

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POST-PRIMARY RESOURCE

‘The word of God is like the light of the sun, it illuminates beautiful things but also things which we would rather not see.’ (St Óscar Romero)



Mural of the Virgin Mary holding the Baby Jesus and the word of God in the parish church in Ishiara, Kenya. Photo: Gary Moore

Justice Prayer

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord we ask you to guide our hearts and minds, teach us to know and love you through word and action, guide us in our search for justice for all. Amen.

Reflect & Meditate

‘Each one of you must be a microphone of God, each one of you must be a messenger, a prophet.’ (St Óscar Romero)

- Photocopy all of the quotes on page 2.
- Cut out and fold up each quote and place in a basket / box. Make sure there is one for each student in the class.
- Light a candle and play some music. See song suggestions below.
- Pray the Justice Prayer aloud (see above). Pass the basket with the quotes around and invite each student to select a quote.
- Encourage each student to take a minute or two to reflect and meditate on the quote.
- In groups, invite the students to share and discuss their quotes. Invite the students to ask themselves the following questions:
 1. What does this quote mean to me?
 2. How can I live out or respond to this quote in my life?
 3. Compare and contrast their quotes with each others quotes.
 4. Looking at all the quotes, are there any common themes or messages?

Extension Activity

Invite the students to research their quote.

Bible Quotes: Look up the quote/ line of scripture in the Bible and read the passage surrounding the line of scripture. Select one or two more lines of scripture from the passage.

Saint Quotes: Look up the quote and read about the life and works of the saint. Find some more quotes from the saint.

Pope Quotes: Look up the quote and try to find out when, where and why the Pope said the quote.

Invite the students to summarise their findings and share with the rest of the class.

Create a Bookmark

Give each student a bookmark (see templates on page 3). Or invite each student to create their own bookmark out of recycled paper or card.

- Invite the students to write their quote in decorative handwriting on their bookmark.
- Decorate using coloured pencils or markers.
- Play music while the students create their bookmarks.

Songs

Search for the following songs online to play:

Matt Maher: ‘Lord, I Need You’

Audrey Assed: ‘Restless’

Matt Maher: ‘All the People Said Amen’

Selah: ‘I Will Carry You’

QUOTES

Photocopy and cut out quotes. Make sure there is one per student.

<p>'The ones who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless.'</p> <p>(St Óscar Romero)</p>	<p>'Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right.'</p> <p>(Psalm 106:3)</p>	<p>'He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'</p> <p>(Micah 6:8)</p>
<p>'If you judge people, you have no time to love them.'</p> <p>(St Mother Teresa)</p>	<p>'You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.'</p> <p>(Psalm 18:28)</p>	<p>'And now the three remain; faith, hope, love but the greatest of these is love.'</p> <p>(1 Corinthians 13:13)</p>
<p>'Let us not grow weary of doing good.'</p> <p>(Galatians 6:9)</p>	<p>'Peace is a product of justice and love.'</p> <p>(St Óscar Romero)</p>	<p>'True worship is to work for justice and care for the poor and oppressed.'</p> <p>(Isaiah 58:5-7)</p>
<p>'God will carry you through the storm.'</p> <p>(Isaiah 43:2)</p>	<p>'But let justice roll on like a river righteousness like a never-failing river.'</p> <p>(Amos 5:24)</p>	<p>'It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts.'</p> <p>(St Mother Teresa)</p>
<p>'Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.'</p> <p>(St Mother Teresa)</p>	<p>'The Lord has loved me so much: we must love everyone ... We must be compassionate!'</p> <p>(St Josephine Bakhita)</p>	<p>'I alone cannot change the world, but I cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.'</p> <p>(St Mother Teresa)</p>
<p>'Charity gives but justice changes.'</p> <p>(Isaiah 58:1-10)</p>	<p>'Learning to think rigorously, so as to act rightly and to serve humanity better.'</p> <p>(St John Paul II)</p>	<p>'A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.'</p> <p>(Pope Francis)</p>
<p>'None of us can think we are exempt from concerns for the poor and for social justice.'</p> <p>(Pope Francis)</p>	<p>'Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.'</p> <p>(Proverbs 31:8-9)</p>	<p>'It is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing.'</p> <p>(St Óscar Romero)</p>
<p>'So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.'</p> <p>(Matthew 7:12)</p>	<p>'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'</p> <p>(Galatians 6:9)</p>	<p>'These are the things you should do: Speak truth, judge well, make peace.'</p> <p>(Zechariah 8:16)</p>

BOOKMARK TEMPLATES

Photocopy and cut out bookmark templates. Make sure there is one per student.

Or create similar bookmark templates using recycled paper or card; e.g. brown paper bags, used envelopes, cereal boxes, old wallpaper, etc.



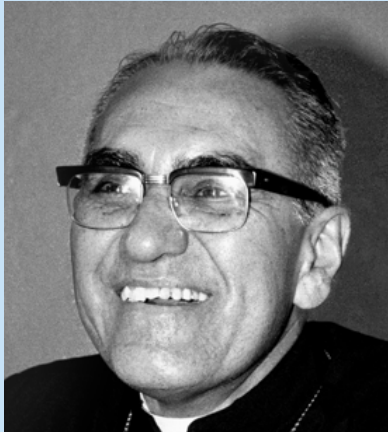
Decoration Tips

- Punch a hole at the top of the bookmark and thread a ribbon or piece of braided wool through, then secure with a knot. Search online for videos on how to create bookmark tassels.
- *Decorate with nature:* Go on a nature walk and collect small wild flowers, leaves and petals. Place between two sheets of paper with some heavy books on top and leave overnight. Use PVA glue mixed with water to glue the leaves, flowers or petals onto your bookmark. Leave to dry and seal with another layer of PVA glue.



ST ÓSCAR ROMERO

'We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.' (St Óscar Romero)



Watch: Animation about the life of St Óscar Romero:
<https://vimeo.com/229680668>

Born: August 1917 **Died:** 24 March 1980 **Canonised a saint:** 14 October 2018

Archbishop Óscar Romero became the voice of oppressed people through his powerful work for justice during the 1970s. He rallied against the political and military human rights abuses of its own citizens and this work ultimately cost him his life.

In 1979, Trócaire began funding the El Salvador Human Rights Commission, which was founded by the Archbishop in response to the shocking murder of eight thousand people. Trócaire continues to fund human rights work across Central America to this day. Archbishop Romero consistently denounced the terrorisation of the people, advocating for social and economic reforms. His murder in 1979 was a reprisal for his unflinching defence of human rights. Pope Francis canonised Archbishop Óscar Romero a Saint on 14 October 2018 in the Vatican in Rome.

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' (St Óscar Romero)

MADRIS' FAITH

Madris' faith is incredibly important to her. When asked how she finds the strength to care for her family in such challenging circumstances, she doesn't hesitate and says, 'I draw my strength from God.'

Her motivation to take care of her family also stems from her faith. She says, 'I get my family values from the Bible, because I am Christian. I pray to God, God helps me to teach good values to my family.'

Prayer is very important to Madris and her family. They end each day with a prayer together. When times are difficult, she will also turn to prayer. 'I have a lot of faith in God and I believe that even the days that I can't pay school fees, I pray to God and he provides.'

Read more about Madris and her family in the *Defending Rights* resource: trocaire.org/education/motherearth/postprimary



Alex, Madris and Joy-Faith, Ishiara, Embu County, Eastern Region, Kenya. Photo credit: Gary Moore

Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

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For more religious education and development education resources visit: trocaire.org/education

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