



PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR



People living in poverty have a special place in the Church, a concept emphasised by Pope Francis. Not only should we do all we can to help, we also have lots to learn from people living in poverty if we are open to spending time with others, and open to changing ourselves.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ❑ Sadly, there are many people in the world who do not have enough food to eat. Many cannot turn on a tap to get water. People don't have electricity, and so can't have lights, TV and iPads.
- ❑ However, many people have lots and lots of things. They have so much food that they throw food away if they don't want it anymore, even if it's still good to eat. Or if there's a new computer, they throw their old one away and buy a new one, without even recycling it or giving it to charity.
We often want more and more and more, and don't appreciate what we really need.
- ❑ Oscar Romero was a bishop in a country called El Salvador. He stood up for people who were living in real poverty and being treated very badly in his country. Because of this, he was killed by people who thought he was too influential. One of the things he said was, 'aspire not to have more, but to be more.'
- ❑ It's not about what we have which is important, it's about how we treat others.



SCRIPTURE

Blessed are you who are poor, yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 6.20-21

- ❑ Remember the idea of human dignity we've spoken about: how we're all created equally by God and we should respect one another. If someone we know was really hungry, what would we do? We would share. Yet people all over the world, including here in England and Wales, are hungry. People need some of the basics of life, like water, food, clothing, somewhere to live, and yet we forget that they're part of our human family.
- ❑ There are ways we can help, like fundraising, as well as praying for them.
- ❑ Pope Francis reminds us that poor people also have lots to teach us. What are the things which are important to us? What things do we really need? Is it the latest computer game, or is it the friendship of one another, the love of our families, the laughter with our friends?

ACTIVITY

Invite the children to think about what luxuries they have in their lives. How could they live simply for a day (only using pencils, simple lunch etc)?

For the times when we haven't been thankful for what we have. Lord, we are sorry. R/

For the times when we have been wasteful with what we have. Lord, we are sorry. R/

For the times when we have not shared what we have got. Lord, we are sorry. R/

Loving God,
you have created a world with gifts for all people.
Help us to appreciate all that we have,
and to share with those in need. Amen.