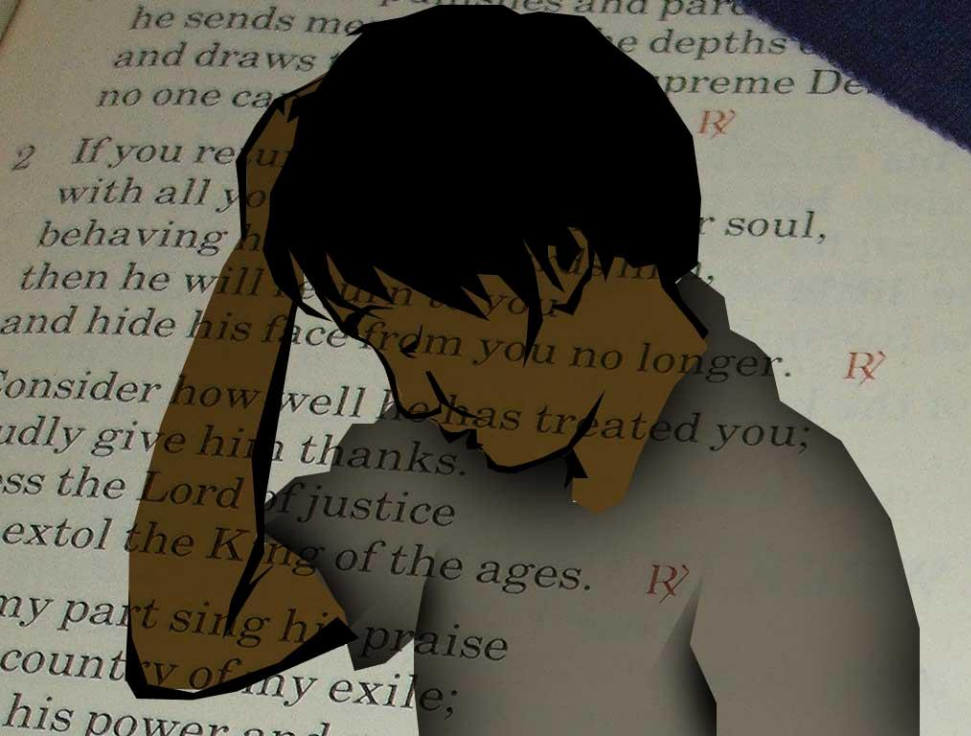


ETHICS AND ETHICAL ISSUES

Resources and notes for part 3

On The Threshold

Year 13 Religious Education



3.1 WHAT IS ETHICS?

DEFINITIONS

◎ Ethics has been defined as follows:

- It is rational reflection on and about human behaviour.
- It is the study concerned with what people ought to do - their right and wrong conduct.
- It concerns people's duty; that is, the rules or standards, behaviour and attitudes that social custom, law or religion demands.
- It is also the study of moral choices in general as well as in specific cases and situations.
- It is a theory of moral values as well as a set of principles of right or good conduct.

HOW ARE WE TO BE WITH EACH OTHER?

*Jesus answered,
'The first is: . . . you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.
³¹The second is this, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.*

(Mark 12:29-31).



CHRISTIAN ETHICS

◎ The Trinity

- Models how Christians relate to one another.
- The heart of being human is to be in loving communion with others & God.

◎ A Response of Gratitude

- God loves us unconditionally.
- Christian ethics is a response of gratitude for the overwhelming love of God.

◎ The Common Good

- Ethics is not just about the acts of individuals.
- Catholic social teaching aims to promote the rights and obligations of individuals and groups.

WHICH PRINCIPLES ARE IN USE?

- ◉ Justice is an essential aspect of faith.
- ◉ Justice affirms the dignity of the human person.
- ◉ Justice requires a preferential option for the poor.
- ◉ Justice respects rights and responsibilities.
- ◉ Justice is an expression of love.
- ◉ Justice promotes the common good.
- ◉ Justice recognizes subsidiarity.
- ◉ Justice demands participation.
- ◉ Justice calls for the fair distribution of resources.
- ◉ Justice is linked to solidarity.
- ◉ Justice acknowledges the dignity of the natural world.
- ◉ Justice promotes peace.

Which principle/s are evident in each situation?