

# Developing Catholic Life

SUPPORT MATERIALS FOR A CHAPLAINCY TEAM

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# Examples of tasks to develop the Catholic Life of the School

This document contains suggestions for pupils to become actively engaged in choosing, contributing to and leading tasks/initiatives in order to develop and enhance the school. Each subsection includes:

- A question to explore with the Chaplaincy Team or other members of the school community
- Scripture to ensure that their words and actions are based on Christ
- A short reflection to support the Scripture
- A list of ideas of tasks which pupils might choose to do in their school. These could form part of their/the school's development plan. The ideas might inspire them to come up with actions of their own which are more pertinent to their own unique context.

There are some ideas for prayer included here but further support is included in the **Prayer, Liturgy and Worship Support Document** and **Enhancing the School Year Support Document**. Resources for the Development Plan can be found in the **Chaplaincy Team Administration Support Document**. For even further resources and links for pupils to understand the theology underpinning their actions, see the end of the document.

## Catholic Life tasks (examples)

<b>Discuss</b>	<b>How can we help to ensure that Christ is at the centre of the school?</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>‘And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.’ (Colossians 3:17)</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	St Paul reminds us that, as believers, Christ is at the heart of all that we say and do; he is at the centre of our Catholic schools and it is through him that all things are done.
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an audit or conduct a questionnaire: Is Christ at the heart of this school?</li> <li>• Be involved in writing their own action plan and sharing with others</li> <li>• Contribute to, or write their own version, of the school’s evaluation of Catholic Life</li> <li>• Plan, lead and evaluate worship in class(es) and the whole school</li> <li>• Be responsible for their own budget</li> <li>• Lead and support leaders with projects and initiatives to enhance Catholic Life</li> <li>• Support with the review and use of resources to enhance the school environment so that it reflects the Catholic ethos and Mission Statement</li> <li>• Work with staff, clergy and parents to enhance the home/school/parish (eg: coffee morning with parents, being involved in liturgies and working with parish community)</li> <li>• Help to take care of the school’s physical environment, both inside and outside (eg: developing prayer garden, recycling, artwork)</li> <li>• Take part in regular meetings to discuss developments in the school</li> <li>• Be involved in training and reflection so that they are aware of up-to-date initiatives/resources and are developing their spiritual and religious understanding and literacy</li> <li>• Link with Chaplaincy Teams from other schools to share good practice</li> <li>• Support leaders with the planning, preparation and delivery of retreat days, spirituality days/weeks or special events during the year eg school saint’s day</li> </ul>

## Prayer, Worship and Liturgy tasks (examples)

<b>Discuss</b>	<b>How can we help to develop pupils' own and others' relationships with God through prayer, liturgy and worship?</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'</b> <b>(Ephesians 6:18)</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	Prayer connects us to God and other people. It is important to pray for the needs of others as well as for our own needs, talking to God about all matters big or small. The Holy Spirit can help us to pray.
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise whole school prayer, liturgy and worship (eg during special events)</li> <li>• Plan, lead and evaluate Acts of Worship or liturgies in the class and train other pupils to do the same</li> <li>• Include a response and mission so that can pupils can follow this up in their lives</li> <li>• Create and monitor prayer areas and displays around the school</li> <li>• Write and read prayers for liturgies including Mass; organise music/hymns including psalms</li> <li>• Set up and prepare areas for prayer, liturgy and worship including Mass</li> <li>• Liaise with the priest/chaplain/school leaders about prayer and events during the liturgical year</li> <li>• Support teachers with prayer at lunchtime during special times of the year such as Lent, Advent (eg planning, setting up or gathering resources)</li> <li>• Prayer with other pupils and take an active role in developing their prayer journey (eg leading Rosary or Stations)</li> <li>• Report to school leaders on the evaluation of worship and work together for a way forward</li> </ul>

