

INTRODUCTION

Pope Francis has instituted a new 'World Day of the Poor', inviting us "to embrace the culture of encounter" and to understand that sharing with those living in poverty "enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel".

In his message for the first World Day, to be celebrated on 19 November this year, Pope Francis asks all of us, whatever our means or background, to unite in love, in acts of service to one another and in genuine encounter.

HE EXPLAINS

“ It is my wish that ... Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance.”

**POPE
Francis**

Resources have been prepared by Caritas Social Action Network to assist parishes in celebrating the World Day of the Poor within the Sunday Liturgy, and encouraging an encounter with people living in poverty.

Prayer cards are available to download and print to support the parish community to engage with the day. There are also postcards to encourage people to consider how they commit to action. Ideas of how to use these cards are contained in these notes. (Print quality files of both cards are available on the website to send to online or local printers).



Also within the following pages you will find brief notes for the homily, a newsletter insert, prayers of intercession and testimonies. Notes for Children's liturgy, audio visual resources, further homily notes and newsletter inserts, faith sharing material and more are available on the Caritas website: www.csan.org.uk/worlddayofthepoor

We hope the resources will help your parish to accept the invitation of Pope Francis to create moments of encounter and action with those living in poverty, as you celebrate the World Day of the Poor.

CREATING ENCOUNTERS

At the heart of Pope Francis' invitation to celebrate this new World Day of the Poor is his desire to create genuine moments of 'encounter'. The online resources include testimonies to allow people to encounter real stories of those experiencing poverty:

- A short audio visual testimony that can be used by parish groups or at a special event you might like to arrange (e.g. in your parish hall after Mass).
- Full transcripts that can be read aloud during a Liturgy or another event.

“

I thought I had no life. I thought this was the end. Because I was walking the streets. Since 2010 I have been evicted from three different places and been in trouble with the police through anti-social behaviour. I was bored. There was nothing else to do.

Cornerstone has been a big help. If it wasn't for them I could have been found in a doorway, either dead or ... I don't know. I come to Cornerstone everyday. They helped me get the place I have now. It's the best thing since sliced bread. If you're on the streets and you need help, come here and you'll get sorted." John - Cornerstone Client

JOHN'S STORY



“

I have been in and out of the care system since I was very young, I fell in with some dangerous people and got hooked into prostitution as a way to make money. I got more into drugs and alcohol, committing various crimes to help support my habit. I was absolutely destitute, dirty and down. I felt lost and trapped in this life style. In and out of hostels and prisons, and sometimes sleeping on the streets.

One day someone told me about a women's centre called women@thewell and how I could get help. I got assigned a named worker there who helped me address problems and helped me to get into accommodation. Now I feel like I have managed to get my act together. I have a studio flat and am starting to build bridges with my family. I want to do some courses so I can maybe get employment."

Louise – supported by women@thewell

LOUISE'S STORY



See www.csan.org.uk/worlddayofthepoor for the a video testimony and full transcripts.

Note: Every parish will include people experiencing genuine poverty, and it is important not to create a sense of 'us and them', but rather a sense of unity. Our communities (parish, local national and overseas communities) all include people of different experiences, which shared together will enrich us all.

THE PRAYER CARD AND 'MOMENTS OF ENCOUNTER' POSTCARD

The double sided prayer card includes a 'Community Prayer of Faithfulness' that you may want to use with the parish as part of your Sunday Liturgy. Use the community prayer alongside the 'Moments of Encounter' post card. **The Post Card provides:**

- A short testimony from John to help provide an encounter with a real story from someone living in poverty. Others are available online to read during your Liturgy.
- A response card to help parishioners discern how they might choose to encounter and walk with those experiencing poverty.

Suggested use of the cards: At the end of the homily, invite the congregation to pray the 'Community Prayer of Faithfulness'. Then invite everyone to explore ways to encounter and walk with those experiencing poverty. Parishioners can indicate their interest on the post card and return it as they leave. Someone from the parish team can then be in touch with ideas of how they can get involved. An 'Ideas for Action' sheet is provided for download from www.csan.org.uk to support you in responding to parishioners who return the card.

IDEAS FOR THE HOMILY

First Reading All of us are called to achieve what the perfect wife achieves: to bring about the common good. How might we become more loving and open our "hand to the poor", reach out "to the needy"?

Second Reading Destruction comes without warning. Many people who experience poverty never imagined it could happen. They may lose their job, discover they are at their credit limit., or be someone who suddenly needs to flee their home country to escape violence. But we are not in darkness! We are called to share the light of the Gospel. The light we shine will reveal Christ, present in those we serve.

The Gospel The 'currency' in the parable could be read as the faithfulness of the first servants, to use what they have for the happiness of the master. The work of the servants that is praised. And to the lazy servant who had 'nothing' - no faithfulness - even what he has will be taken away. The currency of the kingdom of heaven is about what we have been given, that can be put to good use, to produce an abundance for others. given gifts at the service of others? Full homily notes can be found online

www.csan.org.uk/worlddayofthepoor

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These intercessions are offered to supplement other intentions, including those for the sick and deceased of the parish. (Download and edit full prayers: www.csan.org.uk/worlddayofthepoor)

- For our Church; that we may discern what it is to be a poor Church for the poor. May we have the courage to respond to the 'cry of the poor' by addressing the underlying issues of social and economic injustice that lead to poverty.
- For all leaders in society; that they will open their eyes to the needs of people living in poverty and use their influence for the good of all.
- For our parish community; that we may work to create a place of welcome and encounter for all people, especially those experiencing poverty.
- For those living in poverty in our community, and in our world; that they may be provided with food and shelter, education and health care, and that they will feel the love of God.

NEWSLETTER

This Sunday is the first 'World Day of the Poor'. Pope Francis has instituted this new day as a way of inviting us to understand that sharing with those living in poverty "enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel".

In his message for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis asks all of us, whatever our means, to unite in love and in acts of service to one another. He explains: "It is my wish that ... Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance." Please consider how you can create moments of encounter and friendship today. Please also take a Prayer Card away with you and keep all those experiencing poverty in your prayer.

A selection of inserts including a longer 'call to action' are provided at www.csan.org.uk/worlddayofthepoor

HYMN IDEAS

Tell out my soul - Timothy Dudley-Smith

Bread for the world - Bernadette Farrell

The cry of the poor - Jong Foley

Make me a channel of your peace - Sebastian Temple

My soul is filled with joy - The Magnificat

MORE LITURGY RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE

- Notes for your Liturgy Preparation Teams
- Children's Liturgy notes
- More Hymn ideas
- Symbolic catechesis suggestions

OTHER MATERIALS PROVIDED ONLINE INCLUDE:

- Frequently asked Questions about the World Day of the Poor
- Say it with your Life: Six faith-sharing sessions exploring the principles of Catholic social teaching, provided by the Diocese of Westminster. The resources use the readings for the six Sundays preceeding 19 November, and are ideal for groups to use to prepare for the World Day of the Poor. The sessions focus on: the Dignity of the Human Person, the Option for the Poor, Community and Participation, the Dignity of Workers, Solidarity and Peace, Care of Creation.
- Catholic social teaching resource – from the diocese of Middlesbrough, exploring the history and content of CST.
- Prayers about poverty from SVP and CAFOD.