

Catholic Social Teaching Cards Guidance

Why this resource?

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) has often been called ‘the Church’s best kept secret’ and it is such a valuable resource we want to change this! CAFOD developed CST cards **for use in schools** to teach young people to read the ‘signs of the times’ in the light of Scripture and CST, and to offer wisdom and insights on living the Gospel in today’s world. Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) and its members use CST values to guide all of their work in England and Wales, and this is true of all the 165 Caritas country member agencies, like CAFOD and CSAN, across the world which are members of Caritas Internationalis, the largest social action movement on Earth. We are very grateful to CAFOD for generously offering CSAN the opportunity to build upon this work and create resources to reflect the same CST values in social action focused on England and Wales.

Purpose

These CST Cards offer an introduction to CST for use in a wide range of settings such as with people your agency supports, parish groups/volunteers, with staff and volunteer teams and as part of staff induction alongside CSAN’s resource **Caritas in Practice: A Resource for Induction: Putting Catholic Social Teaching into Practice**. This version of the CST Cards is based on the CAFOD original, using its same eight CST values (see below). This resource puts them into local and national settings to complement CAFOD’s international perspective. Together, they make a combined resource through which people throughout England and Wales can better understand and be inspired by the work of the Church, and go on to live lives which grow steadily closer to the examples of Jesus in reaching out to the poor in their local, national and international settings.

Many answers

Below is a table showing the content of the cards for each of the eight values. Some questions suggest more than one answer. For example, a CSAN story or a quote from Scripture may relate to one or more CST value. Participants should know the cards are a starting point for exploration of the values, which are all interrelated, and give opportunities for people to form opinions and formulate good reasons to justify their views, and receive encouragement and thought-provoking questions and comments from one another. They are also helpful in encouraging people to reflect on behaviours and motivations and hopefully lead to action guided by these values, and to exploring CST further. There are suggestions to assist this with the scenarios and CSAN stories below. The document summary cards will help here and there are further resources available at on **CAFOD’s website** and, **another** for those wanting to explore more deeply.



Overview of the cards

There are eight “sets” of 8 cards each (64 cards in all). The sets are:

- 1** CST values: The Common Good, Human Dignity, Solidarity, Participation, Subsidiarity, Stewardship and Care of Creation, Rights and Responsibilities, and The Preferential Option for the Poor. Using the text around the card edges, you put the cards into 2 columns with 4 rows each, an 8-piece jigsaw.
- 2** Quotes to explain the values from movies
- 3** Meanings of the CST values
- 4** Scripture quotations
- 5** CST quotations
- 6** CST document summaries, a selection of the main CST texts
- 7** Scenarios
- 8** CSAN stories

With the **Scenarios** (7), you can present familiar moral dilemmas and link them in people’s minds to the Church’s teaching and to their upbringing (calling upon Scripture, CST statements from the Church and what they learnt at their “mother’s knee”/life experience). Making our values conscious and explaining them will help people reflect, explore and consolidate their understanding, often missing in adult formation, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. So, you can use the CST Cards with individuals and groups to identify values, reflect, norm and consolidate them to help underpin a group’s action in the future.

The **CSAN stories** highlight the work of some of the CSAN agencies in England and Wales and show how are being put into practice. The agencies

are an expression of the Church’s compassion and people may be looking for ways in which they can live their Christian vocation more actively. The agencies are often looking for support (e.g. volunteering, fundraising) and are listed on the **CSAN website**.

How to use the CST Cards

This is a flexible resource for you to use groups or individuals. Get to know the cards by becoming familiar with them yourself. Individuals and groups might use some or only one of the card sets in a session. It’s not a good idea to try and use all of them at once! **Suggestions on how to use them can be found on the last page of these notes**. They can be used flexibly, as you see fit. Any knowledge of CST is beneficial but enabling people to learn from it, absorb its strength and to put it into practice is the aim.

Printing instructions

When printing the cards out, set the printer to use *landscape* format on A4. If you have it, card is less flimsy than paper. Your printer may in this case have settings for printing on card. You can print the instructions on paper. The cards need to be cut out. If you are printing out several copies of the cards, it’s best to write the number (1,2,3 etc) of each copy on the card’s back.