## How a Chaplaincy Team can develop Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

ASPECT OF CST	BRIEF DEFINITION	HOW A CHAPLAINCY TEAM CAN EXEMPLIFY IT (BASIC FORM)
<b>Human Dignity</b>	As human beings we are created in the image and likeness of God so therefore we have an inherent worth and distinction. We must recognise we are all brothers and sisters which requires us to respect, value and uphold a common dignity for ourselves and each other.	Making them feel special through listening to them and help to build up a community in which the gifts and uniqueness of each individual is celebrated. They can lead each individual to prayer/relationship with God the father by sharing his Word.
<b>Community and Participation</b>	One way for Catholics to promote unity is to participate in pursuing the common good for a community as God did not create man to live alone. Every member of society has a duty to develop this common good and every member has a right to enjoy the benefits it brings.	Praying for different members of their society and making others aware of different charities and saints. They can engage with different members of their community, especially those who are vulnerable and in need of God's loving mercy.
<b>Care for Creation</b>	Respect for human life means respecting all of God's creation. We are all called by God to re-engage with our environment, take responsibility for it and live sustainably.	Looking after the physical environment of the school and promoting a care and love of creation through their Acts of Worship and home/school links.
<b>Peace &amp; Reconciliation</b>	The Church teaches us that peace is central to the Gospel and represents a challenge to many contemporary attitudes and assumptions. It asks Christians to be true peacemakers bringing forgiveness and non-violent solutions to situations of hurt and violence.	Being peacemakers around the school, planning prayer and liturgies based on reconciliation, and sharing the Gospel message of peace and forgiveness.
<b>Solidarity</b>	This is based on the belief that together we can make a difference and together we are much stronger. When we value fellow human beings we respect each other as unique individuals and we can stand up for what is right for one another.	Working in solidarity with each other, members of staff, their peers, visitors and other Chaplaincy Teams. They can inform others about injustice around the world and encourage others to stand up for what is right.
<b>Dignity in Work</b>	Catholic Social Teaching holds that work is not to be drudgery, but creative, positive and an intrinsic good. It is not a way to accumulate power and influence, but is rather to play our part in being co-creators in God's loving act of creation.	The Chaplaincy Team can support with this by leading the community in praying for those who cannot work and get involved with charities who can support others to find work.

## Catholic Social Teaching tasks (examples)

<b>Discuss</b>	<b>How can we share faith through prayer, words and deeds?</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>‘God will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.’ (Hebrews 6:10)</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	Jesus told us to treat others as we would like to be treated and to love one another as he loved us. He gave us an example of serving others and told us that what we do to the least of our brethren we do to him. St Paul tells us that in loving and helping others, we are showing love to God, as Jesus did.
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulate to staff what they are doing to throughout the year to staff, pupils, parents, governors and visitors (eg: through meetings, assemblies, presentations, newsletters, website)</li> <li>• Explain why they do what they do and what makes them stand out as a Catholic school, showing an understanding of the theology underpinning their actions (eg: link to words of scripture/saints/popes/Catholic teaching)</li> <li>• ‘Teach’ or train younger pupils (eg: through stories, ICT, discussion, example)</li> <li>• Be involved in meeting/activities to enhance their own understanding (eg ‘CAFOD clubs’, SVP/’Mini Vinnies’ © games, media, Justice and Peace initiatives)</li> <li>• Work on national awards that pupils can get starting at Y5 up to secondary eg <a href="http://millionminutes.org/">http://millionminutes.org/</a></li> <li>• Join various campaigning and advocacy activities</li> <li>• Pray for those less fortunate or vulnerable in society (eg those without jobs, those in poverty in our community)</li> </ul>

## Human Dignity/ Human Flourishing tasks (examples)

<b>Discuss</b>	<b>How can we ensure that every child in this school flourishes and is recognised as being made in God's image?</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'</b> <b>(Ephesians 2:10)</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	St Paul tells us that each person is a work of art, created by God and chosen for a unique purpose. Every person in the school, regardless of age, ability, faith, background is made in the image of God and represents Christ.
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look after those in the playground who are feeling sad and lonely by playing close attention to those who may be in more need of a friend</li> <li>• Celebrate talents of others (eg organising a talent show, praising others)</li> <li>• Be involved in choosing and distributing special rewards for award ceremonies or events/assemblies</li> <li>• Build up the confidence of others through their praise, encouragement and words of concern or thanks, for example by organising a 'Thank you' station where pupils can record words of thanks for any staff members/pupil</li> <li>• Give out stickers when they see others being kind and helpful, etc</li> <li>• Facilitate and lead on aspects of Human Rights eg the Rights Respecting Schools initiative</li> <li>• Celebrate other faiths and cultures in the school through helping with organisation of resources/activities and through examples of positive relationships</li> <li>• Foster an atmosphere of tolerance, mutual understanding and trust; listen to others and take on board others' points of view</li> </ul>



