



WHAKAKĀHORETIA TE KAIKIRI.
KOTAHI ANŌ TĀTOU I ROTO I TE KARAITI.

**SAY NO TO RACISM.
WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST.**

LITURGY RESOURCE



SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK
TE WIKI O TE WHAI TIKA
4-10 SEPTEMBER



AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development



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What is Social Justice Week?

He aha tēnei mea te Wiki o te Whai Tika?

Social Justice Week/Te Wiki o te Whai Tika was established by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference in 1997 as an ongoing commitment in the Catholic calendar to consider, reflect and take action on a particular current social justice issue in light of Catholic social teaching.

Social Justice Week 2022 focuses on racism, the need to reject it in the Church and in society, and to uphold the human dignity of every person, recognising that we are called to be 'one in Christ'.

How to use this booklet

Me pēwhea te whakamahi i tēnei pukapuka

This booklet is to help parish priests, parish leadership and liturgy committees include the Social Justice Week theme in their Sunday celebration and activities during and beyond the week.

We understand that parishes will choose to take some ideas and leave others, or come up with new ones entirely. Ultimately, we hope that each parish can continue to share the gift of the Church's social teaching with their community – both in formation but more importantly in action.

We urge you to use and read this Liturgy Resource in conjunction with the associated Reflection Booklet for Social Justice Week 2022. The Reflection Booklet provides in-depth resources to reflect and act on racism.

For more resources on the theme and Catholic social teaching, please visit our website at www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week. These can be used for discussion groups, social justice groups, and personal use.



Social Justice Week 2022 September 4-10

Statement from the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand

Say No to Racism: We are one in Christ

Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan in answer to the question: “Who is my neighbour?” The word “neighbour”, in the society of Jesus’ time, usually meant those nearest us. Jesus, himself a Jew, completely transforms this approach. He asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbour, but rather that we ourselves become neighbours to all. – Fratelli Tutti, (80) Pope Francis

The parable of the Good Samaritan causes us to reflect on how we see ourselves in relation to other people – particularly those whose language or culture may be different from our own. Jesus radically transforms the old way of seeing and understanding things. He greatly enlarged the meaning of the word “neighbour”. This has profound implications for who we see as our neighbour both in Aotearoa New Zealand and throughout the world.

This year for Social Justice Week we ask Parishes to pray and reflect on racism in ourselves as individuals, in our Church, in our communities and in the world around us. Just thinking about racism is not enough. We need to be working on the unconscious racism in us all. Accordingly, we invite Parishes to take considered actions based on their prayer and reflection. The topic of racism is not one which can be dealt with in just one week. Our hope is that Social Justice Week will provide an opportunity to focus on this issue, to learn together, to undertake respectful dialogue that leads to real awakening and change in the months and years ahead.



Te Tiriti acknowledges the special place of the Māori people as tangata whenua – that is the indigenous People of the Land. They understand the Treaty to be a covenant and a taonga tapu (a sacred treasure) which guarantees reciprocal rights and obligations between the Crown and Māori. History shows that the promises of 1840 have not been consistently upheld and that the Māori partner has suffered grave injustices. What is worse, is that the State has often deprived Māori of many of the promised guarantees.

We live in a land with a lot of diversity, and most people embrace this. But we can all have racist ways, even subconscious ways of thinking that can be racist. We are also reminded that other people have also been subjected to abhorrent expressions of racism in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Dawn Raids, the Poll Tax and the Christchurch Mosque shootings are just three examples of race hate directed towards Pasifika, Chinese, and Muslim New Zealanders.

In Galatians 3:28 St Paul writes “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

The Church believes “the equality of all people rests essentially on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it: Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, colour, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God’s design”.
CCC 1935

All people have equal dignity because they are made in the image of God. For those of us who follow Christ we are to love one another as sisters and brothers from the wide variety of cultural backgrounds from which God has called us. This is not to deny our cultural backgrounds. Far from it! It is to make our own unique contribution, out of who we are and where we are from, towards the wider family of Christ. Let us join together to make apparent the call to really be “one in Christ”.



