



Little acts, great love, big difference



St Catharine's
Chipping Campden



St Joseph's
Nympsfield



Catholic School of St Gregory
The Great, Cheltenham



St Peter's
Gloucester



The Rosary
Stroud



St Thomas More
Cheltenham

HUMAN DIGNITY

We believe every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. This is a gift that we all share as fellow human beings; we are all infinitely loved by our Creator. God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect.

The most fundamental Catholic Social Teaching principle is the dignity of the human person. Because each person is created in the image and likeness of God, each one has a transcendent dignity that can never be taken away, even if it is not always respected. People are always more important than things. People must never be treated as a means or an instrument to be used for the benefit of another.

Our human dignity gives rise to human rights. Each person is equal in dignity and rights. In the same way, every human community, every race and culture is equal in dignity and rights. The human family is one because we are all children of the one God.

Human dignity emerges neither from what people accomplish or own, but because we are created in the image and likeness of God. Consequently, every person is worthy of respect simply by virtue of being a human being. People do not lose the right to being treated with respect because of disability, poverty, age, lack of success or race, let alone gain the right to be treated with greater respect because of what they own or accomplish. As Catholics, we believe that it is this Catholic Social Teaching principle that is the foundation and inspiration of our vision for a just and compassionate world and this is why we care for the vulnerable and make sure that we do all we can to help everyone know that they matter, from conception right through until natural death.



"We can look to Pope Francis as a role model for promoting human dignity.

When he was asked to share his views about gay clergy, Pope Francis responded 'Who am I to judge?' Ask yourself: How many times do you look at people and make judgements before you've even taken the time to get to know them? Perhaps we could all learn to judge slower and understand each other more deeply.

When showing us how to give homeless people what they need, he said before you give them food, clothes, money or drinks, look the person in the eye, ask them their name and then give them things to help them. This shows you don't only care about giving but about the person you're giving to. Could you model this to your children? "

Human dignity is the same for all human beings: when I trample on the dignity of another, I am trampling on my own.

— Pope Francis —



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Tips to help you promote Human Dignity as an adult...and ideas about how to model this to your child/ren:

Some top tips to help you promote Human Dignity:

- Treat everyone with respect even if they have different opinions or ways of life to you.
- Actively listen to other people and try to understand them better. Have empathy for their position.
- Support equality and inclusion (some of the visuals on here might help you understand this better).
- Apologise and make amends where necessary.
- Celebrate and honour diversity.
- Encourage self-worth and confidence in others.
- Stand up for human rights and the fair treatment of all. At the moment this includes giving proper consideration to your stance on the assisted suicide bill which many in the Church say does not have sufficient safeguards to protect life. More information about these arguments can be found here: www.notdeadyetuk.org/mps.

These illustrations give some really easy ways to talk through situations with your family and figure out what you would do if you were living out the principle of Human Dignity.

They can also help our understanding as adults too!

