

## Acts of Worship

**NB:**

**One of these worships could directly link to harvest if your school is holding a Harvest Mass/collection.**

**Virtue: Responsible Citizenship**

*I show love for my neighbour through my actions*

Gathering together

Focal point:

Circle of friends candle holder

Prepared 'love' words

Introduction

Today we are going to talk about 'love'. Ask the children to think about someone they love. We love our families, our friends, we love God.

Explain to the children that in the Bible the Greek word for love can be translated in four different ways. Show the cards, explaining each:

Eros – romantic love, like we see when a couple gets married

Philia – love of your friends

Storge – love of parents for their children/ family

Agape – God's love of mankind

Agape defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. It is the divine love that comes from God. Agape love is perfect, unconditional, sacrificial, and pure. This is the kind of love that we are asked to have for our neighbours.

Today we are going to listen to the Bible, where Jesus gives us a special commandment, to love each other.

Word:

John 15:12-17

My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. This, then, is what I command you: love one another.

## Acts of Worship

### Response to/reflection on the Word

Jesus is asking us in this reading to love each other as God loves us.

This is about showing each other kindness and patience. It is about forgiving each other's mistakes and sharing what we have.

A definition of love must start with God. Love that is genuine comes from God because "God is love" (1 John 4:16).

### Reflection:

How do I show love for my neighbour?

How do I serve others?

### Going forth

How can you show love to others today? What other virtues can you demonstrate that show your love?

### Ideas for music:

'Let there be love shared among us'

'Bind us together'

Acts of Worship



EROS



PHILIA

Acts of Worship



**STORGE**



**AGAPE**

# Acts of Worship

## **Virtue: Responsible Citizenship**

*I show love for my neighbour through my actions*

### Gathering together

Focal point:

Circle of friends candle holder

Cross/crucifix

Liturgical cloth

Basket of paper hearts to write on at the end

Have PPT of St Teresa ready to view, or the quotes printed out to show the children.

Discuss what St T says about how we should treat others. How does this relate to the discussion about love from the previous week? She shows great 'agape' love – love and care for others and encourages others to do the same.

Today we are going to listen to what St Paul says about love, how without it, we are nothing.

### Word:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned—but if I have no love, this does me no good.

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

Love is eternal. There are inspired messages, but they are temporary; there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease; there is knowledge, but it will pass. For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.

Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.

## Acts of Worship

### Response to/reflection on the Word

Think about what St Paul said about love. He says it is 'eternal', It is 'patient and kind', it 'never gives up'.

St Teresa tells us that love has no meaning if it is not shared. It has to be put into action.

How can you put your love into action this week? What small things can you do with love?

### Going forth

Ask the children to take a heart out of the basket as they leave and draw or write one thing they will try to do this week to show love to their neighbour.

### Ideas for music:

'Oh Lord all the world belongs to you'

'When I needed a neighbour were you there?'

'We are one in the spirit'

# Acts of Worship

## Virtue: Responsible Citizenship

*I show love for my neighbour through my actions*

### Gathering together

Focal point:

Circle of friends candle holder

Cross/crucifix

Liturgical cloth

### Introduction

Have PPT about the Pope ready to view, or the quotes printed out to show the children.

Discuss what Pope Francis says about how we should treat others. What does being a 'responsible citizen' mean? A citizen is a member of a community.

Being a responsible citizen means you want to play your part within your school, workplace or neighbourhood. You are committed to finding ways to help your community, seeing each person in your community as your neighbour. You put your faith and love for others into actions.

How does this relate to the discussion about love from the previous week?

Today we are going to listen to how Jesus asks us to treat others.

### Word:

Matthew 5:1-12

Read the remaining parts of the PPT that has the words of Jesus followed by an explanation for the children – you could ask a child or another adult to help you read the different parts.

