Caritas
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Te Wiki o te Whai Tika
Social Justice Week

# IMAGINE PEACE FOR ALL
POHEWATIA TE RANGIMĀRIE MŌ TE KATOA

Social Justice Week 2023 is taking place from **Sunday 3rd September – Saturday 9th September**. This year, Caritas presents an exciting new initiative: for the first time, Social Justice Week will feature a three-year overarching theme! The theme is Imagine Peace For All, with a focus on building peace and responding to conflict. In today's world, this topic holds great relevance, from a personal level all the way to a global scale. Our aim is to support parishes, schools, and individuals to grow their understanding of peace each year and gain deeper insight into how we can all build peace in our lives.

Catholic social teaching demonstrates that the promotion of peace is an essential component of social justice, based on respect for human dignity, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of human rights. It calls for a transformation of social structures and systems that perpetuate violence, inequality and injustice, and for the promotion of a culture of peace that values dialogue, reconciliation, and nonviolent conflict resolution. By building peace within ourselves and with God, we take the first crucial steps toward cultivating peace in our communities and the wider world.

Personal peace is the focus of this year's resources because, as the Social Justice Week 2023 tagline states, 'Peace begins with you!'. Pope Francis points out that the peace we can give to others does not come from our own abilities but is rather a manifestation of the grace of Christ, which we need to accept into our hearts. Only by understanding and experiencing God's peace within ourselves can we effectively promote peace in our surroundings.
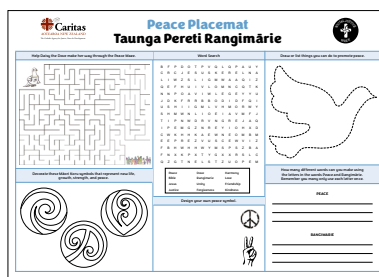
Social Justice Week in Schools

We've created a collection of resources that are ideal for learning about peace as a central component in social justice. These materials will challenge and encourage students and teachers to become peacebuilders, by starting with themselves! These resources include the following items:
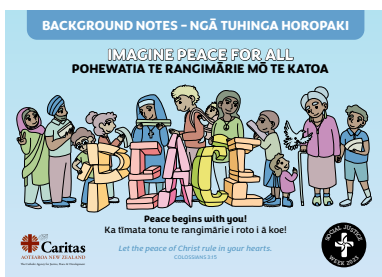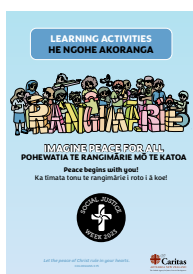
Background notes for teachers

Daily prayers

A peace placemat

Promotional poster and an attachable 'Peace begins with you!' brick
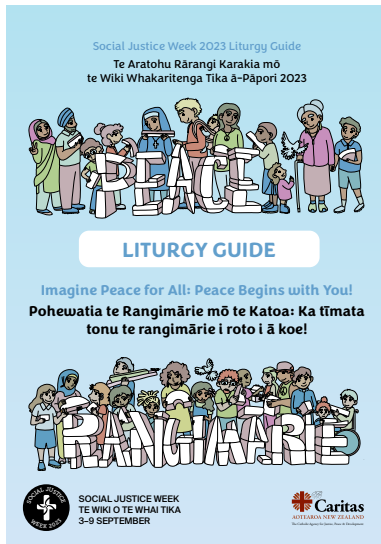
Learning activities

Action templates

Liturgy

Find all our Social Justice Week 2023 school resources on the Caritas website!
www.caritas.org.nz/schools/social-justice-week

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Social Justice Week in Parishes

The resources we've designed for parishes and communities this year are:

A Liturgy Guide

This guide has been designed for Social Justice Week and includes a statement from the New Zealand Catholic Bishops, reflection on the Gospel readings, suggested prayer of the faithful, and a liturgy outline for children.
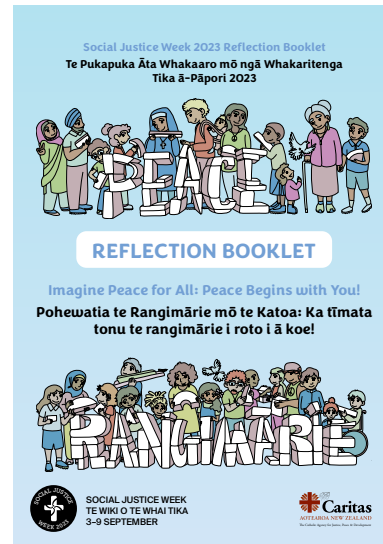
A Reflection Booklet

This booklet features seven sessions which explore different ways we can build peace in our lives:

1. What does peace mean to you?
2. Peace in our hearts
3. Peace in our relationships
4. Peace in our communities
5. Peace in creation
6. Peace in our work
7. Peace begins with you!

Promotional poster and an attachable 'Peace begins with you!' brick

Building personal peace looks different for everyone, and we've tried to reflect this in the resources we've created this year. Whether for one day, a week, seven weeks, or a whole year, we encourage you to use this booklet to guide your journey towards peace in all areas of your life.

Find all our Social Justice Week 2023 parish resources on the Caritas website!
www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week

We want your input!

For Social Justice Week 2024, we'll be looking at responding to conflict as the second part of our Imagine Peace for All project. An important part of becoming a peacebuilder is learning how to engage in respectful conversations, listening to others, and celebrating our differences even when it can seem difficult.

We'd love to make our Social Justice Week resources collaborative and reflective of diverse communities in Aotearoa as building peace requires input from all of us. Please send in your own prayers, activities, stories and ideas about peace and conflict to **education@caritas.org.nz** and we'll try to include them in next year's resources!