

Catholic social teaching

The work of the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission is based on Catholic social teaching. Catholic social teaching builds on the base of Gospel values on the love of Jesus for the poor and his example in reaching out to people who were excluded or outcast. It also incorporates the traditions of the Church in caring for people in need.

Catholic social teaching is a body of formal writings of the church, often dated from Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum* which addressed the gap between the rich and poor in the context of the Industrial Revolution in 19th century Europe. Catholic social teaching applies the church's ethical and moral principles to social and economic issues, giving us guidance on questions about poverty, environmental sustainability, racism, the dignity of life and of work, and our responsibility to work for peace and the welfare of all.

The EJP Commission, and each of its Committees, begins each meeting with prayer and reflection on Catholic social teaching.

Some useful resources to assist study on Catholic social teaching:

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand: <https://caritas.org.nz/catholic-social-teaching>

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/social-action/principles/>

Faith Central: <https://www.faithcentral.org.nz/classroom/thematic-resources>

Catholic Charities USA: <https://www.cctwincities.org/education-advocacy/catholic-social-teaching/>

Loyola University Jesuit Social Research Institute: <http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/catholic-social-thought>