

A PARISH-BASED PROGRAMME for children who attend schools other than Catholic schools



First
Class

Primary 3

Grow in Love Series
First published 2017 by
Veritas Publications
7–8 Lower Abbey Street
Dublin 1, Ireland

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This textbook has been approved by the Irish Episcopal Conference. It is in accordance with *The Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland* (2015) that was approved by the Irish Episcopal Conference and granted the Decree of Recognitio by the Holy See in 2015.

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**First
Class**

Primary 3

Margaret Sims

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Grow in Love* parish religious education programme. This programme is intended for the religious education and sacramental preparation of Catholic children who are not attending Catholic primary schools. The Church recognises the fundamental place of parents in their child's education in the faith and this basic understanding is reflected in the Church's documents on religious education and family life. The Catholic school supports parents in their role as their child's 'first and best teachers' in the ways of faith. Where a Catholic child does not attend a Catholic school, a parish will endeavour to provide the appropriate religious education and preparation for the sacraments for children. This is done at the request of parents and with their cooperation and support. (See *Catholic Primary Schools – A Policy for Provision into the Future*, 2.2) While working together to provide Catholic religious education for their children both parents and parish communities should remember that:

- Weekly attendance at Sunday Eucharist is the principal sign of the commitment of parents to the religious education of their child.
- It is desirable that children be enrolled in the parish religious education programme from Junior Infants continuously until such time that they complete their primary schooling.
- It is the duty of the parish priest to ensure that 'children are properly prepared for First

Confession and First Holy Communion and for the Sacrament of Confirmation, by means of catechetical formation over an appropriate period of time'. (Canon 777.2)

- Local diocesan norms regarding the religious education of Catholic children attending non-Catholic schools may exist and should be adhered to.

It is intended that the programme of work outlined in this book should be led by catechists who are qualified primary school teachers and who have completed a certified course in religious education. The appropriate safeguarding procedures should apply to these catechists. Local circumstances will dictate the length and frequency of the sessions provided for children taking part in this programme. The sessions outlined in this book presume that children attend an hour-long session once a week. Where this is not the case, the programme should be adapted. What is outlined in this book mirrors the content and pedagogical approach employed in the *Grow in Love* programmes for Catholic primary schools. It should be used in conjunction with the appropriate teacher's kit, including posters, music CDs and access to online resources. It is also vital that children use the appropriate children's book as part of this programme. This provides the link with home that is central to religious education.



Theme 1: Belonging

1: We belong together	p. 2
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3: God loves us	p. 4

1: WE BELONG TOGETHER

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 1, pages 26/27.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 28.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 4.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at the Book of Psalms), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Outcomes

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Discuss the things they are looking forward to about being in the class this year.
 - » Consider their response to God's promise to always be with them, to never forget them (based on Isaiah 49:15).

» Listen and respond to the story of Isaiah's message from God.

- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Pray the Morning Prayer.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Deepen their trust in God.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting with the children about starting a new school year and what they like about belonging to this class. Use the questions on page 29 to guide the conversation.
- Introduce the song 'Together Again' (Track 4, p. 45) and chat about the lyrics.

Let's Learn ...

- Ask the children to recall what they know about the Bible. Remind them of what we read in the Bible and why we read it. Read the Scripture story 'God is Always with Us', page 31. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 2.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* God is always with us. God will never forget us. This is the message that was given to a good and holy man called Isaiah, who shared this message with the people. The beginning of the school year is a new and exciting time. We meet school friends, we get new books and perhaps new clothes. We remember that we belong together as a class, and that God is with us in everything we do and everything we say.

- Together with the children, draw up a 'Class Code' as outlined on page 32 so that everyone feels like they belong to the class. You may wish to write or type up this Class Code before the next class so that it can be used as part of the prayer space for the year.
- Assign Children's Book, page 3, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 32.

2: WE BELONG TO THE CHURCH

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 33.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 1, CD Tracks 2 and 3 for meditative prayer.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'Baptism'. Alternatively, bring printed images showing the items associated with the Sacrament of Baptism being used or bring the items themselves with you to class (holy water, white garment, chrism, baptismal candle).
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at the Book of Psalms), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Outcomes

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Reflect on the different groups to which they belong (including the Church).
 - » Discuss the ways in which they can share the love of God with others.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss each of the items associated with Baptism – Sign of the Cross, pouring of water, white

garment, anointing with chrism, baptismal candle.