## Community and Participation/ Relationships tasks (examples)

<b>Discuss</b>	<b>How can pupils support the home/school/parish/world links?</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>‘Do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honour.’ (James 3:17)</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	St James tells us that we should make the effort to connect with others and get along with them, even when it is challenging. By making links with others we are develop our sense of dignity and honour.
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link with others in the community (eg elderly tea party, food and fellowship evening, interfaith events)</li> <li>• Invite local community/elderly into school for various events/celebrations (both seasonal and otherwise)</li> <li>• Plan/organise a Grandparents’ Morning/Afternoon – invite them in to share pupils’ work/achievements etc</li> <li>• Visit the local church/es to discuss ideas with the priest/s and parish groups</li> <li>• Be given short amount of time at PTA/staff meetings to present their work or ideas</li> <li>• Help to organise a deanery retreat day or deanery worship eg at the Cathedral in partnership with another school</li> <li>• Develop closer links with Chaplaincy Teams from other schools at a local/deanery level (leading to ‘retreat days’); share good practice/vision</li> <li>• Develop a timetable for pupils to attend weekly Mass at the parish church (rota basis) – First Friday?</li> <li>• Organise shared ‘year group’ celebrations with other schools – Catholic Life focus</li> <li>• Visit care homes for special occasions (carol singing etc)</li> <li>• Contribute articles to the parish newsletter/noticeboard</li> <li>• Be introduced to relevant visitors by the Head teacher</li> <li>• Fund gifts for First Holy Communion children etc</li> <li>• Research/suggest visit days including to places of worship (other faiths)</li> </ul>

## Care for Creation: Our Common Home tasks (examples)

<b>Discuss</b>	<b>How can we help to take care of God's creation, the natural world and its resources?</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>'The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.' (Psalm 24:1)</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	<p>The psalms give praise to God for the glorious world he created and gave to us to use and develop.</p> <p>Pope Francis' letter, Laudato Si, encourages us to look after this great gift for future generations.</p>
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share Laudato Si resources with the school (at assembly or worship time) See <a href="https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Laudato-Si-animation">https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Laudato-Si-animation</a></li> <li>• Encourage each class to take care of resources (lights, water, paper etc)</li> <li>• Promote this care for the environment at school and home (eg through projects)</li> <li>• Create a resource to celebrate work done and promote awareness (eg display, scrapbook, PowerPoint)</li> <li>• Make links with the community and/or other organisations to develop this further (eg CAFOD, Council) Write a Laudato Si manifesto</li> <li>• Encourage other children to take responsibility for their actions through use of various multi-media resources (eg video clips, music, augmented reality (AR) posters from CAFOD)</li> <li>• Support pupils in using their school ground to demonstrate the importance of caring for their world</li> </ul>

## Peace and Reconciliation/Solidarity (examples)

<b>Discuss</b>	<b>How can we help to build a better and more just world, for both the present and the future?</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.’ (Matthew 5:9)</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	Jesus taught us to pray the Our Father using the words ‘Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven’. This means that he wants us to build a world of peace, love, joy and fairness for everyone.
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model good practice of peace by training to be peer mediators and or promoting them in the school</li> <li>• Be informed during meetings about what is taking place in the world (eg refugees, natural disasters, wars)</li> <li>• Organise prayer, fundraising, resources/activities to promote awareness and take action for peace and justice in the world</li> <li>• Familiarise themselves and others with various resources available (eg Caritas Westminster, CAFOD, ACN, Missio, CCS) and share these with other members</li> <li>• Help to plan and organise events for the school/class to enhance understanding of peace and justice (eg walks, pilgrimages, letters)</li> <li>• Write letters to improve conditions for others (eg MP, government, Headteacher)</li> <li>• Be involved in rules and rewards throughout the school (eg monitoring younger pupils, working with those with difficulties)</li> </ul>

