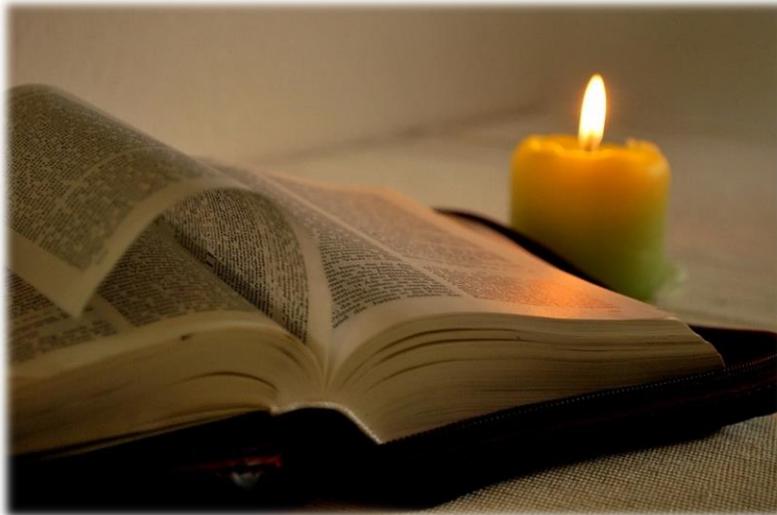

Catholic Social Teaching (& Thinking) Book Club

*“When we pray, we speak to God; but when
we read, God speaks to us”*

St Jerome



*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love
tenderly and to walk humbly with your God*

Micah 6: 8



Blessings on this shared journey



CST (& Thinking) Book Club

Suggestions to use a Book Club Framework to discuss Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

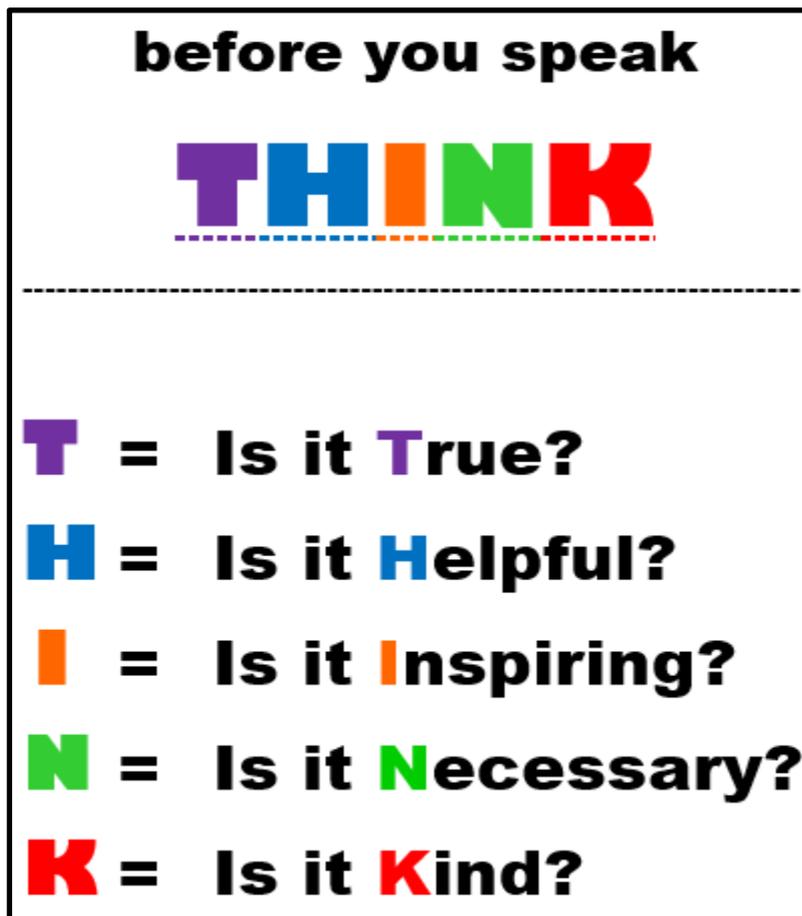
- (1) Within your parish – promote through the parish bulletin & website
- (2) Within a parish zone hub – for greater collaboration
- (3) Within your workplace agency and/or
- (4) Within your family

*So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see,
everything has become new!*

Corinthians 5:17

Considerations:

With Jesus central to our thoughts, feelings and actions (head, heart and hands), and through a process of prayerful discernment, we are called to 'read the signs of the times' through the See-Judge-Act process: That is, we are called to See with the eyes of Jesus; to Judge (or Assess) a situation or issue with the heart of Jesus; and to Act as Jesus would today.



