

Pope for a Day



You will need

- Newspaper headlines
- Debt animation and Laudato Si' animation on CAFOD website
- Key quotes

Starter (5 mins): Current global issues

Find some examples of current global issues in the newspapers or make a list of topical global issues. These might include the refugee crisis, conflict, the climate emergency, conflict or pandemics etc. During the Jubilee year, CAFOD are specifically looking at international debt as a global economic issue.

Main (20 mins): What should a Pope say?

Pope's are known for writing three types of letter;

- A papal bull (an announcement on certain issues like a Jubilee or a canonization)
- An apostolic exhortation (to discuss Biblical teachings and doctrines)
- An encyclical (to discuss a moral issue).

These are written to give teaching and guidance to Catholics around the world. The last Papal Bull was called Spes Non Confundit. Pope Francis called on Catholics to celebrate the Jubilee year as Pilgrims of Hope. He asked Catholics to focus on the issue of International Debt.



A famous papal statement written by Pope Francis' was Laudato Si' in 2015. You can watch our explainer animation. He challenged Catholics to care for Our Common Home by taking action on climate change.

You are Pope for a day! Prepare a statement, similar to an encyclical, that explains what the Church has to say about one of the chosen global issues. 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.

Outcome (5 mins)

'Proclaim' the statement! 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]".

Top tip: If working in a group, each group member could take one of the first four bullets and spend ten minutes writing a rough draft before the group comes together to write its final sentence



What next?

Take action and respond to a papal statement by taking part in CAFOD's Jubilee Debt Campaign. Watch the animation on our website and learn more about this economic scandal which leaves 3.3 billion of our brothers and sisters trapped in debt cycles. Cancel debt, Choose hope! More information at cafod.org.uk/jubilee-campaign-schools