## Preferential Option for the Poor/Dignity of Workers (examples)

<b>Discuss</b>	<b>How can pupils support the poor locally, nationally and universally ?</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ (Mtt 25:35-40)</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	Jesus tells us that he is present in the poor and that what we do to others we do to him. There are many ‘poor’ around us whether that is financially, emotionally or spiritually, although sometimes it is not obvious who they are.
<b>Tasks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make links with the Homeless Shelter</li> <li>• Support the local Food Bank (collecting/delivering items)</li> <li>• Praying for the poor</li> <li>• Acting in empathy (eg having a sleepover in school hall – homeless)</li> <li>• Writing to the local MP about an issue (eg homelessness)</li> <li>• Supporting charities such as CAFOD, Mission Together and Caritas website through training, education and fundraising (see websites)</li> <li>• Bespoke linking with other countries</li> <li>• Twinning with pupils or schools in developing countries</li> <li>• Writing to pupils in developing countries (penpals)</li> <li>• Raising awareness of the poor in locally, nationally and universally through visits, visitors, assemblies and activities</li> </ul>

## Chaplaincy Team Questionnaires (examples of questions)

These questions could be used for discussion with the team in order to create an action plan. Alternatively the CTM could discuss these with other pupils so as to get a clear insight regarding different aspects of Catholic Life and then discuss how to move forward and take on board the views of other pupils.

TOPIC	EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS
<b>Prayer and Worship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do you feel about prayer and worship in the school?</li><li>• When are you given opportunities to pray/worship?</li><li>• What do you like about Collective Worship/assemblies in the school?</li><li>• How do you think Collective Worship or prayer could be even better?</li><li>• What helps you to pray in school?</li></ul>
<b>Social Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How are you involved in charity work in the school?</li><li>• Why does your school support charities?</li><li>• How do you work for peace and justice in the school?</li><li>• How does your school care for the environment?</li><li>• How does your school care for those in need?</li><li>• What do you feel the school could be even better in promoting Catholic Social Teaching?</li><li>• Do you feel that pupils are given enough opportunities to be involved in social action? Explain.</li></ul>
<b>Catholic Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What makes your school Catholic?</li><li>• Do you feel that people in your school help you to become closer to Jesus? How?</li><li>• How does your school celebrate your gifts/talents and the gifts of others?</li><li>• How does your school teach you to be like Jesus?</li><li>• What do you think are the strengths of the Catholic Life of the school?</li><li>• How do you think the Catholic Life could be developed?</li></ul>

## The Pastoral Cycle (Template)

See, Judge, Act	
<b>See</b>  What is going on here?  Why is it going on?	
<b>Judge</b>  What should be going on?  What is the heart of the matter?  What is the preferred future we want to achieve?	
<b>Act</b>  What actions/steps do we now need to take?  How effective has our response been?	

Supporting Others (Template)

