

## Intentional and Prophetic



Learning objectives:

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

**Intentional:** planning our actions and choosing to live how God wants us to.

Every action we make has an impact on other people and the world around us. If we live intentionally, we listen to our conscience and deliberately decide that the actions we take will have a positive impact. We use the earth's resources wisely, think about the choices we make, and care for God's creation.

**Prophetic:** spreading the word of God through how we live our lives.

As we choose to act intentionally and make good decisions, we encourage others to do the same. We set a good example through our words and deeds and inspire other people to act in a positive and wise way. We help people to make the right decisions themselves and think about how God wants them to live their lives.

### Key stage 1: making the right choice

Imagine that a new child is joining your class. They don't know anybody, are very shy and at lunchtime they have nobody to sit with. You have an empty seat on your table. What do you think would be the right thing to do?

*Say hello. Let them sit with you. Talk to them and be kind.*

Draw a poster encouraging others to be kind and welcoming to new pupils.

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us and letting us make our own choices.

Help us to remember that our choices have consequences.

Please help us, when we have difficult choices, to make decisions that are helpful to us and to others.

**Amen.**

*Prayer: © SPCK Assemblies, 2005*



## Key stage 1: circle time

Who has given up sweets or chocolate for Lent? Who is saving their coins in their Good Shepherd box?

During Lent, we are called to pray, to fast or give up sweets and treats, and to give to others. That's not something that happens by chance – we have to decide to give something up and to stick to it during Lent. We might find it hard, so we have to make an effort intentionally. We have to decide to give to others, whether it is by putting coins in a box or giving our unwanted clothes to charity. We listen to God and try to do good.

Where we live, Father Hudson's Care looks after people in need. Through their work they try to do as God tells us and look after others. During Lent, we collect money for them so they can help people in need.

*Father Hudson's Care runs lunch clubs and activities for older people in Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. The Brushstrokes Project in Smethwick gives advice, food and clothing, social groups and English classes to refugees. Fatima House and BRAID provide accommodation to refugees in Birmingham and Oxford. They are **intentional** in their actions because they decide that they will do things to serve and help other people. Everything they do is planned with a purpose, based on God's teaching that we care for people in need. They are **prophetic** because they spread the word of God through their work, setting a good example of how we can all do something to help others.*

As we go about our lives, we can let things happen or we can deliberately do things to make a difference. The Bible tells us that we should act, that we should deliberately show compassion and love to those around us. It says:

- “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?” (James 2:14-16)
- “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)
- “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)



### Key stage 2: activity 1

Let me tell you about Teresa from Father Hudson's Care. Teresa managed a project in Sandwell called Brushstrokes, which helps refugees and newcomers. It gives advice, food, clothes and resources. It helps people learn English and supports them as they start their new life in a foreign land. It runs a Community Café where people can get food and drink, meet new people and become part of the community.

Teresa realised that lots of other places would have refugees and newcomers who needed help. But, did they know how?

What could Teresa do to support other people who wanted to help refugees? Students discuss in small groups then present ideas to the class.

*Example answer: She could tell them about Brushstrokes. She could help them set up English classes of their own.*

Teresa and Father Hudson's Care created a new project to help parishes all over the Archdiocese find ways to support refugees in their area. Teresa works with local churches and groups, helping them develop their own projects to support refugees and newcomers.

How are Teresa and Father Hudson's being intentional and prophetic?

*Example answer: They are intentional because they actively looked for ways to use their skills and expertise to help others. They are prophetic because they spread the word of God to others and support them to take action themselves.*

### Key stage 2: activity 1 – individual continuation activity

Can you think of three things local groups can do to welcome refugees and newcomers? This could be as individuals, in our school or at church. Why would these things help?

*Example answer:*

- *Set up English lessons so they can learn to talk to others*
- *Open a community café so people can make friends*
- *Give out donations of things for the home so they are comfortable in their new surroundings.*

## We Are One in the Spirit

*This hymn, by Jason Upton, sums up what it means to be Intentional and Prophetic*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

**Refrain:** **And they'll know we are Christians**  
**by our love, by our love**  
**Yes they'll know we are Christians**  
**by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
And together we will spread the news that God is in our land.  
**(Refrain)**

We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride. **(Refrain)**

All Praise to the Father, from whom all things come.  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. **(Refrain)**

### Key stage 2: activity 2 – creative writing

Think about ways you can be intentional by helping people in your community. For example, you could raise money for Father Hudson's Care, visit an older person, give clothes to charity or pick up litter. Write a poem encouraging others to get involved. By writing your poem and encouraging other people, you are being prophetic and spreading the word of God. You are also being creative, which is important as doing God's work can involve a lot of creativity and imagination.

## Key stage 2: activity 3

### Read Mathew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

### What is the message of this reading? How does it relate to the virtues intentional and prophetic?

*Example answer: Being intentional and doing God’s work benefits everyone. It is prophetic because others will see you are doing the work of Christ when you are doing good and helping others.*

### How does Father Hudson’s Care put this into practice? How can we help them?

*Example answers:*

*Father Hudson’s Care acts intentionally by choosing to help people in need. Their volunteers are intentional because they give their time to help others. They are prophetic because they tell us about how we can help other people.*

Biblical inspiration:

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Mark 16:15 “And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.’”

**Prayer:**

Holy Father God,  
thank you for waking us up this morning,  
allowing us to see another day of purpose and possibilities.  
Help us to take hold of the power within and move forward  
in grace, gratitude, and goodness.  
Help us to focus our attention not on ourselves,  
but on others and what we can do to make  
a difference in the world.  
In Jesus’ name.  
Amen.

© Daniella Whyte, September 2015



*The Sermon on the Mount, by Carl Bloch.*

Father Hudson's Care is your local Catholic charity, reaching out to those most in need in our shared community. They are intentional because they actively reach out to support people who need help. They are prophetic because they tell people about their work and show us how we can get involved to make a difference.

You can help Father Hudson's Care to act by raising money for them through their Good Shepherd Appeal, which happens each year during Lent. Father Hudson's uses your donations to help people in need.

*If the School and Parish Engagement Officer for your area is coming to the school to give an assembly in Lent, this can be mentioned here.*

# Intentional and prophetic



Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.  
Hebrews 13:16

Father  
**Hudson's**  
Care