- » Imagine what it was like at their own baptism.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Begin to appreciate that, in Baptism, they became a member of the Church.
- Celebrate their identity as baptised children of God.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by helping the children to make a list of all the different types of groups to which they may belong, including the Church family. Looking at the section 'Where Do I Belong', page 34, use the questions in the final three bulleted points to guide your conversation.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children Poster 1: Baptism. Remind the children that through Baptism they became members of the Church. Ask the children to recall details of a baptism that they may have attended.
- Using the slideshow provided online, complete the activity as described on pages 35/36. Alternatively, if online access is not available to your class, use the symbols or images listed above under 'Teacher Preparation'. Show the class each of the symbols or images and describe the significance of each in the Sacrament of Baptism. Use the questions and information provided on pages 35/36 to guide you.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 4.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* When a person is baptised, they become part of the family of the Church. The Sign of the Cross is traced on their forehead, holy water is poured over their head, they are anointed with chrism, they are wrapped in a white

garment and a baptismal candle is lit from the paschal candle. All of these things show that the person is now a member of the Church.

- Assign Children's Book, page 5, for homework.
- Lead the children in meditative prayer, page 37.

3: GOD LOVES US

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 38.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at the Book of Psalms), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Distinguish between loving actions and actions that do not show love for other people.
 - » Explain that God's love for us is never-ending.
 - » Memorise the quote 'My love for you will never end' (Jeremiah 31:3).
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss Jeremiah's message of God's unending love for all people.

- » Imagine the messages they think God would like to give to the world today.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Appreciate that the people who help us are signs of God's love and reveal God's love and care.

Let's Look ...

- When people are baptised, they are filled with the love of God. Ask the children the questions, 'How could you show that you are filled with God's love?' and 'How could you show love to others?' Invite the children to 'think-pair-share' their answers. Use the final three bullet points in the section 'Sharing God's Love', page 39, to guide a discussion with the class.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'God Loves Us', page 40. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 6.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* God loves all people with an everlasting love, and will always love us. God loves us like loving parents love their children. A loving parent is always ready to help their child to do what's best. God wants us to love one another just as he loves us. God gives us other people so that we know that he loves us.
- Looking at the section 'What Would You Do?', page 42, choose three of the five scenarios and complete the activity with your class as described.
- Assign Children's Book, page 7, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Night Prayer*, page 44.

Theme 2: Jesus

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5: At Mass, Jesus' friends gather together.....	p. 9

1: JESUS

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 2, pages 50/51.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 52.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 2.
- Online resources: 'Who am I?', interactive activity – 'Books about Jesus'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Recall stories they have already heard about Jesus from the Bible.
 - » Imagine what Jesus' friends said about him after the calming of the storm on the Sea of Galilee.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection.

- » Share some of the things they know about Jesus with their families.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Get to know Jesus better from the Bible stories they have heard.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by completing the activity 'Who am I?' as outlined on page 53. If online access is not available to your class, omit showing the online illustration of Jesus.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the online interactive activity 'Books about Jesus'. Here they will see pictures from various Bible stories. Complete the activity as outlined on pages 54–5. If online access is not available to your class, you can use Poster 2: Jesus or show the class similar images from a children's Bible.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 8.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* The children have already learned a lot about Jesus: his birth was announced by an angel, he was born in a stable in Bethlehem, and he grew up in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. When he got older, Jesus spent his time teaching people about God. He worked miracles and he told the people to love God and to love one another. Some people did not want to live this way. They had Jesus

arrested and he was put to death on a cross. Three days later, God raised Jesus from the dead. The Risen Jesus appeared to his friends after his Resurrection.

- Assign Children's Book, page 9, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Our Father*, page 53.

2: JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 57.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: The Scripture stories in today's lesson are available online if you wish to use the videos.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Mark 2, 'Jesus and Matthew'), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name Simon Peter, James, John and Matthew as some of Jesus' friends.
 - » Consider why Jesus wanted to be friends with everyone.
 - » Begin to identify themselves as friends of Jesus.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the stories of Jesus' first meeting with Simon

Peter, James, John and Matthew in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Offer a blessing to another child in their class.
- » Memorise and pray the *Our Father*.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Become aware that Jesus is calling them personally to be his friends.

Let's Look ...