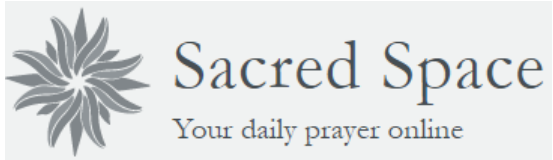

Local	National	Universal


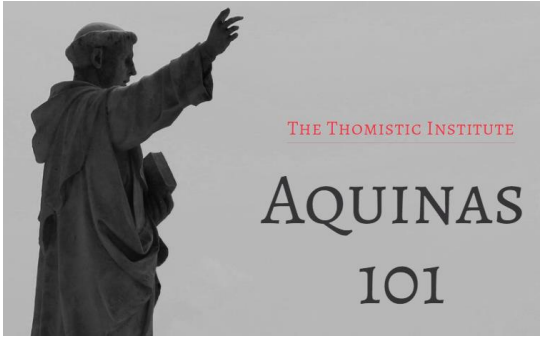

## Useful Resources and Links

Details	Website link/information
<p><b>DoCat:</b> This book is focused on CST for the Youth. With lots of quotes from Scripture and prominent figures in the Church it supports adults and pupils in their understanding of CST and answers tricky questions.</p>	<p>ISBN 978-1-78469</p> 
<p><b>Catholic Social Teaching: Scripture Guide:</b> This is an invaluable free resource that lists various pieces of Scripture linked to each of the strands. It explains CST and supports with the theology underpinning actions.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catholic-education/campus-ministry/tools-for-action/upload/cst-scripture-guide-donna-update-matt2.pdf">http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catholic-education/campus-ministry/tools-for-action/upload/cst-scripture-guide-donna-update-matt2.pdf</a></p> 
<p><b>Catholic Social Teaching :</b> The main CST website which has information about the Church's teaching on CST and other resources including a video with the Cardinal.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/">http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/</a></p> 
<p><b>Caritas Westminster:</b> This charity works to develop CST in our Diocese through education and action. For more information about the work Caritas Westminster does including the Caritas Ambassador programme, visit their website:</p>	<p><a href="http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/">www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/</a></p> 



<p><b>‘CAFOD clubs’:</b> This has been set up to support pupil leadership with the Catholic Life of the school. For more information about their free ‘CAFOD clubs’ resources and visits, look at their website</p>	<p><a href="https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/CAFOD-clubs">https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/CAFOD-clubs</a></p> 
<p><b>CAFOD:</b> For free pupil-led Collective Worship materials as well as resources to support assemblies visit their website</p>	<p><a href="https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Collective-worship-resources">https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Collective-worship-resources</a></p> 
<p><b>Mini Vinnies:</b> Visit their website to discover more about starting and developing a ‘Mini Vinnies’ © Team in the school. They provide all of the resources/materials and guidance necessary for leading this in the school.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.minivinnies.org.uk/">http://www.minivinnies.org.uk/</a></p> 
<p><b>Mission Together:</b> For resources to support prayer, worship and mission see:</p>	<p><a href="https://missiontogether.org.uk/">https://missiontogether.org.uk/</a></p> 
<p><b>Catholic Children’s Society:</b> For support with the Crisis Fund, Bereavement, School Resources (PowerPoints, lesson plans and worksheets) see:</p>	<p><a href="https://www.cathchild.org.uk/">https://www.cathchild.org.uk/</a></p> 

<p><b>Million Minutes:</b> Million Minutes believe young people are amazing. Young people have the potential to change the world. For ideas, resources and funding, have a look at Million Minutes of Change.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.millionminutes.org/">www.millionminutes.org/</a></p> 
<p><b>Sacred Space:</b> For prayers linked to social justice which can be used with adults of pupils visit this website.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.sacredspace.ie/">https://www.sacredspace.ie/</a></p> 
<p><b>World's Largest Lesson:</b> World's Largest Lesson introduces the Sustainable Development Goals to children and young people everywhere and unites them in action.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/">www.worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/</a></p> 
<p><b>Eco – Schools:</b> Eco-Schools develops pupils' skills, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and creates financial savings for schools as well as a whole host of other <b>benefits</b>.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/">www.eco-schools.org.uk/</a></p> 
<p><b>Rights Respecting Schools:</b> For various resources, training and information visit the website</p>	<p><a href="http://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/">www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/</a></p> 

<p><b>Pathways to God:</b> This is a Jesuit site with inspiration for daily prayer as well as the Pope's prayer themes which are linked to CST and Gospel Values.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.pathwaystogod.org/org/mount-street-jesuit-centre">www.pathwaystogod.org/org/mount-street-jesuit-centre</a></p> 
<p><b>Aquinas 101:</b> This is a series of free video courses from the Thomistic Institute that helps you to engage life's most urgent philosophical and theological questions with the wisdom of St Thomas Aquinas. In the end, you'll be able to read Aquinas on his own terms and to master the essentials of his thought.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/">www.aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/</a></p> 
<p><b>Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry:</b></p> <p>For details about the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Events</li> <li>- Programmes</li> <li>- Resources</li> <li>- SPEC Retreat Centre</li> </ul> <p>Visit the website and contact them for more information</p>	<p><a href="https://dowym.com/">https://dowym.com/</a></p> 
<p><b>The Passage:</b> For information about what you can do to about homelessness in our Diocese</p>	<p><a href="http://passage.org.uk/">http://passage.org.uk/</a></p> 