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Values	Movie quotes	Meaning of values	Scripture quotes	CST quotes	CST document summaries	Scenarios	CSAN Stories
Common Good	<p>“Family’ means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.”</p> <p><i>Lilo to Stitch in Lilo and Stitch (2002)</i></p>	<p>Whatever is needed for each and every person, and creation, to flourish.</p>	<p>“...always seek to do good to one another and to all.”</p> <p><i>1 Thessalonians 5:15</i></p>	<p>“Society exists for the common good. It is concerned with the interests of everyone in general, but also with individual interests.”</p> <p><i>Pope Leo XIII, On Capital and Labour, 51</i></p>	<p>On Capital and Labour 1891</p> <p><i>(Rerum Novarum)</i></p> <p>Pope Leo XIII wrote this famous encyclical soon after the Industrial Revolution. Before this, some people thought popes should only write about spiritual things. He told employers to treat their workers justly, pay a just wage and allow them to form unions. This would help the poorest but also benefit society.</p>	<p>The local park is in a mess and a nearby Mosque has organised an event for small groups to go out with refuse sacks on a Saturday morning and pick up litter there. A man and his daughter knock on your door and ask politely for your family’s support.</p>	<p>More than food: feeding children, building purpose: St Mary’s Grub Club: Together 4 the Common Good</p> <p>Parishioners were concerned about families struggling locally and felt our faith was compelling us to ‘do something’. Our primary school staff told us many children were going hungry in the holidays as money was tight. We resolved to work together.</p> <p>That summer, we held 11 lunchtime holiday sessions, serving hot and nutritious meals for children, parents and volunteers and running activities. We’d found we had the skills, the commitment and the contacts. The money, referrals from local schools and offers of help poured in. We had created a Holiday Hunger Club, owned and valued by the community!</p>
Human Dignity	<p>“We are all human, aren’t we? Every human life is worth the same, and worth saving.”</p> <p><i>Kingsley Shacklebolt in Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows (2007)</i></p>	<p>Every human being has inbuilt dignity because she or he has been created in the image and likeness of God.</p>	<p>“What are human beings, that you think of them; mere mortals, that you care for them? Yet you made them inferior only to yourself; you crowned them with glory and honour.”</p> <p><i>Psalms 8:4-5</i></p>	<p>Human persons are imprinted with God’s image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are.”</p> <p><i>St. Pope John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year, 11</i></p>	<p>On the Hundredth Year 1991</p> <p><i>(Centesimus Annus)</i></p> <p>As the Soviet Union ended, St Pope John Paul II said the failure of communism did not mean capitalism was right, for both can undermine human freedom and dignity. Everyone wants to be treated with dignity.</p>	<p>Your elderly father has poor short-term memory. He has got lost while out driving several times and he can be slow to react. He feels that driving is an important part of the person he is as a husband and father. He’s never had an accident in 70 years of driving. You are increasingly worried.</p>	<p>Life on Benefits for young families: Catholic Children’s Society Westminster</p> <p>We asked four single mothers about life on Universal Credit. All were struggling to pay for even essentials. So, they’d borrowed from family and friends, repaying from next month’s UC. They had also to pay for transport to the distant Job Centre to meet their work coach, or lose money. They felt pressure to return to work and looked down on. And yet, they all felt it was they who were the best people to look after their very young children and asked, “Why would the Government choose to pay a stranger to look after our children and not support us to do it?”</p>

