

# LOVE IN ACTION



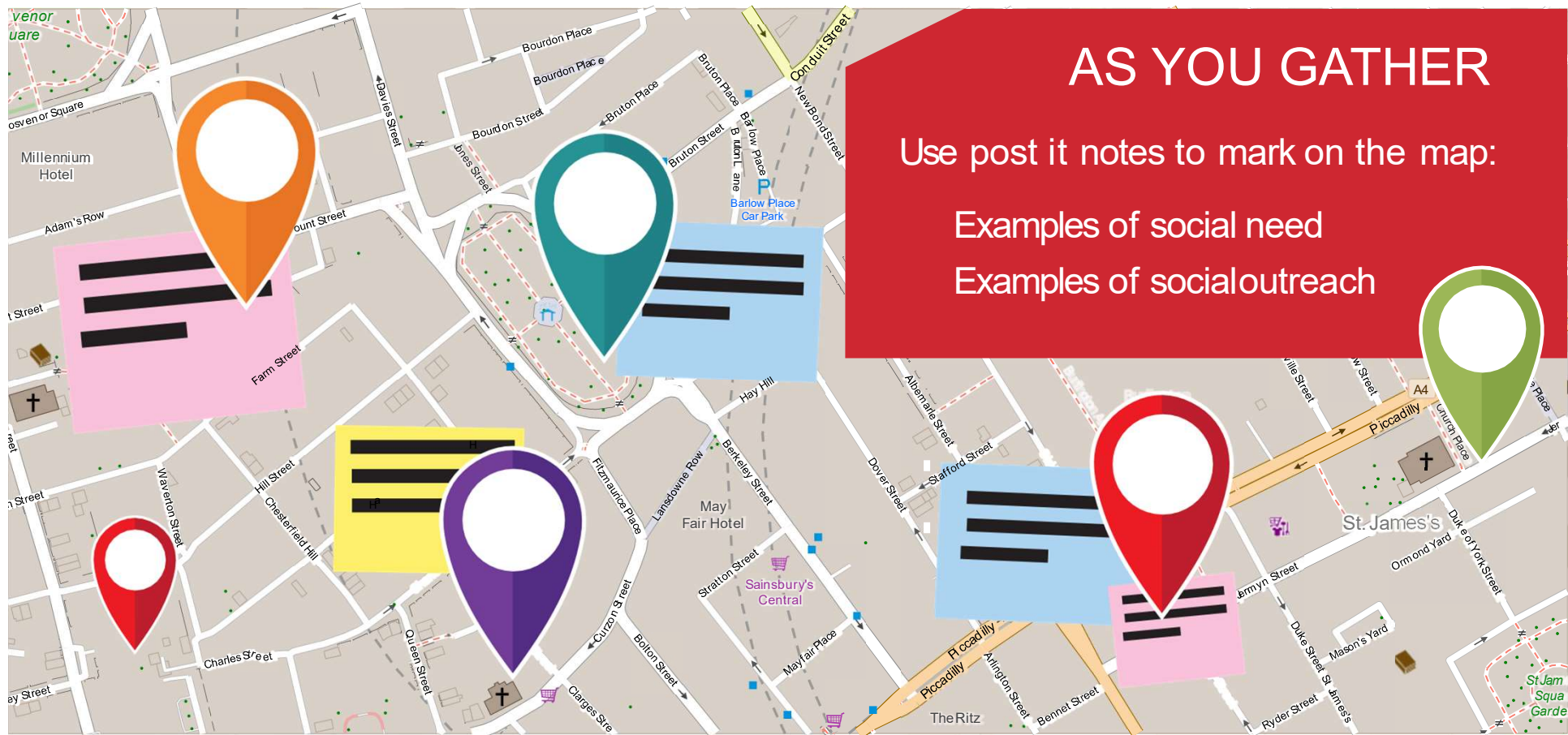
## GATHERING

### AS YOU GATHER

Use post it notes to mark on the map:

