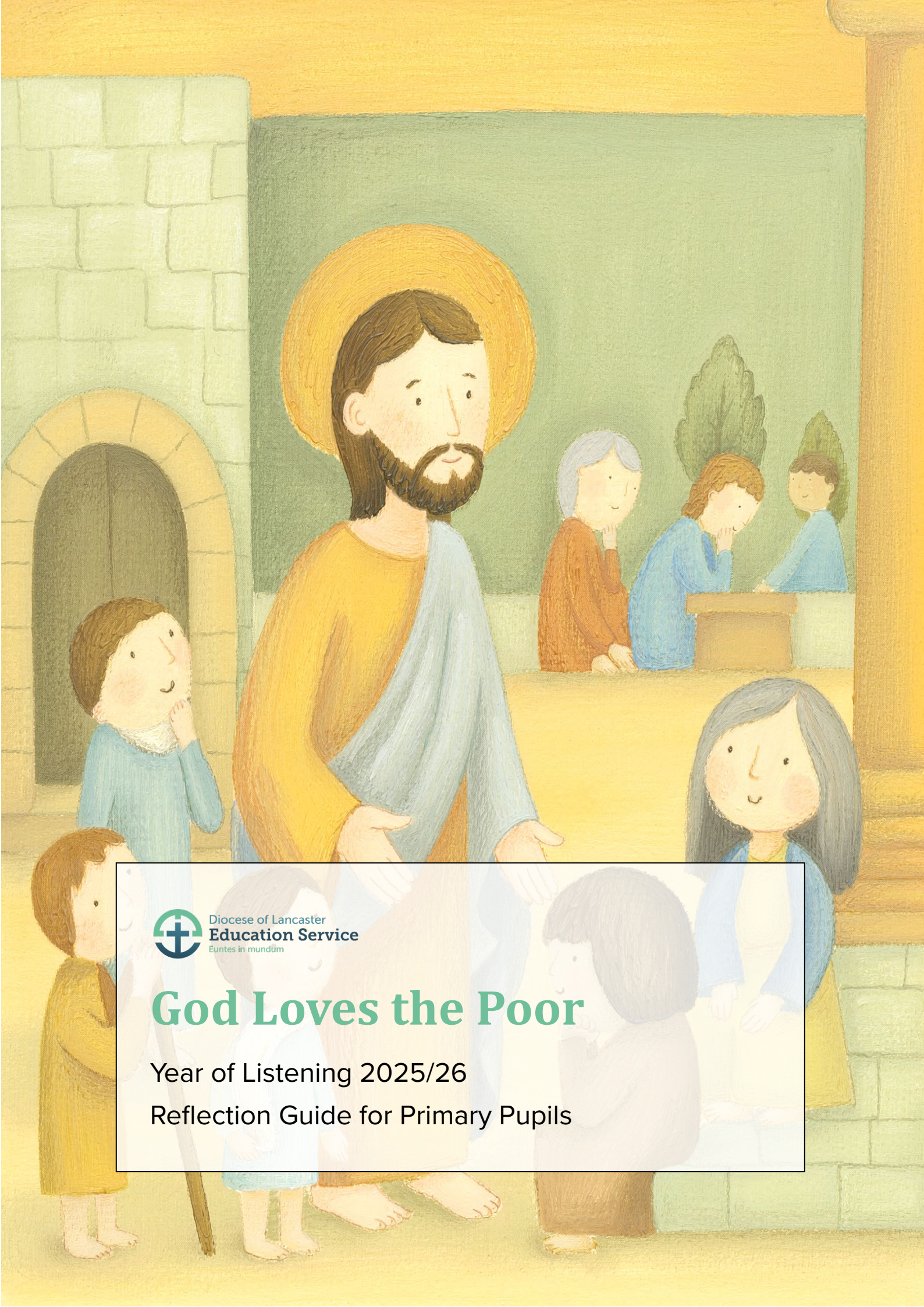




Diocese of Lancaster
Education Service
Euntes in mundum

God Loves the Poor

Year of Listening 2025/26

Reflection Guide for Primary Pupils

1. Let's Make a Plan Together

Next Year, Bishop Paul would like all our schools to do something together, but he hasn't decided what yet! He would like to hear your ideas about what we can do, because he knows that children are very good at thinking of things!

Bishop Paul wants us to think about how our schools can show God's love for the poor, and he would like you to think about three questions:

- 1) What is something each of our schools can do next year to show God's love for the poor?
- 2) What is something all the Catholic schools in your area can do together next year to show God's love for the poor?
- 3) What is something ALL our schools can do together next year to show God's love for the poor?



You probably have some ideas already, and Bishop Paul would love to hear them!

But, before we start making plans he also wants us to listen and pray.

He wants us to listen to what God says about how much he loves the poor, and how he wants people to treat each other.

And he wants us to pray about the things we have heard. When we pray, words and ideas go from our heads into our hearts, they become like seeds that grow, and what grows in us helps us to love God and other people.

Another thing happens when we pray is that we join our plans with God's plans, which can lead to some really exciting things happening!

2. Let's Listen and Pray Together

To help us listen and pray we are going to hear from a special letter from Pope Leo, it has an interesting name, *Dilexi Te*, which means “I have loved you.”

It is a special letter because Pope Francis started writing it, and Pope Leo finished writing it – so it is one of the last things Pope Francis wanted to tell us *and* one of the first things Pope Leo wanted to tell us. It talks about how much God loves poor people, and how he wants us to love them too.

Because it was written for grown-ups, we made a version of the letter just for children in primary schools.

Once you have listened to the letter, your teachers are going to help you think about what you have heard and pray about it, not just once, but a few times.