### Response to/reflection on the Word

What does these sayings of Jesus mean for us as responsible citizens? Jesus asks us to be humble and kind, He asks us to reach out to others to comfort them, to work for justice in our world, to be merciful, to search for what is good and to be peacemakers. All fo these actions show our love for others.

Play gentle music.

Ask the children to reflect on just one of these. How can they be peacemakers? How can they show gentleness? How can they show kindness? How can they work for justice?

## Acts of Worship

### Going forth

Think back to the slide where Pope Francis says:

*'To live as true children of God means to love our neighbour and to be close to those who are lonely and in difficulty.'*

How can we be children of God this week? Ask children to try to do one thing this week to be a good neighbour.

### Ideas for music:

'Jesus says love everybody'

'The love I have for you'

'We are the Church'

'A new commandment'



# Pope Francis



What does Pope Francis say about being a responsible citizen?

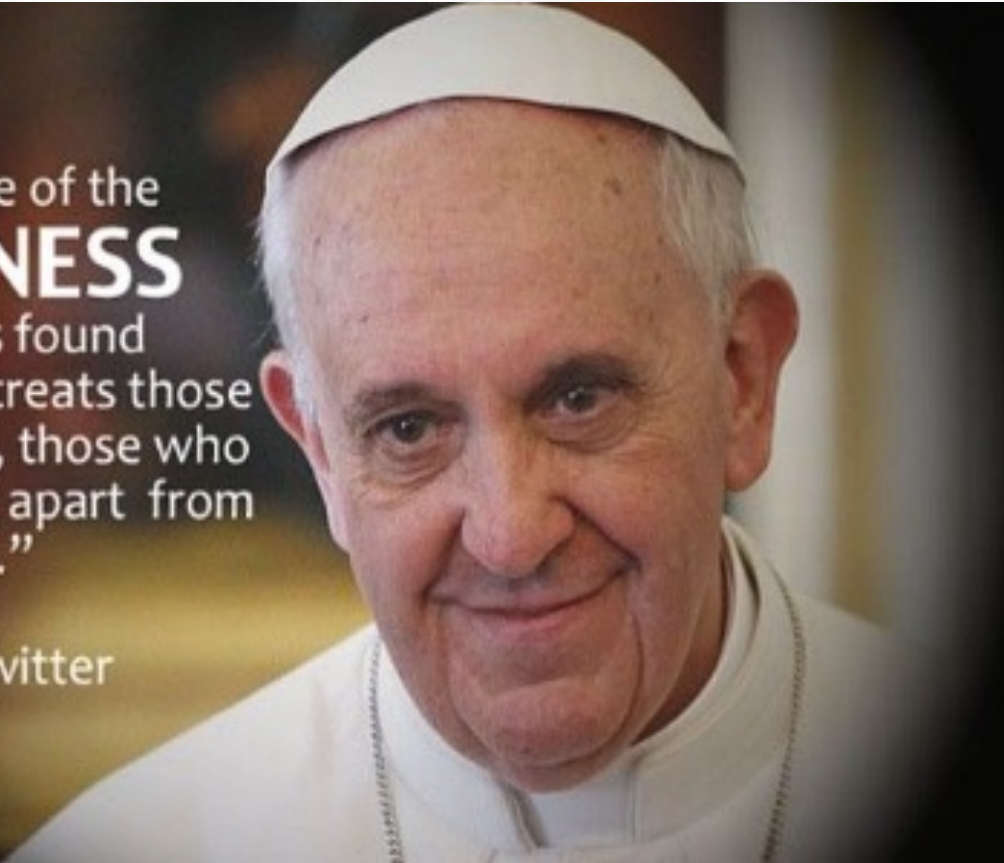


“The measure of the  
**GREATNESS**

of a society is found  
in the way it treats those  
most in need, those who  
have nothing apart from  
their poverty.”

Pope Francis

July 25, via Twitter



To live as true children of God means to love our neighbour and to be close to those who are lonely and in difficulty.