Examples of social need

Examples of social outreach





**LOVE IN  
ACTION**

# LOVE IN ACTION

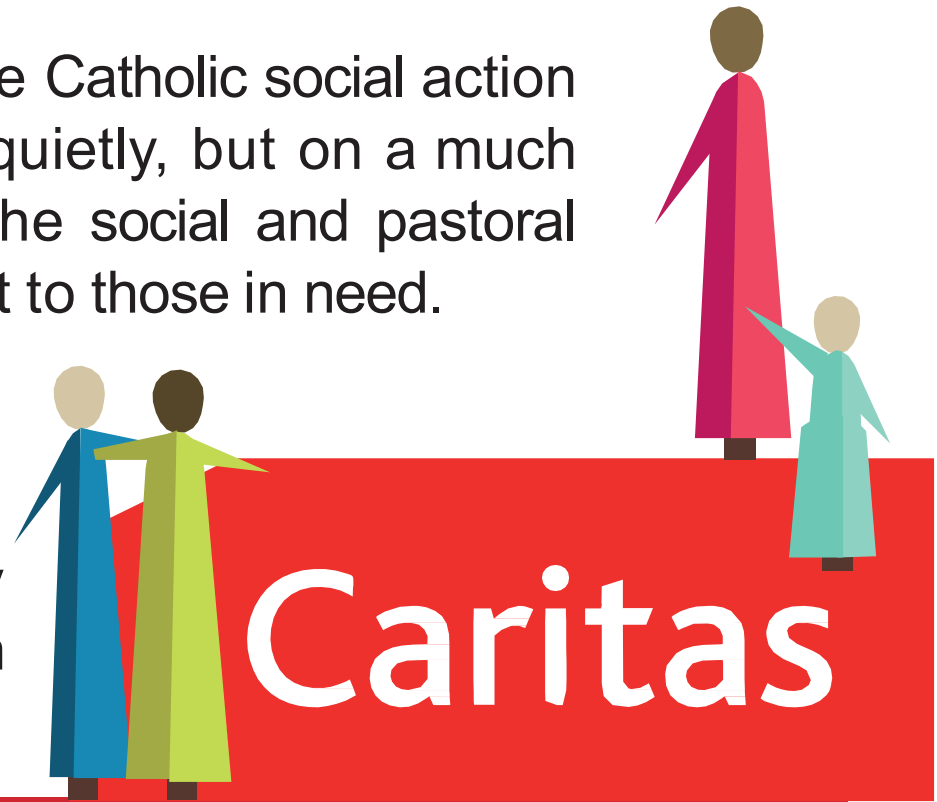


OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

## WELCOME

One of the Church's treasures is the Catholic social action which takes place locally, usually quietly, but on a much greater scale than we realise... The social and pastoral mission of the Church, reaching out to those in need.

We have a word which beautifully describes this practical expression of Christian love...



# LOVE IN ACTION



## OPENING PRAYER



God our loving Father,  
from living stones, your chosen people,  
you built an eternal Church to your glory.

We thank you for the gifts of your Spirit  
that you have given to your Church.

Continue to pour on us your grace, so that  
together we may grow as your faithful people.

Give us eyes to see your Son in others, and a heart  
of love to respond to the needs of our community.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**



