

Picture News



Can donating something important be a powerful way to show you care?

A vehicle once used by Pope Francis to wave and greet people—called a popemobile—is being turned into a mobile health clinic for children in Gaza. Pope Francis, who recently passed away, was the head of the Catholic Church and often spoke about helping others. One of his final wishes was to help children affected by the conflict in Gaza. The vehicle will be refitted with medical equipment, as found in ambulances, so it can be used to aid children in areas where hospitals may be hard to reach. The project aims to deliver essential medical care to those who need it.



- Look at this week's poster, and explain that Pope Francis requested for his popemobile (a special car used to safely carry him when he greeted crowds) to be sent to help people in Gaza. It was something that had been very important to him, and he wanted it to have a new purpose helping others.
- Pope Francis donated his popemobile. What does it mean to 'donate' something?
- Watch this week's useful video, and read the information found on the assembly resource, all about the popemobile's new role and why Pope Francis chose to donate it.
- Can you reflect on a time when you have donated something to help others? Have you ever received a donation from someone else? What was it and how did it help?
- Do you believe donations always have to be physical things? For example, could you donate your time to help others?

Reflection

When we share things that matter to us, we show others how much we care. Even a small donation to others can make a big difference.

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KS1 focus

What are some of the ways we can donate to help others?



- Recap on what the word 'donate' means. To donate means to give something to help others.
- Show resource 1, which shares some different ways we can donate to help others.
- If possible, sit the children in a circle to share their thoughts and ideas. Ask the children: have you ever given something to someone who needed it, like in any of the ways shared in resource 1?
- Do you have anything you can give to help others? Perhaps you have lots of soft toys or clothes.
- What could you do with clothes that are now too small for you? If you had some coins and saw a charity money box, how could you help? If you have some spare tins of food, where could you donate them?
- Use a talking object, such as a class mascot or teddy, to pass around the circle and ask the children to share something they could donate.
- Encourage responses such as "I could give toys I don't play with anymore", or "I could donate clothes that do not fit me", or "we could hold a class cake sale to raise money for charity".
- Imagine if you didn't have something you really needed—like food, warm clothes, or a toy to play with—and someone gave it to you. How would that make you feel? How do you think people feel when they receive help?
- Reflect on a time you have donated, or think of something you could do to help others. How do you, or might you, feel when you help someone else?

Reflection

When we donate, we show kindness and help make the world a better place for everyone, especially those who don't have everything they need. Whether it's food, clothes, toys, or time, even small things can make a big difference.

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KS2 focus

What is the history of the popemobile?



- Have you heard of the term 'popemobile' before? Why do you think people gave the vehicle a special name? Look at this week's poster and describe some of the key features of the popemobile. Why do you think it was designed this way?
- Look at resource 2, which shows how the popemobile has changed over time. The first image shows the *sedia gestatoria*. Why do you think popes were carried in the past? What message might this have sent to people watching?
- In 1800, the pope began to use horse-drawn carriages. Why do you think people started using carriages instead of carrying popes by hand? What might have been the benefits of this change?
- In 1929, the first motor vehicle was used. What do you think the benefits were of the pope switching to a car?
- After 1981, bulletproof glass was added. How do you think this made people feel - both the pope and the public?
- Pope Francis chose to use smaller, simpler vehicles. Why do you think he made this decision? What might it tell us about him?
- Looking at the whole timeline on resource 2, what's the biggest change you notice about the popemobile over time?
- Pope Francis requested that his popemobile be turned into a mobile clinic. What does this act of donation tell you about his values and beliefs?

Reflection

The popemobile has changed over time, but its purpose stays the same - to help the pope connect with and care for others.

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KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Imagine you have been chosen to design the next popemobile! Think about:

- Who will use your popemobile? E.g., pope, security, driver, photographer.
- Where will it be used? E.g., will it go abroad? What sort of terrain will it travel?
- What features are most important? E.g., windows to be seen, a roof for shelter, steps, seats, first aid space, special symbols, safety features, eco-friendly parts?

On paper, sketch what your popemobile will look like. Label the key features and explain why you've included them. Think about the shape and structure - how will it move, stand up, and hold its parts together?

Bring your design to life using materials from around your classroom or home, such as cardboard boxes, bottle tops, dowels, tape etc.

Finally, you might like to add flags, symbols or other decorations!

Extra challenge: Could you redesign your popemobile to be more eco-friendly, easier to build, or used for a different purpose - like a food truck or rescue vehicle?

Option 2

Create your own illustrated version of the timeline on resource 2.

Add drawings or symbols for each key moment. You can label the dates and events, and if you're interested, research any extra details you'd like to include - such as who the pope at the time was, or what was happening in the world.

Make your timeline colourful, creative, and informative!

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KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Helping Hands! Let's show some of the kind ways we can help others by donating.

1. Grab some paper, a pencil, and scissors.
2. Place one of your hands flat on the paper and draw around your hand. You can colour or decorate it if you wish!
3. Cut it out carefully with your scissors.
4. Think of something you could donate to help others – such as clothes, toys, food, money, or your time.
5. Write your idea on your paper hand.

Perhaps you could add your hand to a class display to create a wall of Helping Hands, and show all the ways we can be kind and give to others!

Option 2

Why not take action to help your school or people in your local area? Work together to plan a community project. Think about:

- Who do you think needs help?
- What can you do to help? E.g., create a second-hand school uniform hub, hold a cake sale to raise money, collect food to donate to a local food bank.
- What will you need to organise?
- Who could support you? E.g., parent helpers, teachers, other pupils.
- How will you spread the word? E.g., posters, assemblies, class visits.

Carry out your community action. What impact did it have? How did you feel as a result?

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This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.caritas.org/2025/05/pope-francis-last-initiative-turns-the-popemobile-into-a-mobile-clinic-for-children-in-gaza/

This week's useful video

What is happening to the popemobile?

<https://youtu.be/qTJuSLXM9AQ?si=izCo0nUxATf3MyJ>

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

Conflict

When people or groups disagree or fight. It can happen between friends, families, or countries.

One of his final wishes was to help children affected by the **conflict** in Gaza.

Donate

To give something to help others, such as clothes, toys, food, or money, without asking for anything back.

Pope Francis **donated** his popemobile.

Final wishes

The important things a person hopes will happen after they pass away.

One of his **final wishes** was to help children affected by the conflict in Gaza.

Mobile health clinic

A special vehicle that has medical equipment inside. It travels to help people who are unwell or hurt, especially if there is no hospital nearby.

A vehicle ... is being turned into a **mobile health clinic** for children in Gaza.

Peace

When people live together in a calm and friendly way, without fighting or causing harm to each other. Peace can happen between individuals, groups, or countries.

'We call it a vehicle of hope because it conveys a message to the children of Gaza that **peace** is possible...'

Refit

To replace or repair something, to fix it or change its purpose.

The vehicle will be **refitted** with medical equipment ... so it can be used to aid children in areas where hospitals may be hard to reach.