CST (& Thinking) Book Club

Actions before (preferably) the book club discussion group/gathering (or at initial sessions):

Read and reflect on the JEDO resources for **Parish Social Justice Action Groups (PSJAGs)**:

- Setting the Scene (1)
- Getting Started (2)
- Reading the Signs of the Times (3)
- Social Justice in Other Parish Ministries (4)
- Strengthening Your Group (5)

Questions/Reflections - for discussion:

- What Scriptural references resonated strongly with you? Why do you think?
- What quotes, statements or actions inspired or challenged you? Why do you think?

Read and reflect on the JEDO resources for **PSJAGs to Zone Hubs**:

- Collaborative Social Justice Action (6)
- Missionary Discipleship (7)

Questions/Reflections – for discussion:

- What Scriptural references resonated strongly with you? Why do you think?
- What quotes, statements or actions inspired or challenged you? Why do you think?

At the CST discussion group - using a book club framework:

1. Begin and end the session with a prayer (share this role each session)
2. Welcome and introductions (consider ice-breakers and/or energiser activities) – share the leader role
3. Identify shared values and expectations (this could be done as an activity - have a scribe to note these)
4. Outline ground rules (based on shared values such as dignity and respect – have a scribe to note these)
5. Outline and discuss key Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and Thinking Principles
6. Consider the resources and books to explore collectively through the lens of faith
7. Have various Bibles available for Scriptural reflection and discernment of the Word to discuss and ‘read the signs of the times’

*“Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us;
choosing gratitude until we are grateful; and praising God
until we ourselves are an act of praise”*

Richard Rohr

CST (& Thinking) Book Club

“What unites us is much greater than what divides us”

Pope St John XXIII

CST and Thinking Principles – Starting Point:

- Dignity
- Common Good
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity
- Preferential Option for the Poor (Marginalised & Vulnerable)
- Human Rights (Responsibilities & Obligations)
- Care of Creation & Ecological Stewardship
- Peace-Making
- Distributive Justice
- Participation
- Restorative Justice
- Integral Ecology

Considerations – Other JEDO Resources:

- ***Key Concepts of Catholic Social Thinking***
- ***Sevens*** – for PSJAGs etc
- ***See, Judge, Act*** – A reflection/action process for decision-making
- ***A Scriptural Guide to Justice***

JEDO website: www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au

NB: 4 x JEDO Newsletters/year available online (via the JEDO website). They highlight various social justice issues that could lead to deeper reflection/discussion within your group.

NB: Other resources are available in the *Parish Resources* section (and other tabs).

It is He (Christ Jesus) who is our peace

Ephesians 2:14

“If you want peace, work for justice”

Pope Paul VI (World Day of Peace Message, 1st January 1972)

CST (& Thinking) Book Club

“I keep six honest serving men, (they taught me all I knew):

Their names are What and Why and When,

and How and Where and Who”

Rudyard Kipling (from ‘Just So Stories’, 1902)

Considerations:

WHAT	WHY	WHEN	HOW	WHERE	WHO
<i>Resource(s) or Book(s)</i>	<i>Questions</i>	<i>Date & Time</i>	<i>Resources Required</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Host</i>
Papal Documents	Theological Reflection	Meet How Often?	Lap-top &/or Projector	Parish	The Session
ACBC (& Archdiocesan) Papers	Prayerful Discernment	Determine Session Length	Seats & Tables	Zone Hub	Lead Prayer(s)
Chapter(s)	‘Signs of the Times’	Meet in Morning?	White Board (& pens)	Workplace Agency	Lead Activities
Quote(s)	See	Meet over Lunch?	Butcher’s Paper etc.	Home	Lead Reflections
Reflection(s)	Judge	Meet in Afternoon?	Music	Community Centre	Scribe
Scripture Reference(s)	Act	Meet in Evening?	Consider Light Refreshments (Hospitality)	Other	Set-up & Clean-up Room

“...just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul”

Pope St John XX111

CST (& Thinking) Book Club

*There are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek,
slave and free, male and female, but all of you
are one in Christ Jesus*

Galatians 3: 28

Considerations:

Ways of Working Together:

