

## Theme of the Week - Serving God

Around the school you will see signs reflecting the different Catholic Social Teaching Principles of the Church. Can you name each principle? There are seven in total? On each poster, at the bottom, a question is posed to us, what would you do? What is the right choice to make in a given scenario. On one of the posters the question is, someone has dropped £20 on the floor and this is the only money they have to feed themselves for the week, what do you do? We are called to be honest when serving God. Jesus knew that we would often be tested about being honest in our everyday lives. Being honest is a choice we make every day. God wants to be sure that we can be trusted with the most precious treasure of all when we serve Him.

In the Gospel reading from Sunday, wealth was thought to be a sign of God's favour and blessing, so Jesus' words would have been challenging to his audience when he said you cannot serve God and money. Let us reflect on this with the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Stewardship. We must recognise that we (the whole world) are stewards trusted to use and administer God given resources and be Learned and Wise when doing so. We can't serve God if we use these resources for ourselves! Jesus' teaching gives insight into the ways of God and ultimately the choice that we each have to make regarding our priorities and how we treat our world. How Learned and Wise are we in how we deal with what has been given to us.

We again are being invited (like the first theme of the week for this year) in Sunday's Gospel to consider our priorities in a new light. How we use our money and world has implications for us and all around us. There is nothing wrong with seeking money or using resources in the world, we need it to survive. However, does your attitude to money and how much you have affect your decisions and the way you live your life? How does it affect or reflect your attitude to God? How we use the world, is there elements of greed? Are our priorities ones that Jesus would approve of? This week can you be more **Learned** in the teachings Jesus gives us and then act **wisely** to make a conscious effort to make use of a resource you have - time, money or talent - to make life better for someone in need.



## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 16: 1-13

At that time: Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager." And the manager said to himself, "What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He said, "A hundred measures of oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty." Then he said to another, "And how much do you owe?" He said, "A hundred measures of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and write eighty." The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.' And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

'One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful with the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.'

### Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus Christ,

Yours was the way of service, compassion and reconciliation. Despite rejection of so many, you saw the best in people, the good, the worth that others overlooked.

Allow us to be honest with ourselves so we can truly follow in your footsteps.

Amen.

#### Day 1

What are the seven different Catholic Social Teaching Principles?  
Positive points for naming all seven

#### Day 2

Why do you think Jesus teaches that you cannot serve both God and money?  
In what ways do we both serve and unserved God when you look at how we use the world today?

#### Day 3

Reflect on the Gospel, read it again - what word/words stand out to you? How can you be **learned** with what Jesus is telling you?  
How can you be **wiser** in serving God in a more just way?