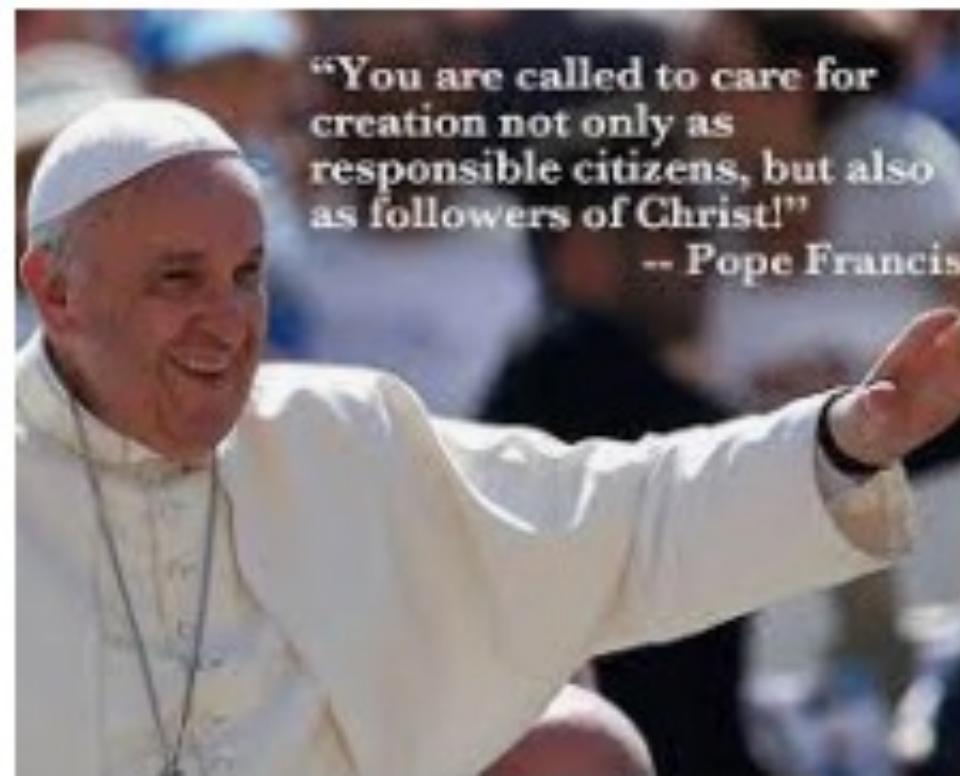






People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens.

— *Pope Francis* —





# The Beatitudes





In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus spoke to His disciples on the Sermon on the Mount. He spoke about what the Kingdom should be like.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven



*You will be blessed when you  
have an open and generous  
heart,*

*When you share what you have  
with other people.*

*God will be very close with you.*

Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted



*You will be blessed when you reach out to those who grieve, When you make friends with those who are sad and lonely. God will be there to comfort you.*

Blessed are the meek, for they  
will inherit the land.



*You will be blessed when you are gentle.*

*When you treat others with kindness and patience.*

*God will give you all you need.*

Blessed are they who hunger  
and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.



*You will be blessed when you  
work for justice.*

*When you respect and stand up  
for the rights of others.*

*God will give you life to the full.*

Blessed are the merciful, for  
they will be shown mercy.



*You will be blessed when you  
forgive others and don't hold  
grudges.*

*You will find God ready to  
forgive you.*

Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they will see God.



*You will be blessed when you  
desire what is good.*

*When you always search for  
what is good, you will find God  
in all around you.*

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children  
of God.



*You will be blessed when you are a peacemaker.*

*When you try not to let a quarrel even begin or are the first to say sorry, you will be known as children of God.*

Blessed are they who are  
persecuted for the sake of  
righteousness, for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.