For Social Justice Week this year Caritas has produced a Reflection booklet which may be used for individual reflection and for small group conversations. It may be helpful for Parish Leadership teams, Liturgy Committees, Social Justice groups, Diocesan Justice, Peace and Development Commissions and the wider community.

The Synodal process we are working through in response to Pope Francis invites us to join in a dialogue that will take us forward synodally in harmony. This is very timely for Social Justice Week and beyond. We hope each parish will engage with the challenging topic of Racism and that such respectful conversations will prompt thoughtful and prayerful actions of justice based on Gospel values. Dealing with racism is an important starting point for the journey ahead for us, for our Church and for Aotearoa New Zealand.

- ✠ John Dew, Cardinal Archbishop of Wellington, Apostolic Administrator of Palmerston North and NZCBC President
- ✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin
- ✠ Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch
- ✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland, Apostolic Administrator of Hamilton and NZCBC Secretary
- ✠ Paul Martin SM, Coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington.



Celebration: Ideas for Mass

Te Whakanui: He Whakaaro mō te Miha

Social Justice Week Sunday – 4 September 2022

Please make use of the following options and adapt them as necessary for your local parish context.

Welcome *He Mihi*

Suggested text that the person welcoming people to Mass may wish to use:

Today marks the beginning of Social Justice Week, a time when the Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand ask us to reflect and act on a particular social issue in the light of Catholic social teaching. This year, we are asked to stand against racism and for the dignity of all peoples, recognising we are called to be one in Christ, regardless of skin colour, ethnic background or appearances.

Pope Francis has said, “Diversity is a beautiful thing when it can constantly enter into a process of reconciliation and seal a sort of cultural covenant resulting in a ‘reconciled diversity.’” In Aotearoa New Zealand, Te Tiriti o Waitangi offers a basis for all people to find their true dignity and home here.





Prayer of the Faithful *Ngā Īnoinga a Te Hunga Whakapono*

Feel free to choose any of the suggested intentions below. Adapt or supplement them to reflect the needs of your community.

Leader: *E te Ariki...* **All:** *whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

E te Ariki ...

We pray for Pope Francis, Bishop N, our priests and parish leaders, and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and courage to speak for those whose voices have been marginalised and to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

We pray for our nation, and all nations of the world: for peace and unity across barriers of language, colour, and creed. We pray for elected and appointed leaders, that they would work to free the oppressed and serve the common good. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

We pray for this community: for our local leaders, our schools, workplaces, and our neighbours. Help us to see all people as you see them – your children equal in dignity and made in your image. Give us a spirit of hospitality, especially towards those different from ourselves.

We pray for those in any kind of need or trouble: for those who suffer from racial discrimination and prejudice; for those who are disadvantaged because of historic and ongoing injustice; for those who are lonely, and those who have been marginalised because of the colour of their skin. Awaken in us a spirit of compassion and humility as we seek and serve Christ in all people.



Readings and Gospel Reflection

He whakaaroaro mō ngā Tuhituhinga Tapu me ngā Rongopai

2022 Social Justice Week Sunday | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1st reading: *Wisdom 9: 13-18b*

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 90: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17.*

2nd reading: *Philemon: 9-10, 12-17*

Alleluia: *Psalms 119; 135*

Gospel: *Luke 14: 25-33*

Feel free to use the homily notes below in whatever way is helpful.

Homily notes for Gospel and readings for 2022 Social Justice Week Sunday – *Provided by Msgr Gerard Burns, Vicar-General Archdiocese of Wellington*

In any congregation in Aotearoa New Zealand there may well be people who have suffered from racism and discrimination as well as people who have benefitted from their social position and the colour of their skin. The preacher himself or herself may be in either of those two categories or, in some cases, have had the experience of both situations at different times. For preaching on this topic there is a special call for the preacher to think about his/her own experiences and social position. Starting with an example of racial or religious discrimination can bring some clarity as to what is being talked about.

The homily should bring recognition and hope to those who have experienced racism and bring challenge and points for action for those benefitting from racism and discrimination. This year's social justice week aims to help us recognise racism when it occurs, remind us of how much it runs counter to the teaching of Jesus, and point to



ways of changing the attitudes and structures that perpetuate such inequality.