To help you listen and think, your teacher might help you to:

- choose your favourite sentence and make a prayer poster
- draw a picture of something the letter makes you think about
- imagine a story from the Bible, and then pray, talk, or write about what you noticed

You might also like to do some of these things at home:

- say a prayer for people who are poor, lonely, or in need
- take the letter home and ask your family which part they like best



3. Sending Your Ideas to Bishop Paul

In the Bible, we hear about people who listened to Jesus and then did what he said. We want to do the same thing.

Once you have listened to Pope Leo's letter and prayed about it, we would like you to think about the three questions we talked about before and then send your ideas to Bishop Paul.

Do you remember what the questions were?

There are lots of ways for you could come up with ideas. You might work with your friends, or your whole class or a groups of pupils from other classes.

Your teachers will help you to do this.

Once you have decided on your ideas, your teacher will explain how to send them to Bishop Paul.



He will pick the best ideas and then let all the schools know what the plan is for next year.

It is exciting that all of the children in our Catholic Schools will be involved in thinking and praying about this.

God has made each one of us special in our own way, so your idea matters. We all have things we think about, we all have things we see, and we have all the things we love.

If we put all our ideas together, we are bound to think of some amazing things that we can do to show God's love for the poor.

3. Pope Leo's Letter: *Dilexi Te*

Dear Children,

I want to share something very important with you.

I want you to know that God's heart has a special place for the poor. God has always loved people who are poor, and he has always told us that we should love them too. He showed us this in a special way, because Jesus was poor and so were his family, Mary and Joseph.

When we say someone is poor, we mean that they do not have enough. Some people are poor because they do not have enough food or somewhere to live. Some people are poor in other ways too, maybe because they feel lonely, sad, or forgotten. God sees how they feel, and he does not forget them. I want you to remember that every kind thing you do is remembered by God, especially when it helps someone feel loved when they are sad or lonely.

Jesus teaches us something very important about love. He tells us that when you are kind to someone who is small, sad, or needs help, you are being kind to Jesus. This means that loving people who need help is a way of loving Jesus himself.

I also want to tell you a story. A long time ago, there was a Christian called Saint Lawrence. Some Roman soldiers asked him to give them the treasure of the Church. Instead of bringing gold, he sold it and gave the money to the poor. Then he showed the poor people to the Romans and said, "Here is our treasure!"

This helps us to see what really matters to God.

Since the beginning of the Church, many Saints like Lawrence have helped the poor. They built hospitals and schools, gave all of their money away, helped travellers and looked after people who were dying. Saint Theresa of Calcutta is one person who did that. They all show us how to help the poor.

People who are poor are not only people we help. People who are poor can teach us about love and about Jesus, if we listen to them. They can teach us how to be good people, and how to be happy too. That is why I say that we should try very hard to be friends with the poor, to spend time with them, and not just to give them things.

I also want you to know that sometimes it is easy to forget people who are poor. Isn't it sad, that there are people right now who do not have enough food, or anywhere to live? It is very important that we do not forget them.

You may think that your voice is very small, but I want you to know that your voice can make the world better for poor people. If you are not sure how to help someone, remember that it is always better to do something rather than nothing, even if it is a very little thing.

I want you to remember that God is already close to people who are poor. When we choose to be close to them too, we are close to God.

With love,
Pope Leo

4. Things Pope Leo Wants Us To Know

Here are some sentences from Pope Leo's letter that you might like to think about more.

(A note for grown-ups, The reference numbers show where the quotes come from in Dilexi Te.)

- “ God's heart has a special place for the poor. §17

- “ God has always loved the poor, and has always told us that we should love them too.” §103

- “ Saint Lawrence was a Christian who lived a long time ago, in Roman times. The Romans told him to give them the treasure of the Church. Instead of taking gold to them, he sold it and gave the money to the poor. Then he showed the poor people to the Roman soldiers and said, 'Here is our treasure!'" §103

- “ Many Saints have helped the poor. They built hospitals and schools, gave all of their money away, helped travellers and looked after people who were dying. Saint Theresa of Calcutta is one person who did that.”

- “ Every kind thing you do is remembered by God, especially when it helps someone feel loved when they are sad or lonely.” §4

- “ We should try very hard to be friends with the poor. To spend time with them, not just to give them things.” §104

- “ When you are kind to someone who is small, sad, or needs help, you are being kind to Jesus.” §5

- “ If you don’t know how to help someone, it is always better to do something instead of nothing.” §119
- “ People who are poor can teach us about love and about Jesus, if we listen to them.” §79
- “ People who are poor can teach us about how to be good people, and how to be happy too.” §103
- “ Right now there are people who don’t have enough food, or anywhere to live. It is really important that we don’t forget them.” §92
- “ You may think that your voice is very small, but I want you to know that your voice can make the world better for poor people” §97



5. What Shall We Do?

You have heard what Pope Leo has said, and hopefully you have had a chance to think and to pray about it.

Now, it is over to you! What shall we do next year?

Remember, to think about:

- something each school can do on its own
- something Catholic schools in your area can do together
- something all our schools can do together

For each one, try to think of a way of showing God's love for the poor.

It might be worth asking yourself, "Did anything that Pope Leo said really make me think?"

It would be wonderful for you to come up with your own ideas, but to help you think about it, here are some examples of ways children in Catholic schools have shown God's love for the poor:

- sharing food and toiletries with foodbanks
- making kindness packs for families who need some help
- collecting warm coats and good shoes for people who need them
- writing cards or visiting older people who feel lonely
- joining with other Catholic schools to do one big collection together
- walking and praying to raise money for a charity

Your ideas could be like these, or they could be something no-one has thought of before!

It is up to you.