



Scripture

Wash, make yourselves clean, take your wrong-doing out of my sight. Cease to do evil. Learn to do good, search for justice, help the oppressed, be just to the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us talk this over, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. *Isaiah 1:16-18 from the Breviary*

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing ... *Matthew 25: 35-36 from the Poverty & Justice Bible, Catholic Edition.*

Catechism

Therefore what is needed today is not just the strengthening of transnational political institutions, but also the initiatives of individuals and social groups that are active economically in the poorer regions of the world, not primarily for the sake of profit, but rather out of a spirit of solidarity and love. *YOUCAT #447*

Comment

The ancient tradition of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent continues to encourage Christians to reflect upon their relationship with God and neighbour, an external sign of an internal conversion of heart.

Organisation of the month

Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual event that takes place during the last week of February and the first week of March. Fairtrade seeks to tackle economic barriers to equity whilst promoting justice for individuals and communities by working for minimum prices for produce such as tea, coffee, sugar, bananas, cotton, cocoa, gold as well as crafts by local artisans. The work of The Fairtrade Foundation, Traidcraft and Shared Interest (an ethical investment co-operative), promotes the Fairtrade initiative and raises awareness of the need for it.

Think, Pray, Act

Pray: that God the Father, through His Son Jesus Christ, may inspire you by the Holy Spirit to connect with poorer communities in the developing world, that justice may “roll down like the waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream” *Amos 5: 24, Poverty and Justice Bible, Catholic Edition*

Think: In these straitened times, making small changes to our buying habits – switching to Fairtrade brands of goods that we would normally buy – can really make a difference to communities around the world that are also suffering from the effects of Coronavirus Covid-19.

Act: Visit www.fairtrade.org.uk, www.traidcraft.co.uk or www.shared-interest.com for creative ways in which you can make a difference to the lives of others. The Fairtrade Foundation has an activity for younger supporters (5- 25): find out how your creativity can highlight and articulate hope for the future: [visit that page here.](#)

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