



SCHOOL ACT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FOR LENT 2012 – SOCIAL COHESION.

This is one of 5 outlines for Collective Worship written to help schools pray and give towards the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2012 to support our link dioceses in Zimbabwe and social outreach in Southwark

A service of thanksgiving for Diocesan church schools' contributions to the appeal will be held at Southwark Cathedral 11-00.a.m. on 25 April 2012. To book places, please contact:

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FOCUS: THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL COHESION AND HELPING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SOUTHWARK.

It is recommended that schools display Lent Call pictures and information provided by Southwark Diocese.

THEME: THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL COHESION.

Ask the pupils have they ever heard the words "It's not fair!" Maybe they've said them before themselves!

What have they thought about before that's not fair? Why was it not fair?

Another word for fairness is justice, so a word for unfair is unjust.

Explain to the pupils that there are many injustices in the world, in our country and, indeed, in our diocese.

Can pupils think of any injustices that people whom they know suffer?

Jesus was in favour of justice and tried to right wrongs, he tried to make things fairer for everyone.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have been given a commandment from Jesus to care for others less fortunate than ourselves.

Social cohesion involves reaching out to other people to help build a sense of family and community for those who have suffered unfairness and those who are not as fortunate as us.

This is the message that we have been given from Jesus, to reach out and care for people who, perhaps, some other people and society have forgotten about.

In the Diocese of Southwark every year we collect money in the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call to help those less fortunate than ourselves, particularly for projects that care for others and working for social justice in Southwark, reaching out to make things fair and better for people.

Why is it important to care?

By raising money to make their lives better, what do the pupils think that the people whom we are reaching out and showing care to will feel?

What are these actions showing and teaching all people about the Christian message?

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.

The righteous will then answer him, "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?"

The King will reply, "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!" (Matthew 25: 35-40.)

Thinking about this reading from the Bible, what have the pupils learnt about how to live that they will remember all their lives? Why is this lesson important to remember all their lives?

How does this relate to helping people in Southwark and other people in our society?

Song: "When I Needed A Neighbour." (Come and Praise, BBC.)

We can use the words as a prayer for our brothers and sisters in Southwark. We are raising money for social outreach because there are people in our diocese who face daily struggles and difficulties in their life. We can give money and we can pray for God's help.

Dear God, we pray that the Lent Call project will help the people of Southwark with the difficulties that they face. We pray that all people who face struggles and difficulties in their life will learn that you can be a close friend to them and may they see your love for them by the actions of people showing care.

We pray that they will draw near to you and learn to trust you in everything. Amen.