- Begin the lesson by discussing the topic of friendship using the questions under the heading 'Video', page 58. Omit showing the video.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus and the Fishermen', page 59, and discuss the questions that follow.
- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus and Matthew', page 60, and discuss the questions that follow.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 10.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Jesus had many friends. Among them were Simon Peter, James, John and Matthew. Jesus wanted everyone to be his friend, no matter who they were or what they had done in the past.
- Chat with the children about being Jesus' friend using the questions on page 62.
- Assign Children's Book, page 11, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Our Father*, page 63.

3: JESUS HEALED PEOPLE

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 64.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 7.
- Online resources: *Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man* by Alexandre Bida. The Scripture story in today's lesson is available online if you wish to use the video.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Matthew 9, 'Jesus heals a man who is paralysed'), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Explore the story 'Jesus Heals a Man who is Paralysed'.
 - » Wonder about why Jesus helped the man who was paralysed.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story 'Jesus Heals a Man who is Paralysed'

in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Give thanks to God for the gift of friendship in their lives.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Become aware of how Jesus is like a friend to them.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by introducing the song 'Circle of Friends' to the children and chat about it using the questions on page 65.

Let's Learn ...

- Using the online resources, display the engraving *Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man* by Alexandre Bida for the children. Discuss the engraving using the questions on page 66. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to bring a print-out of the engraving to show the class.
- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus Heals a Man who is Paralysed', page 66. Engage the class in discussion using the questions on page 66 for guidance.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 12.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* One day, a man who was paralysed was brought to Jesus. His friends believed that Jesus could heal him. When Jesus saw how much these people loved their friend, and when he saw how much they believed in him, Jesus healed the man who was paralysed.
- Remind the children that Jesus, who came to show us God's love, is our friend. Jesus had a special love for God his Father and he always did the will of God, who sent him (p. 68).
- Assign Children's Book, page 13, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 68.

4: JESUS TAUGHT HIS FRIENDS HOW TO LIVE

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 69.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: The stories in today's lesson are available online if you wish to use the videos.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Luke 21, 'The woman who gave all'), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Explore the story 'The Woman Who Gave All' from the perspectives of the different people in it by engaging in a drama activity.
 - » Consider the ways in which they can follow the example of the woman who gave all.

Communicate and Participate

- » Discuss and retell the story 'The Woman Who Gave All' in their own words, according to their own ability.
- » Express what they have learned about sharing from the story.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Associate their own acts of generosity with Christian moral values and teachings.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this lesson, which is about sharing, by reading 'Caleb's Story', page 70, to the children. Discuss it using the questions on page 71.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'The Woman who Gave All', page 72, and discuss the questions that follow it.
- Lead the children in creating still images based upon the Scripture story. This drama activity is outlined on page 73.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 14.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* One day, when Jesus was in the temple, he saw a widow give two small coins to help those who were in need. There were other, richer people in the temple that day too, but Jesus was moved by the generosity of the widow. Instead of giving what she could spare, she gave all she had.
- Ask the questions: 'Have you ever shared with someone?', 'Has anyone ever shared something with you?', 'Can you think of a way that you could share with people who have very little?' Invite the children to 'think-pair-share' their answers for each question.
- Lead the children in praying the *Our Father*.
- Assign Children's Book, page 15, for homework.

5: AT MASS, JESUS' FRIENDS GATHER TOGETHER

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 76.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 3.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'People Who Work in the Church'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name Sunday as the day on which the friends of Jesus gather together for Mass.
 - » Explain that the Mass is one of the things the friends of Jesus do that shows that they are following him.
 - » Discuss the role of the following people: the priest, sacristan, altar servers, choir and people.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Discuss when they might go to Mass and with whom.
- » Pray the prayers and responses relevant to the opening part of the Mass.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Begin to appreciate the importance of the Mass as a time when the followers of Jesus gather together to pray.

Let's Look ...

- Begin the lesson by asking the children all about the town in which they live as outlined under the heading 'Our Town', page 77. Omit the online maze activity and the questions under the first bullet in the second column.

Let's Learn ...

- Introduce the chorus and first verse of the song 'Gathering Song' (Track 8, p. 85) to the class.
- Show the children the slideshow 'People who Work in the Church'. Discuss the role of each of these people as described on page 78. If online access is not available to your class, use Poster 3: We Gather Together for this lesson as a visual aid.
- Practise the greeting that takes place at the beginning of Mass with the children, 'The Lord be with you', and response, 'And with your spirit'.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Mass is one of the things the friends of Jesus do to show they follow him. When we go to Mass on Sundays, we gather together with other people who are friends of Jesus. These help us to pray and to think about God. Many people help to make the Mass a great celebration of God's love for us.
- Chat with the children about going to Mass using the questions on page 80.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 16.
- Assign Children's Book, page 17, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 77.