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Solidarity	<p>“All for one and one for all!”</p> <p><i>Aramis, Porthos and Athos in The Three Musketeers (1993)</i></p>	Not just doing things for other people but acting with them to build a more just world together.	<p>“I appeal to you... that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.”</p> <p><i>1 Corinthians 1:10</i></p>	<p>“Solidarity means much more than sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all come before the acquisition of goods by a few.... It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money....”</p> <p><i>Pope Francis, Sisters and Brothers, All, 116</i></p>	<p>Sisters and Brothers, All 2020</p> <p><i>(Fratelli Tutti)</i></p> <p>At the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis issued Fratelli Tutti. Seen as the natural sequel to Laudato Si’, he urges a new world order based on solidarity of all people as sisters and brothers, in harmony with the earth.</p>	You are coming back home from a football match and a large, heavily tattooed opposition supporter is walking alone on the other side of the road. Suddenly, he bends double and sinks to his knees and seems in real difficulties.	<p>Kirsty’s story: Caritas Middlesbrough</p> <p>“I was abused as a child, self-harmed and turned to drink. At 21, I gave birth to my daughter, but she gave me reasons to live. She had long stays in hospital missing school and later, her younger sister. Our benefits were sanctioned and stopped. We were burgled, lost our home twice with money and the Bedroom Tax and at times I struggled to feed the girls. Throughout it all, we would never have managed without CAUSE supporting us with food, clothes, beds and bedding as well as Pat’s emotional support. They have been our rock, there whenever we really needed.”</p> <p>“I’ve just completed a course and hope to turn life around for us so the girls will be proud of me. Our love keeps us going and despite the struggles, we won’t give in.”</p>
Participation	<p>“Life’s not a spectator sport. If watchin’ is all you’re gonna do, you’re gonna watch your life go by without ya.”</p> <p><i>Laverne to Quasimodo in The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1996)</i></p>	People have a right and a duty to take part in shaping a more just and human society.	<p>“When each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love.”</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:16</i></p>	<p>“People have an obligation to be participants in the life of society and society has a duty to enable them to participate.”</p> <p><i>Catholic Bishops of the United States, Economic Justice for All, 71</i></p>	<p>Economic Justice for All 1986</p> <p>US Catholic bishops called for economic reforms so the poorest people would not be excluded. They said everyone should be free to take part in the public life of the nation.</p>	Over recent years, your town has become home to a large number of refugee families including one next door to you who are friendly. The local paper has been featuring readers’ complaints that refugees keep themselves to themselves and look down on local people. A local Councillor is holding a public meeting about what to do about it.	<p>Celebrating difference: Caritas Jersey</p> <p>Jersey is home to many ethnic groups. To reduce social tensions and help integration, Caritas Jersey supports people from other nations. As “Caritas” was known and trusted by people from around the world as a unifying force, they formed “Caritas International Association”, owned and run by representatives from 15 nations, from all faiths and none. To celebrate their backgrounds positively, an ‘international’ table at the local fete served Polish, Portuguese, Italian and Romanian food with Russian tea from a Samovar!</p>

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Subsidiarity	<p>“Even the smallest person can change the course of the future.”</p> <p><i>Galadriel to Frodo in The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)</i></p>	As far as possible, decisions should not be taken at the highest levels, but by the people who are most affected.	<p>Jethro said to Moses: “Look for able men among all the people... Let them sit as judges for the people at all times; let them bring every important case to you, but decide every minor case themselves.”</p> <p><i>Exodus 18:21-22</i></p>	<p>“Often, institutions on a higher level make decisions about conditions on which the future of workers and their children depends. The workers themselves should share in deciding these conditions.”</p> <p><i>Second Vatican Council, Joys and Hopes, 68</i></p>	<p>Joys and Hopes 1965</p> <p><i>(Gaudium et Spes)</i></p> <p>This document from Vatican II (a major council of the world’s bishops, called by Saint Pope John XXIII and completed by Saint Pope Paul VI) explored how individuals, families and communities could help build a more just society. Decisions should not only be taken at a high level, but by the people affected.</p>	Your children approach you one evening because they and their friends have just read a Council notice in the local park about redeveloping “The Nook”, an open area where their friends meet to play football.	<p>A fresh start - Community Sponsorship: CSAN</p> <p>St Monica’s Community Group in Manchester were the first Catholic parish to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. For his family’s future, Samir dreamed of his own restaurant.</p> <p>All the planning and decision-making with Samir was done with the Group. Using their contacts, they found suitable premises. A local removals firm and a golf club provided tools and materials for the kitchen. The Group did the work itself. Their Lead Sponsor’s Finance Department managed the interest-free business loan from the Group’s Sponsorship Fund.</p>
Stewardship and Care of Creation	<p>“Because of you the future of this entire universe is in jeopardy!”</p> <p><i>Buzz Lightyear to Woody in Toy Story (1995)</i></p>	We are called to care for creation as stewards, not just as consumers.	<p>“Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion... over all the wild animals of the earth...”</p> <p><i>Genesis 1:26</i></p>	<p>“All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents,”</p> <p><i>Pope Francis, On Care for our Common Home, 14</i></p>	<p>On Care for our Common Home 2015</p> <p><i>(Laudato Si’)</i></p> <p>Pope Francis wrote this encyclical as world leaders prepared to meet in Paris to discuss ways to tackle climate change. He said that we must change our thinking on what ‘progress’ means, for the sake of the earth and its people – especially the poorest.</p>	Your partner says you’re a hoarder when you find it hard to throw stuff out and you are more concerned about having warm rather than fashionable clothes in winter. You’re going through your wardrobe together. There’s that winter coat and yes, it’s a bit past its best and takes up scarce space.	<p>Celia’s story: Friendship and skills exchange: Caritas Diocese of Salford</p> <p>Celia came along to a new friendship group in her parish. She had been widowed for some years and felt lonely and isolated. Her confidence grew over the weeks and when she generously shared her skills in knitting and sewing, we found she had worked as a seamstress. The group was amazed, and Celia realised that she could make a positive contribution to the group which went onto reach out to young mums. They had also felt uninvolved and isolated and when they joined the group, they learned from the wisdom and skills of the older members and deep friendships grew.</p>

