



# ST JOHN BOSCO

## Participation



### Word of the Week

1 John 3: 16-18

**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**

This week's Word of the Week teaches us the importance of showing love through action, not just words. It tells us that true love is about caring for others, especially those in need, and making a real difference in their lives. Catholic Social Teaching teaches us the principle of participation, which emphasizes that everyone has a right to be involved in decisions that affect their lives. We can live out this principle by actively engaging in our communities, helping those who need it, and making sure our voices are heard in matters that impact us all.

What is this week's reading telling you about how you should participate in the world around you?

Take a moment to read these words of Don Bosco. What do they mean to you?

**"Walk with your feet on the earth but your heart in Heaven."**

St John Bosco

**"Entrust all things to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary, Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are."**

St John Bosco

**"Do not put off til tomorrow the good you can do today. You may not have a tomorrow."**

St John Bosco

### Prayer for the Week

Dear St John Bosco,

**You cared for young people with love.**

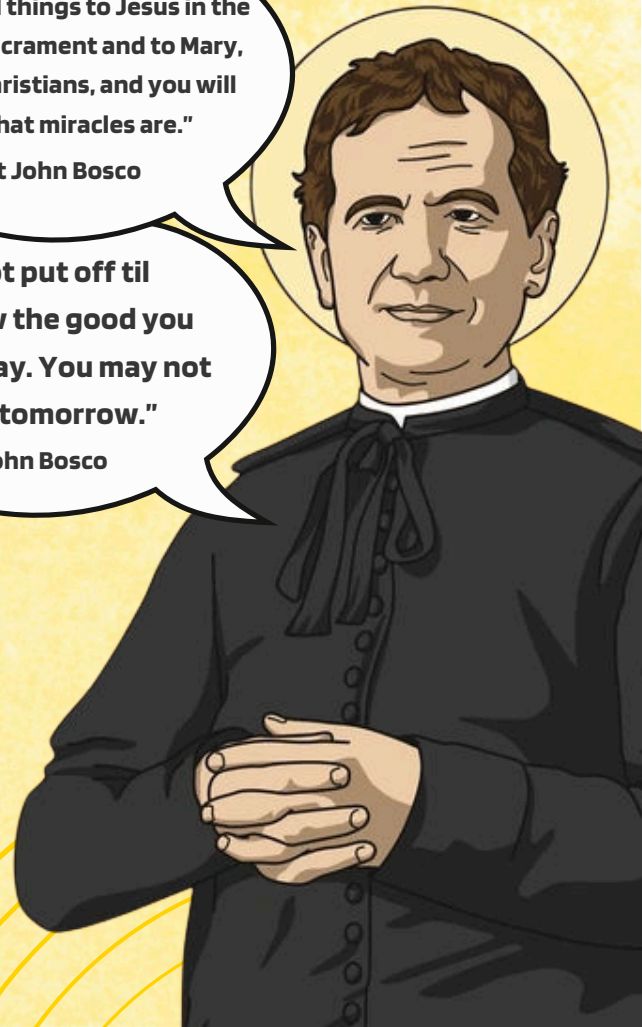
**Guiding them with kindness from above.**

**Help me to be like you each day, to learn and grow in every way. Teach me to be**

**patient and strong, to help others and right the wrong. Thank you for wisdom and grace, in God's loving embrace.**

**Amen.**

**St John Bosco...Pray for us.**



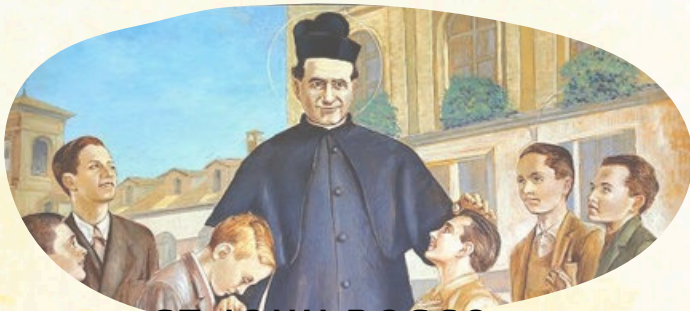




**Who was St John Bosco?**

[Watch here](#)

Having found out more about the life of St John Bosco, how did he live his life in service to young people, especially the poor and marginalized?



