

Theme of the Week - Jesus' brothers and sisters

In our Gospel reading on Sunday, Jesus says something amazing. As he sits teaching, surrounded by a large group of people from all different places, families and backgrounds, all eager to hear him teach about God, he tells them that he counts each one of them as a member of his family - God's family! And that makes all of us in the Church part of the same family. Our distinguishing family likeness is how well we obey God by living the way Jesus has taught us. Think back to the Catholic Social Teaching principle introduced last week, can you remember what it is called and means?

Being in solidarity is recognising others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for good. By coming together in hope as individuals, families, communities, organisations and nations, we can achieve transformative change for the common good. When we unite and make a stand for what we believe in, we can achieve remarkable things. *Pope Francis said, "We are a single family dwelling in a common home."* Fratelli Tutti, 17

In the Gospel reading on Sunday, Jesus looks at those around him with the same kind of love and affection that he holds for his own family. He recognises that God's love is beyond the ties of blood and genes. Spiritually we are all bound together as members of God's great family, as close to Jesus as his own family. What distinguishes us as members of God's family is the family likeness of doing God's will - living the loving way.

We all have the experience of living as members of a family. Some of us may have many brothers and sisters where others of us may have few or none. Some may have a wide and extended family that we see often, where others of us may only have a small family that we only see on occasions. Reflect on your own family, who are you close to? Is your experience of family life reflected in how you feel being a member of God's inclusive, welcoming, healing Church that longs to heal the rifts and overcome the divisions and separations we encounter in the world?

Pope Francis said *"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security...while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: 'Give them something to eat' (Mark 6:37)."* Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 4.

In Solidarity with all of our brothers and sisters, how in your life have you tried to help those most in need? How have you seen others try to help those most in need? What can you go on to do to help others in the future?

Jesus' brothers and sisters

Weekly Reflections
9th June 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark 3:20-35

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either - it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.' His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

We thank you for calling us together in this place as part of your great family. Let us look after our brothers and sisters in Christ in fellowship with you and one another.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Catholic Social Teaching



Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity

Please watch the video on the next slide showing an example of what the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Solidarity means? Then reflect on the questions you answered for Day 3.

With this in mind, how can we as a school community be more in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the world? Think not only about charitable causes but also economically, socially, technologically and politically.

How can we be more:

Grateful and generous

Day 1

Why do you think Jesus counts us all as his brothers and sisters and we are all one family?

What Catholic Social Teaching principle were we introduced to last week and how does this relate to the Gospel?

Day 2

What is truly meant when we say being in solidarity with our brothers and sisters?

How do you demonstrate the love God's shows us to all those around us but especially those most in need and in poverty?

Day 3

With the CST principle of solidarity in mind - what have you done in St Joseph's or your primary school to help others?