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Rights and Responsibilities	<p>“With great power comes great responsibility.”</p> <p><i>Uncle Ben in Spider-Man (2002)</i></p>	<p>When one person has a right, others have a responsibility to uphold that right.</p>	<p>“Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”</p> <p><i>Proverbs 31:9</i></p>	<p>“The possession of rights involves the duty of implementing those rights, for they are the expression of a person’s dignity. The possession of rights also involves their recognition and respect by other people.”</p> <p><i>St Pope John XXIII, Peace on Earth, 44</i></p>	<p>Peace on Earth 1963</p> <p><i>(Pacem in Terris)</i></p> <p>Soon after the US and Russia had reached the brink of nuclear war, Pope John XXIII taught that each of us has a responsibility to work for peace.</p>	<p>You have encouraged a friend whose family was from Ethiopia to apply for a job at your work for which she is suitable. She asks you about your colleagues. As you talk, you realise that all the staff are white, male and none of them have a disability.</p>	<p>SENSitive Group: Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury</p> <p>The SENSitive Group was formed as a support and campaign group by and for parents with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. After listening to parents’ concerns, the group drew up priorities to improve the children’s life chances and shared their findings with key agencies in Manchester. Next, they represented the families by challenging the parliamentary candidates at the General Election hustings, securing a commitment to work together from the MP. The group has since engaged with other faith and community organisations so that the families’ voices were heard at the Greater Manchester Mayoral Election.</p>
Preferential Option for the Poor	<p>“When they’re finished putting first class people in the boat, they’ll be starting with us.”</p> <p><i>Irish mother to her child in Titanic (1997)</i></p>	<p>To choose to consider the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people first.</p>	<p>“Jesus said: ‘When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.’”</p> <p><i>Luke 14:13</i></p>	<p>“This is an option... to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness. It affects the life of each Christian as he or she seeks to imitate the life of Christ. It applies equally to our social responsibilities and hence to our manner of living.”</p> <p><i>St Pope John Paul II, On Social Concern, 42</i></p>	<p>On Social Concern 1987</p> <p><i>(Sollicitudo Rei Socialis)</i></p> <p>Rich countries were working together across the world more and more. But the systems they set up to do this, like the global trade system, often made life harder for the poorest countries. Saint Pope John Paul II called for justice.</p>	<p>You notice that the person ahead of you in the shop queue doesn’t have enough money to pay for their purchases.</p>	<p>A surprising choice: Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds)</p> <p>“After having depression, my Occupational Therapist suggested I try voluntary work to help me get over it and boost my confidence. I dragged my feet. Luckily, she persisted, and, in the end, I decided to give it a try working with group of older people who had become isolated each week. After the first week, I was hooked and just wanted to get to know these amazing people.</p> <p>When I started, I was shy and my confidence was shot. Choosing to volunteer changed everything for me.”</p>