- Prayerful
- Reflective
- Co-operative & Collaborative
- Listen Attentively
- Respond/Share Respectfully
- Encourage Participation from All (but respect boundaries)
- Discourage One Speaker Domination (unless the session leader)
- Leave Space for Contemplation/Silence

Other Helpful Resources:

- **Social Justice Statements (and other resources) from the ACBC:** Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (via the ACSJC: Australian Catholic Social Justice Council)
NB: *Building Bridges* – Social Justice Statements from ACBC from 1988 to 2013; Social Justice Diary (annual); Justice Trends Briefings; Issues Papers and more
www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au
- **Caritas Australia:** www.caritas.org.au/learn/catholic-social-teaching
- **Catholic Earthcare Australia:** www.catholicearthcare.org.au
- **Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM):** <https://catholicclimatemovement.global>
- **Papal Documents:** Encyclicals, Apostolic Exhortations, Papal Messages (E.g.: World Day - of Peace; for the Poor; for Migrants and Refugees; Human Trafficking)
<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

*“Silence of our eyes; Silence of our ears; Silence of our minds;
in the silence of our heart, God will speak”*

St Mother Teresa

CST (& Thinking) Book Club

*“Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall
emerge into the light”*

Helen Keller

Considerations:

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

- What do people often say are the characteristics of a Christian/Catholic? What do you think?
- What is the Holy Spirit asking of us/you at this time?
- What are you looking for in the Church in Australia? Is it to be more inclusive and welcoming; joyful/engaging; missionary; pastoral; prayerful and discerning; synodal?
- How can we ensure Jesus is central to our thoughts, feelings and actions?
- How can we keep our faith ‘ever new’?
- How can we better incorporate Catholic Social Teaching and Thinking into our lives?
- How can we better accompany and support those who are vulnerable and marginalised?
- How can we better recognise the inherent dignity and worth of everyone – including those considered different or ‘other’?
- How can we be service and justice-focused?
- How can we be better recognised as people of faith, gratitude, passion and hope?

Social Justice Suggestions - Starting Point:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders** (ATSI) – First Australians
- **Care of Creation** (Ecological Stewardship) – Laudato Si’ inspired actions
- **Homelessness** (housing challenges)
- **Human Trafficking** (and slavery-like conditions) – ACRATH: Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans <https://acrath.org.au/>
- **Imprisonment** (including addressing the over-representation of ATSI peoples)
- **Mental Health Challenges** (Co-morbidities e.g.: addiction and homelessness)
- **Migrants, Refugees and Seekers of Asylum**
- **Peace-Making** (Just Peace; Non-Violence)
- **Poverty and Social Disadvantage**
- **Support for the Ageing**
- **Varying Abilities** (intellectual and physical)

*“Be who God made you to be
and you will set the world on fire”*

St Catherine of Siena

CST (& Thinking) Book Club

*“God does not look at the action but the spirit motivating it;
and He will judge and reward us accordingly”*

Catherine McAuley

Considerations:

Possible Prayers:

- **Prayer of St Francis of Assisi** – Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace
- **The Prayer of St Oscar Romero**
- **A Prayer for Our Earth** – Pope Francis (*Laudato Si'*)
- **Social Justice Statement Prayers** (via ACSJC website)

Ice-breaker Activities:

- **Introductions:** (1) Attach an adjective that characterises you to your name e.g.: generous Gina; helpful Harry; funny Fred; joyful Jenny etc (go around the group – use these at the whole session for the Book Club gathering/conversation if possible)
- (2) Sit next to someone you haven't met before – tell them your name, favourite colour or song; and some hobbies – both share and then report back to the group about the person you've just met – introduce your new friend to the group (sharing their interests)
- (3) Seating plan (preferably in a circle) – ask people to seat themselves down alphabetically according to their name or sequentially according to the month of their birth etc.

Energiser activities:

- Have various (1) *quotes* (e.g.: from saints or faith leaders; on leadership or values) or (2) *prayers* placed around the room and ask people to get up and stand next to the one that (a) resonates or (b) challenges them the most – explain why (share with the person next to you or the whole group); then return to your seats and continue the session.
- Go outside to a garden if possible (preferably with a partner) and explain/share what lifts your spirits from nature/creation (e.g. a rainbow; or sunny day; butterflies; flowers etc). This can be shared with the larger group if wanted. Return to your seats and to your Book Club.

*“The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw and
knew I saw God in all things and all things in God”*

St Julian of Norwich



Blessings on this shared journey