# LOVE IN ACTION



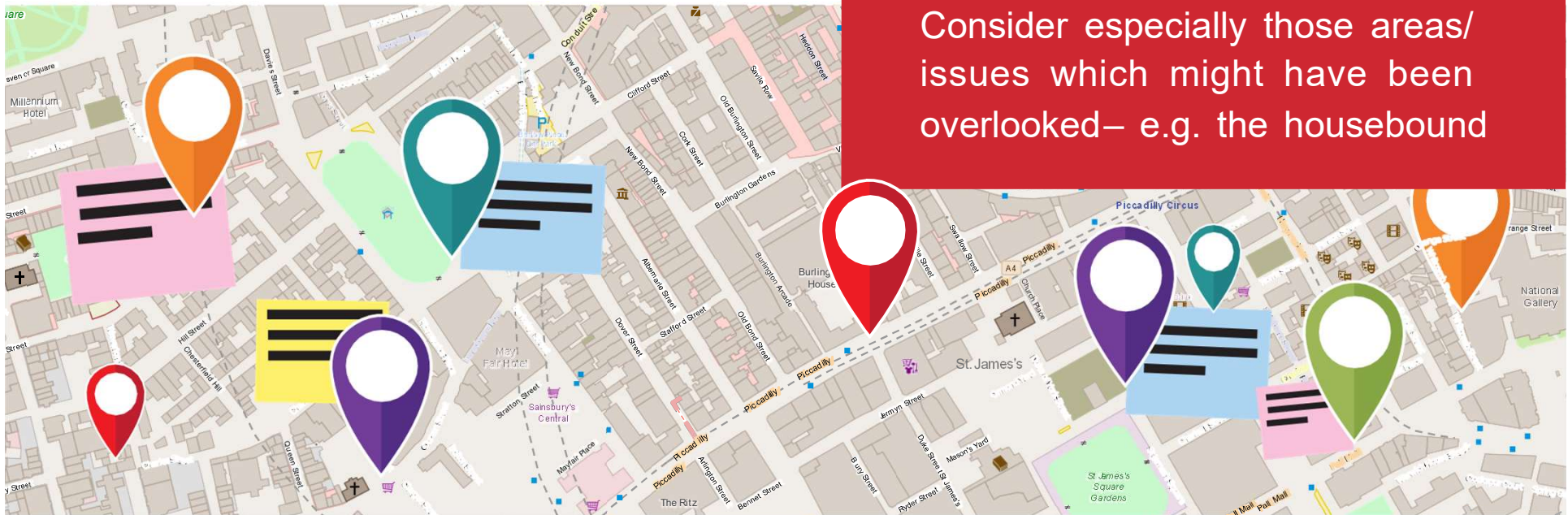
SEE

JUDGE

ACT

COMPLETE YOUR PARISH MAP

Consider especially those areas/ issues which might have been overlooked – e.g. the housebound



# LOVE IN ACTION



SEE

JUDGE

ACT

DISCUSS

What, from the map, do you feel are the most pressing needs?



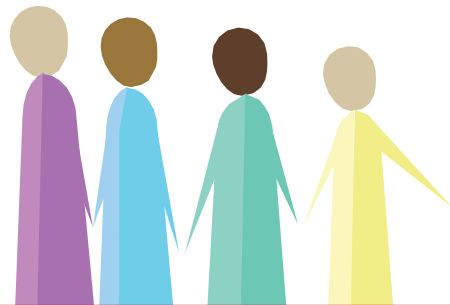
# LOVE IN ACTION



SEE

JUDGE

ACT



IN SMALL GROUPS

What outcomes (change) would you like to see the Catholic community make happen?



# LOVE IN ACTION



## JUDGE

## ACT

## SEE

## THE SIX LOVE IN ACTION GUIDELINES



Read through the six Love in Action guidelines (principles of Catholic Social Teaching).

### THE DIGNITY AND EQUALITY OF EACH HUMAN PERSON

Every human being is seen as equal. They're lovingly and beautifully made in God's image and likeness. The other principles flow from this.

### THE CALL TO PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY

Human beings exist in relation to one another. We're called to live with others, aware of others, communicating, sharing, enjoying moments of joy and being there together in times of sadness. All of us are called to participate, to join in, to work alongside others for the common good of all.

