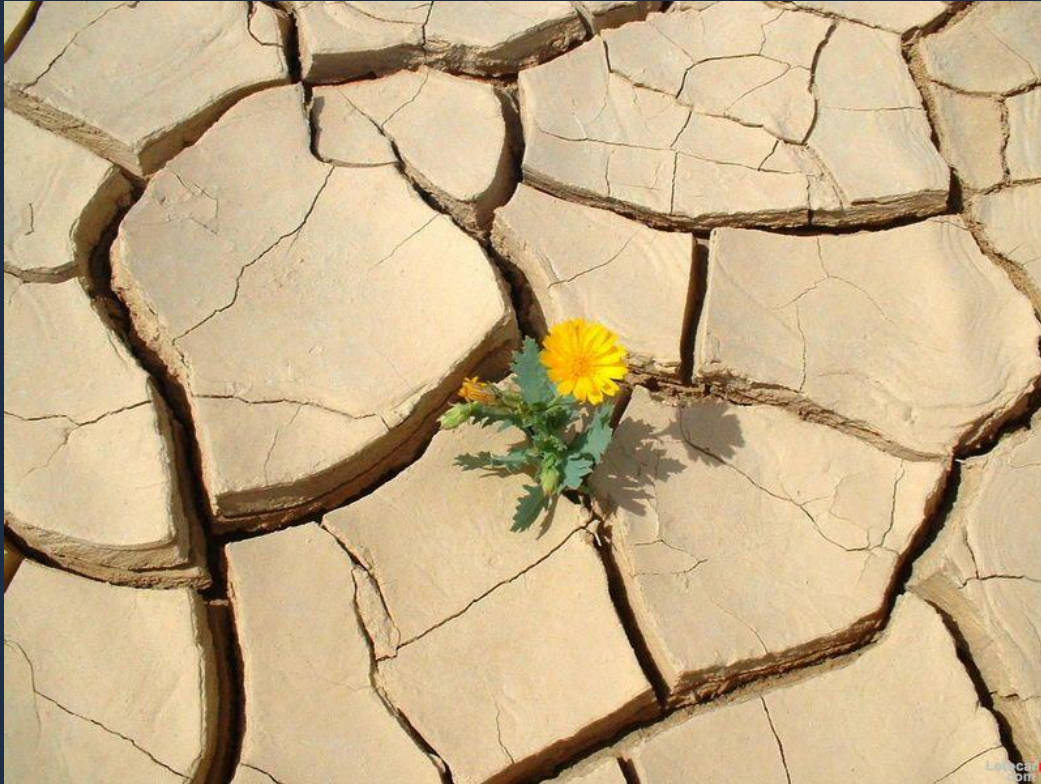
A relational church





What struck you?

PRACTICES – inward and outward-facing



PRACTICES – in church



- Culture of expectation
- Allow experiments
- Communal spirituality in liturgy
- Communal practices of prayer
- Small discipleship groups
- Conversations in the Spirit

PRACTICES – outward-facing



- Joining God in the neighbourhood
- Looking for signs of the Kingdom
- One to one conversations
- Knowing the neighbourhood
- Acting together for justice
- Connect with other human beings
- Everything is an occasion for communion



**What is God calling
us to do here?**

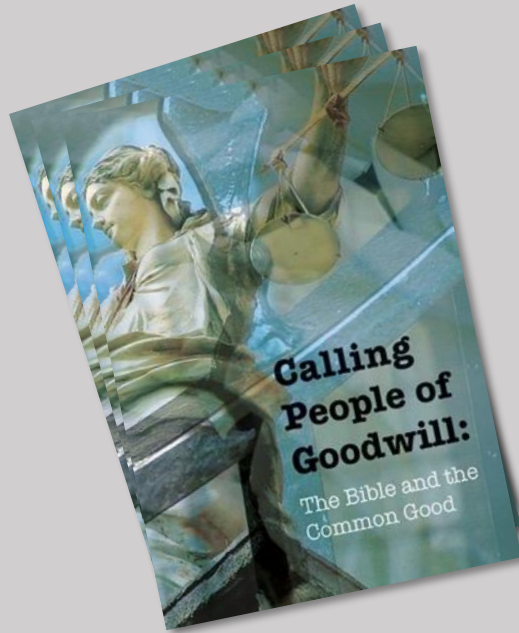
But seek the peace of the city
where I have sent you into exile
and pray to the LORD on its behalf
for in its peace you will find your peace.

Jeremiah 29.7

Recap: this is what we've covered today:

- Catholic social teaching - for spiritual and civic renewal
- What is CST? Encyclicals. Themes, Components. Imago Dei. Human Person. Integrity of Creation.
- What it's not.
- Competing worldviews. CST principles. Justice. Common Good.
- Reading the signs of the times. See-Judge-Act. Staying human.
- Stated purpose: building a civilisation of love.
- The breach. Preferential option for the poor. Subsidiarity. Levels of Responsibility.
- Local institutions. Covenant and Place.
- Becoming a Relational Church. CST and our calling.
- Practices: internal and outward-facing.
- Seek the peace of the city.





- Dedicated to spiritual and civic renewal
- Drawing on Catholic Social Teaching
- Resources for churches, leaders & schools

www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk

www.commongoodschools.co.uk

@T4CG

Building the Civilisation of Love