### ST JOHN BOSCO

St John Bosco, born in 1815 in Italy, dedicated his life to helping disadvantaged youth. Despite facing poverty and obstacles, he pursued his dream of becoming a priest. Bosco founded the Salesian Order, focusing on education, kindness and compassion for troubled youth. He established schools, orphanages, and vocational training centres, providing opportunities for a better future. Bosco's innovative teaching methods and emphasis on love and understanding earned him admiration. Canonized in 1934, he is celebrated for his commitment to serving others and his impact on education and youth welfare.



### PARTICIPATION

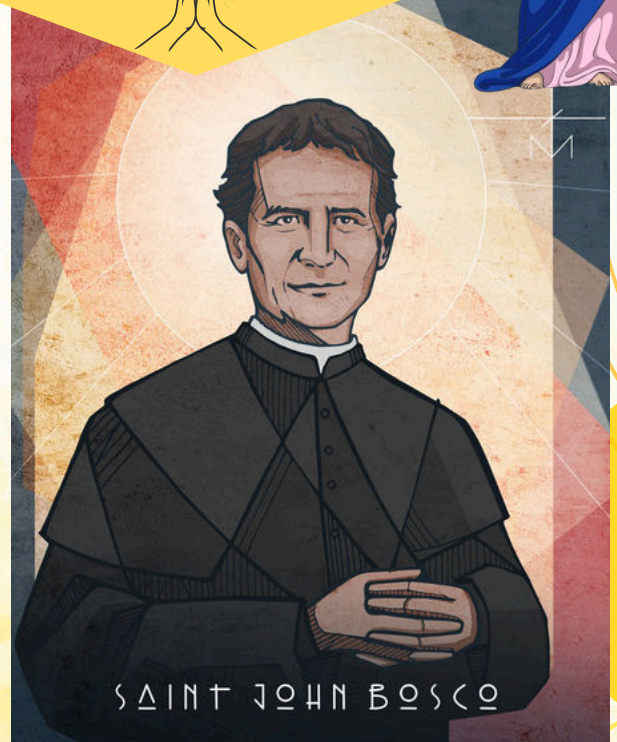
The Catholic Social Teaching principle of participation emphasises that all people have the right and duty to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives and the community. It encouraged everyone to take an active role in society, ensuring that their voices are heard.

St John Bosco understood the importance of participation, especially for young people. He empowered young people believing that they had something valuable to contribute to society. He didn't just want to help them; he wanted to empower them to be active participants in their own education and growth.

St John Bosco encouraged young people to participate in the life of the Church and society, so that they could make a real difference in the world around them.

"All my work began with a single Hail Mary for Our Lady's help." (St John Bosco)

St John Bosco entrusted all of his work to Mary. As we pray at the beginning of each day this week let us pray a Hail Mary, entrusting our day and our work to Mary, Help of Christians.



### Take a moment...

Take a moment to prayerfully reflect on the questions below. You can reflect in silence or quietly share ideas in small groups or as a whole class.

Participation in the Church and Society means more than just being present- it means being actively involved. How do you participate in your church community or school, and what role do you play in helping others feel welcome and valued?

The principle of participation calls us to recognise the dignity of each person and empower them to be active members of society. How can you help others discover their own value and voice, as St John Bosco did for his students?

What personal talents, gifts and passions has God given you, and how can you use them to bring joy and support to others, as St John Bosco did?

**Let us pray...**

Lord, help me to follow in the footsteps of St John Bosco, living with compassion and a desire to help others. Guide me in participating fully in the life of the Church and the world, always seeking to uplift and empower those around me. May I always see the dignity in others and work to make a difference in their lives. Amen.



**Friend of the Young- Don Bosco Hymn UK**  
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