

Grateful and Generous

Learning objectives:



- Describe what is meant by the Catholic virtues **grateful** and **generous**
- Explain how we might practise these virtues
- Identify how others in our Archdiocese are being grateful and generous

Grateful: We are grateful for the gifts God has given to us, for the gifts of other people and the blessings of each new day. We are thankful for what we have and for the people around us.

Generous: We are generous with our gifts and use them in the service of others. We are generous with our time and give of ourselves to serve others as God wants us to. We are generous with our actions, doing things to help other people and make a difference in the world.

Key stage 1: what are we thankful for?

What are we thankful for in our lives, and why?

Example answers: our family, because they love us and look after us. Our friends, because they are kind to us and we enjoy playing together. Teachers, because they help us learn. Other children in our class who help us when we're stuck.

We are thankful to God for bringing these people into our lives. Write a prayer to God thanking him for someone in your life. Say why you are grateful for having them in your life.

A Prayer of Gratitude

God, thank you for the blessings
You have bestowed upon me today.
Help me share your generosity and love with those I meet.
Amen.

Prayer: © Catholics Online



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Father Hudson's Care is a working name of Father Hudson's Society. Registered charity no. 512992.

Key stage 1: circle time

Who knows what being **generous** means? Discuss the different ways people can be generous, for example: *doing things for others, giving clothes or food to charity, putting money in a collection box.*

What do we mean when we talk about our gifts?

Gifts are things that God has given us, things that we can do. What can you do?

Playing an instrument, sports, singing, making people laugh.

We can use those gifts to help others, which is another way to be generous. Where we live, there are people who use their skills (their gifts) to help others. If they're good at sewing or knitting they might make blankets for homeless people. If they're good at cooking they might volunteer to cook lunch for a group of elderly people. If they are good at talking to others and making them laugh they might use those skills to keep someone company when they're lonely.

Father Hudson's Care runs St Joseph's – a residential care home for older people. Last year, a school group visited St Joseph's and put on a concert for the people that live there.

The children were generous with their time and their gift (singing). The staff and people living at the home were grateful because the concert entertained the residents and made them happy.



Can you think of examples of how you can use some of your gifts and talents to help people?

Take part in a sponsored run for charity. Sing in the school choir. Cheer someone up when they're sad.

When we think of people being generous, we sometimes think of people giving away lots of money. But there are other ways to be generous. We can give our time, our friendship, and our patience. We can give our help to each other and the world around us. We give what we can.

The Bible says:

- “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:16)
- “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)
- “And the crowds asked him, ‘What then shall we do?’ And he answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’”
- “When you do this for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do it for me.” (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Key stage 2: activity 1

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 107:1)

What are we **grateful** for in our lives and why?

For example: our families, friends and neighbours, doctors, teachers and firefighters, our homes.

Individually, write a prayer entitled ‘Lord I am grateful for,’ explaining what you are grateful for and why.

Invite some of the children to read their prayer aloud.





Key stage 2: activity 2

Maryvale Community Project runs social groups for older people and for adults with learning disabilities, helping them make friends and stopping them feeling lonely.

Some of the women who go to Maryvale's Tuesday Lunch Club decided that, while they were having a chat or listening to some entertainment, they could do some knitting.

They all knitted some squares and sewed them together to make blankets which could be donated to charities that help refugees, homeless people and those living in poverty. They gave the first few blankets to one of Father Hudson's Care's projects, Fatima House, which supports asylum seekers who have nowhere else to go.

How does this show gratitude and generosity?

They were grateful for the support and friendship at Maryvale. They were generous because they used their skills together to help other people.

Individually, write a short letter to a friend encouraging them to do something to help others. If you have time, you can illustrate your letter. As a class, or in small groups, join them together to create a patchwork 'generosity blanket' to display.

Key stage 2: activity 3

Read 'The Widow's Mite'

Jesus had been teaching in the Temple. But now he sat down near the treasury and watched as the many visitors to the Temple passed by and dropped money into the collecting box to help with God's work.

The rich men dressed in fine robes threw in handfuls of coins as they passed, without a thought. But then a poor widow came by, paused, and placed just two mites (tiny coins) into the box.

Jesus called his disciples to him and told them what he had seen. Then he said to them, "Let me tell you, this poor widow gave more than all those people who threw many coins into the treasury. The wealthy men gave just a small part of their riches which made no difference to them. But the widow gave all that she had."

What is the message of this reading? How does it relate to the virtues grateful and generous?

Example answer: even though she didn't have much, the widow was grateful for what she did have. So by giving what little she could she acted generously, giving thanks to God in her actions.

Biblical inspiration:

1 Thessalonians 5:18	"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
Hebrews 12:28	"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe."
Proverbs 11:25	"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."
2 Corinthians 9:7	"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Prayer:

Generous God,
Make our hearts like yours, always ready to give.
Help us to see opportunities to give our time,
so we can achieve amazing things together.
Teach us to be grateful for all the good gifts in our lives
and to be generous when giving to others.
Amen

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The pennies of the poor widow, by Paulus Lesire, circa 1654.

Father Hudson's Care is your local Catholic charity, supporting people in need across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Their staff and volunteers give their time and skills to help older people, disabled people, homeless people, refugees, people who are lonely, and children and young people who are experiencing difficulties.

Father Hudson's Care is grateful to everyone who supports them, because it means they can reach out and help more people in need.

St Thomas More,
Longton, Stoke

Grateful and generous



When we give to the poor, the Lord considers it as precious as a valuable ring. Human kindness is as precious to him as life itself. *Sirach 17:22*

Father
Hudson's
Care