### A PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR

Caring for those living in poverty, both in our local neighbourhoods and throughout the world, is a fundamental duty of us all. However, the preferential option for the poor goes further than this. In the Gospels, time and again, Jesus shows a preferential option for the poor – putting them first, giving them special importance, thinking of their needs and enabling them to have their rightful place in the world. It is not enough simply to think of those living in poverty and try to help them. The voice of people living in poverty needs to be heard. We must enable them to be a full part of the decision making process. We must enable those living in poverty to play a full, active role in society.

### THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The right to work, to have a job, to earn money and so support your family are all connected to the dignity of each individual. Catholic social teaching affirms that human beings are not merely a commodity, a tool as part of a process to make things. Human beings are greater than any thing. They deserve a fair wage and proper working conditions.

### SOLIDARITY AMONG PEOPLES AND THE PROMOTION OF PEACE

We seek the good of one another, aware of our dependence on one another. Pope John Paul II said, "[Solidarity] is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good" (The social concern of the Church, 38). Peace flows from this. We are called to live honestly with one another, working together in love for the good of all. This is what will lead to true peace.

### CARE FOR THE EARTH

God created the earth. Often, the way we treat creation leads to the harm both of it, and of those living on it. Our destruction of the earth for quick gain has repercussions for animals, for ourselves now, and for generations to come. We need to treat the earth with respect.



# LOVE IN ACTION



JUDGE

ACT

SEE

## IN SMALL GROUPS

- Was I aware of these guiding ideas previously?
- How might these ideas provide a framework for action?
- Which of the six guidelines particularly resonate with me?



# LOVE IN ACTION



ACT

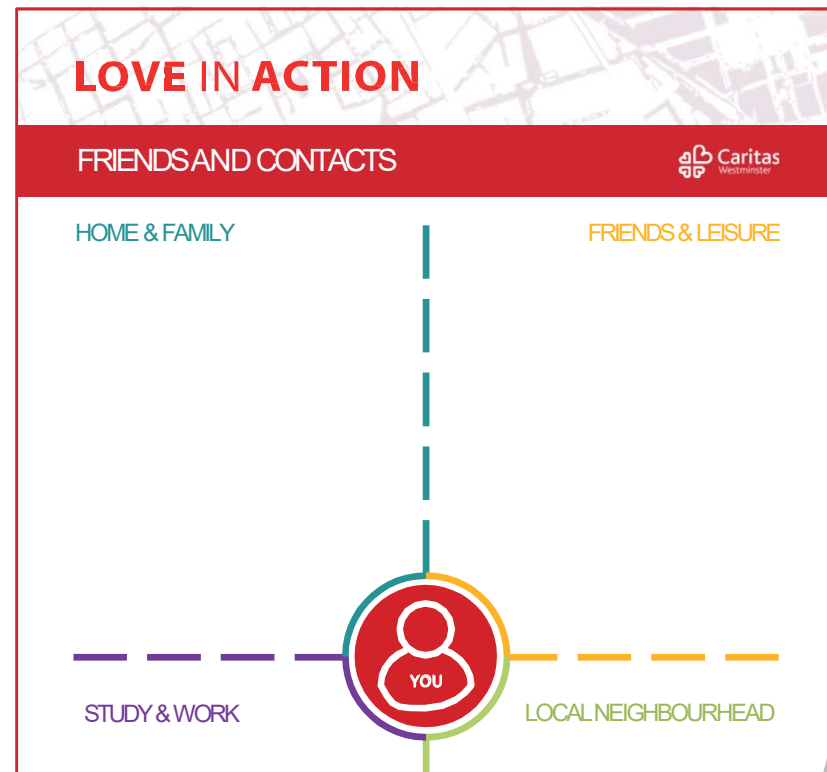
SEE

JUDGE

## PLAN TOGETHER

How can you collect more details about your local community?

Use the 'Friends and Contacts' and 'How 2 Map' sheets. Ask: what are the real issues?



# LOVE IN ACTION



## CLOSING PRAYER



Heavenly Father,

help us to see with your eyes,  
to judge with the loving heart,  
of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
and through your Spirit,  
to put love into action.

Amen.