The second reading offers a possible scriptural entry. Paul's letter to Philemon is very short but powerful. Paul writes to Philemon to ask him to accept back Onesimus the slave. The Roman empire depended on the work of slaves at all levels – not just for manual labour but also for professions such as accountancy and medicine. Slaves were considered property, had no legal personhood and were rarely freed even if, in some families, a slave might become a treasured part of the family. Slavery is not condemned as a structural injustice in the Bible, nor for a long time by the Church, but the biblical roots of its condemnation lie in the teachings of Jesus and the approach outlined in Philemon.

Paul does not tell Philemon to free Onesimus but to treat him as a brother, the equal of Paul himself. Paul identifies with Onesimus as his own child and heart, asks Philemon to welcome Onesimus as he would welcome Paul, to treat Onesimus as a brother. Paul is asking for a change of attitude, a conversion in Philemon, equivalent to the conversion required of people trapped in racist attitudes. But it is not simply attitudes that need to change but also the systems built on those attitudes. Those systemic changes require the careful planning Jesus speaks of in the Gospel. This work is a way to 'take up the cross' and follow him.

Living the gospel fully will not always be easy, some of it means confronting evil, including the evil rooted in daily and often unacknowledged practices, words, organisational structures. These structures include the ones that exclude people on the basis of their skin colour, ethnic background, language patterns or countries of origin. Confronting and changing this requires solid preparation, organisation, 'taking up one's cross'.



Parish Newsletter/Notices

Ngā Niupepa ā-Pārihi/Ngā Pānui

You may wish to use this text as a notice in your newsletter or bulletin:

Social Justice Week: 4 –10 September 2022

**Whakakāhoretia te kaikiri.
Kotahi anō tātou i roto i te Karaiti.
Say no to racism. We are one in Christ.**

Diversity is a beautiful thing when it can constantly enter into a process of reconciliation and seal a sort of cultural covenant resulting in a ‘reconciled diversity’.

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013), #230

Each year, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference give us Social Justice Week to consider an issue of social justice in Aotearoa. This year the theme is about standing up to racism and for the dignity of all people. May we be strengthened and encouraged **to resist evil and speak out against hatred that would pull others down because of appearances or cultural background.**

For resources and more information visit
<https://caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week>.



Posters and Reflection Booklet

Ngā Pānui Whakaahua me

We invite you to put the **SJW 2022 poster** up two weeks before Social Justice Week, which takes place on 4-10 September this year.

We have supplied two sample copies of our **Social Justice Week reflection booklet** for use in your parish by individuals or groups.

More copies can be ordered by phone: 04 496 1742 or email: caritas@caritas.org.nz.

Digital copies can be downloaded from our website.



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Liturgy of the Word with Children

Ko te Ritenga o te Kupu me ngā Tamariki

Introduction

This year in Social Justice Week we are looking at how we are one human family. People who are different to us are still people who are loved by God. It is wrong to tease people because of the way they look, the colour of their skin or the way they talk. God loves all people and so should we.

Reading

Let us listen to the Holy Gospel according to Luke. *Read Luke 14:25-33.*

Reflection Questions

- What things might distract you from prayer or doing what God requires?
- What does it mean to be willing to carry our cross and follow Jesus?
- What sort of things might we need to start doing or stop doing to be better followers of Jesus?





Prayer of the Faithful with Children

Leader: *E te Ariki...* **All:** *whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

We pray Lord, that you help us to respect all people especially those who might be different from us.

We pray for people in our school, community, friends and family: may they see each person as God sees them – very precious and valuable – made to be like God. Help us all to show mercy, peace and love for one another.

We pray for the Church throughout the world: may we be an example of God’s love in our world, spreading peace, speaking out for what is right and bringing comfort to those in need. We pray especially for those who are treated unfairly because of the colour of their skin or the language they use.

Take Home Activity

Further prayers and activities to help children engage with Social Justice Week are available at: <https://caritas.org.nz/schools/social-justice-week>.



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