CSAN Stories notes

Value	CSAN Story	Further guidance
Common Good	St Mary's Grub Club Together 4 the Common Good	St Mary's Catholic Primary School is in Loughborough. Are there concerns where you live arising from local agencies being unable to cope and local people as a result too?
Human Dignity	Life on Benefits: Catholic Children's Society Westminster	Coping with such circumstances, even with family and friends, can be degrading, and Benefits can be sanctioned/cut, making life even harder. What is the media's response? Should mothers be better supported, as well as nurseries?
Solidarity	Kirsty's story Caritas Middlesbrough	Note Kirsty's choice of "rock". When she spoke at Middlesbrough Cathedral on World Day of the Poor, she received a standing ovation. CAUSE is a Teesside charity and one of the members of Caritas Middlesbrough. This also highlights strongly human dignity.
Participation	Celebrating difference: Caritas Jersey	Jersey, one of the Channel Islands, has an ethnically diverse population with marked inequalities between rich and poor. As "Caritas" was a trusted name for many who were familiar with it from abroad, Caritas Jersey helped found and still supports the Caritas International Association there so people can offer practical support to those in need.
Subsidiarity	A fresh start - Community Sponsorship: CSAN	CSAN's Community Sponsorship scheme helps people in parishes and groups to make a new home for a refugee family locally and help them settle. Catholic charities, like Caritas Salford, apply to the Home Office as 'Lead Sponsor' and can help manage funds the Groups raise too.
Stewardship and Care of Creation	Celia's story: Friendship and skills exchange Caritas Diocese of Salford	Stewardship normally refers to looking after money, buildings or the Earth. Here it refers to Celia as a person and her valuable seamstress and personal skills which were lying hidden and unused. They helped bring out others' skills and build a community. Sound familiar?
Rights and Responsibilities	SENSitive Group Caritas Shrewsbury	Caritas Shrewsbury helped the group recognise their families' rights. This experience showed them their responsibility to improve things locally and elsewhere. Campaigning is a vital part of the Christian tradition and hustings meetings to which all candidates are invited before an election, are a great way to raise concerns and secure their commitment if they are elected. What would you like your MP to change for instance? Who else do you know who are interested in this too? Pope Francis says, "Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also social, economic and political ones". [Laudato Si': #231]
Preferential Option for the Poor	A surprising choice: Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds)	Choosing to use our time and talents transforms both the situation of the poor and our own. Many CSAN agencies rely upon committed people who share their time and talents. Could you choose, and help make a difference? See the CSAN website for local contact details.

Suggestions for using the CSAN CST cards

Reflective starter

Scatter the CST quotation cards around the room. The individuals/groups have two minutes to circulate (with quiet background music?) to choose the quote that strikes them most. They should be prepared to share their reasons if they are comfortable.

Definition starter

Before people come together, spread out on each group's table the values cards from their set. As they enter the room, challenge the group to put the jigsaw together by arranging the cards to reveal a definition of CST which is printed around the border. Then, discuss what each of the values mean, perhaps using the second and/or third sets.

Animation extension

Show the ***CST in 3 minutes*** animation from CAFOD's website as a reminder of what has been learned. The animation displays the titles of all eight values on screen and covers human dignity, common good, and option for the poor in more detail. Challenge more able individuals/groups to find out more about *Rerum Novarum*, the 1st CST encyclical (Pope Leo XIII), mentioned in the animation. They could research Cardinal Manning who became famous for defending striking dock workers in London's East End. Or, watch the CAFOD *Laudato Si'* animation and explore this encyclical and the Stewardship of Creation value more.

Matching Scripture to CST

Individuals/groups match the values to Scripture cards. Explain choices. Compare with the choices of others. Now they match the CST quotations to the pairs. Explain the links and the differences between the Scripture and CST quotations. Why did Church leaders feel they needed to say more than just quoting Scripture? Can the groups show that CST is founded on Scripture?

CST in real life

Groups match the value cards to the CSAN stories and then CST quotations.

Explore how one value is lived out in the work of a CSAN agency. How is the group/individual living out that value in daily life themselves?

CST documents and quotes

Individuals/groups take the CST document description cards and match them to the CST document quote cards. Ask group to rewrite the quotations in their own words (or as a whole group discussion?). Which value in particular underlies each quotation? (There can be more than one correct answer.)

Timeline

Each individual/group takes all the CST document description cards and places them in order of date to form a timeline. Read out the cards and see what was happening in the world. What social issues recurred through the decades? Group the cards to show this. Which issues did the CST documents address? Which social issues do groups think should be the subject of the next encyclical?

Full house

Each individual/group sorts all the cards into sets of eight cards for each value by working through each set. Compare choices between them. Justify choices. Notice the overlaps.

Scenarios

Each individual/group chooses one scenario card, reads it and discusses the questions. People then feedback presenting their decisions (possibly as a drama or a cartoon) and explaining which CST value or values it illustrates. Can they think of similar situations where the value has come to the fore and what happened? Would they change anything and if so, what?

Conclusion: Are there practical steps arising from any of the exercises you have chosen? Invite group members to share.