

# Pope for a day

In this worksheet you will look at how some current global issues affect poor communities in developing countries.

You will explore statements by Pope Francis, and write your own 'papal' statement on global issues.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To have gained a deeper understanding of the Church as a global family
- To have considered how issues affect communities overseas and the poorest most of all
- To have experienced the challenge of writing for a global Church containing people with diverse needs and opinions.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Newspapers / access to online news
- Bible
- Film clips from CAFOD's website
- Pope Francis quotations

## Starter

**Duration:** 5 minutes

Using the newspapers/web, produce a list of the main issues in today's world. This could be done by cutting out a headline or article, highlighting the issue with a marker pen and placing it on a larger sheet of paper.

Examples of current global issues are the refugee crisis, conflict, the climate emergency, conflict and pandemics.



Photos: CAFOD/Caritas Internationalis; David Mutua

# Activity 1

## What should a Pope be saying?

**Duration:** 25 minutes

To learn how some issues affect people around the world, go to

[cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Pope-for-a-day](http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Pope-for-a-day)

to watch film clips<sup>1</sup> about:

- **Kenya: helping people out of poverty** (2:15)
- **Bolivia: the melting glacier** (1:24)

In both cases, poverty contributes to the problem.

Why is this?

If you were Pope, receiving reports from bishops in these countries, what would you say to the Church and the world about these problems?

What does a Pope have to consider when he teaches?

For example, being faithful to Catholic teaching even when speaking to non-Catholics, and considering the poorest first—known in Catholic Social Teaching as the 'option for the poor'.

He also needs to encourage and challenge, be an authority figure yet non-political, and be aware of differing priorities in different countries.

Look at examples on page 4 of what Pope Francis has said about some of the world's problems and what we should do.

### THINK:

Any reactions? What would you have said?

<sup>1</sup>More films are available at CAFODtv on YouTube

## Activity 2

### Pope for a day

**Duration:** 20 minutes

Choose one current world issue, eg. conflict, racism or hunger.

You are Pope for a day!

Prepare a papal statement that explains what the Church has to say about the issue.

Your statement should include:

- a description of the problem and some of its causes
- how the problem affects people's lives, especially the poorest people
- what our attitude should be to this problem and to those affected
- a quote from a Gospel story that backs up your argument (eg. Jesus talking to/helping non-Jews, feeding the hungry, speaking about love, or a story that Jesus told about the end of time).
- a sentence summarising your message and a call to action.

## Plenary

**Duration:** 10 minutes

Send the statement to your teacher to add to the others from your classmates to formulate your class 'encyclical'.

If you are working together live on Zoom or Microsoft Teams, you could 'proclaim' your encyclical, by each reading out your paragraphs in sequence.

Start your proclamation with:

*"To our brother bishops, priests and deacons, men and women religious, all the Christian faithful and all people of good will".*

End with:

*"Given in [place], on [day, month, year]"*.

## Follow up

- If this exercise leaves you with any questions about aspects of Catholic teaching, ask your teacher if the class can discuss these at another session.
- Perhaps you could publish your completed encyclical in your school newsletter!

Arms trade  
Biodiversity Climate change  
Conflict Consumerism Environment  
Fair Trade Globalisation HIV & AIDS  
Human rights Hunger & Poverty  
Racism

# Pope Francis quotations

*“Inequality is the root of social ills.”*

*Evangelii Gaudium, 202*

*“The dignity of each human person and the pursuit of the common good are concerns which ought to shape all economic policies.”*

*Evangelii Gaudium, 203*

*“Interreligious dialogue is a necessary condition for peace in the world, and so it is a duty for Christians as well as other religious communities.”*

*Evangelii Gaudium, 250*

*“Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start...”*

*Laudato Si’, 204*

*“The organisation of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story.”*

*Fratelli Tutti, 23*

*“An interdependent world... motivates us to ensure that solutions are proposed from a global perspective, and not simply to defend the interests of a few countries. Interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan.”*

*Laudato Si’, 164*

*“We can aspire to a world that provides land, housing and work for all. This is the true path of peace...”*

*Fratelli Tutti, 127*

*“Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.”*

*Laudato Si’, 30*

*“Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.”*

*Evangelii Gaudium, 187*

*“We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.”*

*Laudato Si’, 229*

*“Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also today’s poor, whose life on this earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting.”*

*Laudato Si’, 162*

*“Today we state clearly that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible’ and the Church is firmly committed to calling for its abolition worldwide.”*

*Fratelli Tutti, 263*