



## Scripture

**Old Testament:** "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" Isaiah 58:6-7 from The Poverty And Justice Bible, Catholic Edition

**New Testament:** "...for labourers deserve their food." Matthew 10:10.

## Catechism

"Social justice comes about where the inalienable dignity of every person is respected and the resulting rights are safeguarded and championed without reservation. Among these is also the right to active participation in the political, economic, and cultural life of the society." YOUCAT #329

## Comment

Whilst many consumers may be wise in avoiding the more obvious scams when shopping, some may still be unaware that the purchases that they are making are either providing little benefit to the producers or, in a worst case scenario, actively keeping structures of exploitation, oppression and slavery in place. During Lent, as we recall the Exodus from the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, please remember those around the world who are trapped in economic slavery from which liberation seems far away.

## Organisation of the month

Transform Trade, formerly Traidcraft Exchange, seeks to empower producers by embedding social justice in the supply chain. Justice in trade is the rallying cry for this and other organisations in the Fairtrade movement. Visit <https://www.transform-trade.org/> for more information.

## Pray, Think, Act

**Pray:** that God the Father, in the name of His Son Our Lord Jesus Christ may, by the power of the Holy Spirit and with the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians, empower you to empower others by supporting ethical consumer choices.

**Think:** How you would feel if you were 'ripped-off' when making a 'one-off' purchase? Now imagine that you are the producer, persistently getting less than you are owed for your work. What is your reaction?

**Act:** Visit <https://www.transform-trade.org/> about how you can donate.

*"Do as much as you can. God will do what we ourselves cannot do."  
St John Bosco, Letter to Cagliero, November 13, 1875*