*You will be blessed when you  
are made fun of for doing what  
God wants.*

*When people laugh at you for  
living in God's way,  
Know that you are very close to  
God.*

# St Teresa of Calcutta





Mother Teresa, also known as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, was an Albanian-Indian Catholic nun who, in 1950, founded the Missionaries of Charity. She is known for how she served others and encouraged others to do the same.

What does St Teresa of Calcutta say  
about love?



If you **judge** people, you  
have no time to **love them**.

- Mother Teresa



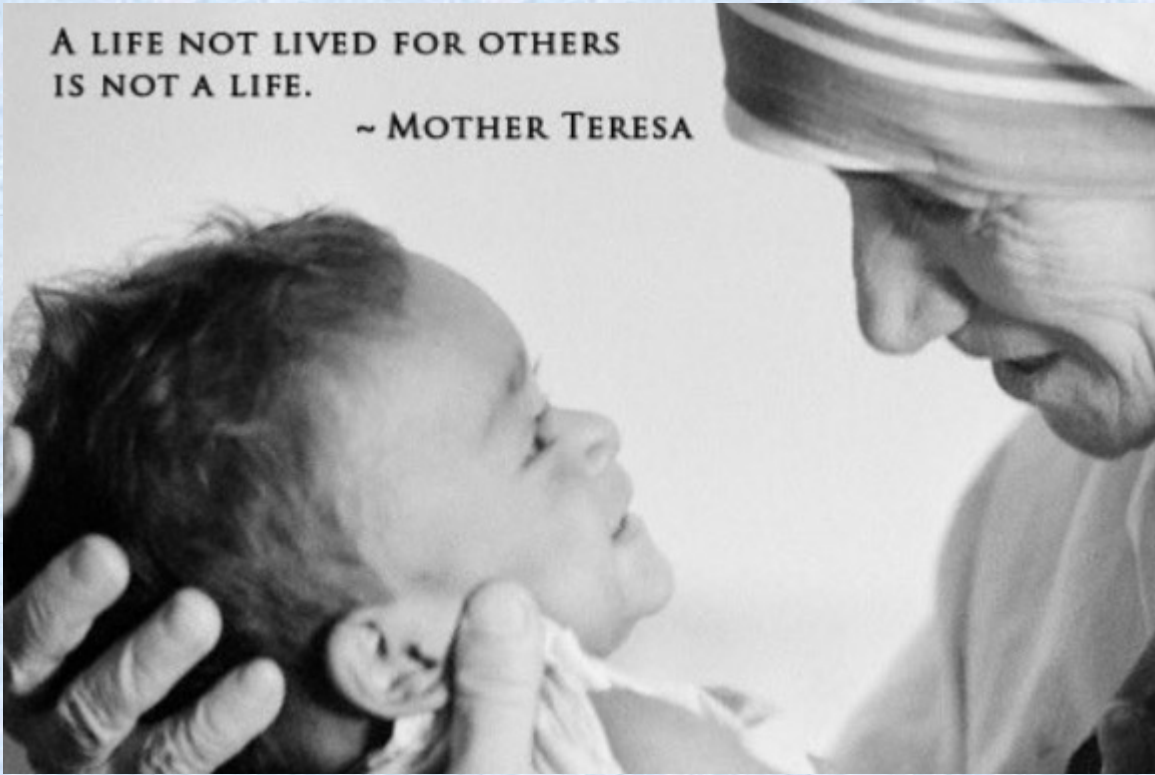
It's not about **how much** you do,  
but **how much love** you put into  
what you do that **counts**.

- Mother Teresa



A LIFE NOT LIVED FOR OTHERS  
IS NOT A LIFE.

~ MOTHER TERESA



**"At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in."**

- Mother Teresa



**“Go out into the world  
today and love the  
people you meet. Let your  
presence light new light in  
the hearts of people.”**

*~ Mother Teresa*



**LOVE HAS NO MEANING  
IF IT ISN'T SHARED.  
LOVE HAS TO BE  
PUT INTO  
ACTION.**

*mother teresa*