Theme 3: Advent and Christmas

1: Waiting for the light p. 10
2: Jesus is the light p. 11
3: The waiting is over p. 12

1: WAITING FOR THE LIGHT

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 3, pages 90/91.
- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 92.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, candle and matches, Advent wreath, Advent calendar, empty crib, CD Track 9.
- Prayer space: Purple cloth (Advent), Bible (open at Isaiah 9), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Associate the season of Advent with waiting for the coming of Jesus.
 - » Explore how the birth of Jesus was long-awaited by many, including Anna and Simeon.
 - » Identify Jesus as the light God promised to send.
 - » Memorise the quote ‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light’ (Isaiah 9:2).
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss the concept of Jesus as the light God promised to send.
 - » Engage in a role-play activity to explore the feelings of Anna and Simeon as they waited for the light God promised to send.
 - » Discuss the things they are doing as they wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Prepare their hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin by engaging the children in a conversation about waiting as outlined under the heading ‘Chatting’, page 93.
- Lead the class in prayer, page 94. Through this prayer you will introduce the items you have brought for the prayer space: purple cloth, Advent wreath, Advent calendar and empty crib.

Let’s Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story ‘The People who Walked in Darkness’, page 95. Discuss the questions that follow the story. Help the children to memorise the quote ‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light’ (Isaiah 9:2).
- Read the Scripture story ‘Anna and Simeon’, page 96. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 18.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised to send a light to the people who walked in darkness. Many people waited for the light God promised to send. They waited patiently, never doubting that the light would come. Two of these people were Anna and Simeon. During Advent, we too wait for Jesus, the light God promised to send.
- Complete the chatting activity 'About the Light God Promised to Send', page 97.
- Assign Children's Book, page 19, for homework.
- Lead the class in praying the *Hail Mary*, page 325.

2: JESUS IS THE LIGHT

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 98.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 10, Poster 4.
- Online resources: *The Annunciation* by James Tissot.
- Prayer space: Purple cloth (Advent), Bible (open at Luke 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Outcomes

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Relate some words in the *Hail Mary* to words expressed by Elizabeth to Mary.
 - » Consider how the presence of Jesus, even before his birth, filled those around him with joy and hope.

» Begin to see Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promise – the light God promised to send.

- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Imagine what Mary and Elizabeth might have said to each other when they met.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Develop a sense of devotion to Mary as the mother of Jesus.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by engaging the children in the chatting activity about cousins as outlined on page 99. Conclude the activity by telling the children that this week they will be learning about Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth, and a special time they spent together. You may wish to show the class Poster 4: Mary and Elizabeth at this point.

Let's Learn ...

- Complete the art activity, page 100. This activity invites the children to look at and respond to the painting *The Annunciation* by James Tissot. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to use a print-out of this painting.
- Use the information before the story 'The Visitation' to give the children some background notes on the journey that Mary would have undertaken to reach her cousin. Omit the 'Look and respond' art activity that is described in this section. Read the Scripture story 'The Visitation' to the class and discuss the questions that follow.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 20.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Soon after the Angel Gabriel left Mary, she went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who lived far away. Elizabeth was pregnant too, and as soon as she saw Mary, the baby inside her jumped for joy. Elizabeth knew that Mary's baby was no ordinary baby – he was the light God promised to send.
- Introduce the first verse of the song 'Silent Night' (Track 10, p. 113) to the children and chat about the lyrics.

- Lead the children in praying the *Hail Mary* with movement, page 99.
- Assign Children's Book, page 21, for homework.

3: THE WAITING IS OVER

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 103.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 10, crib figures of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds.
- Prayer space: Purple cloth (Advent), Bible (open at Luke 2), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Consider the story of the Nativity from the perspectives of the characters involved.
 - » Explore ways to focus their Christmas celebrations on the birth of Jesus.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Pray for those for whom it is a difficult time.

- » Discuss and retell the story of the Nativity in their own words, according to their own ability.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Celebrate Christmas with joy.
- Desire to keep the birth of Jesus at the centre of their Christmas celebrations.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by singing the first verse of the song 'Silent Night' (Track 10, p. 113) with the children.
- Read out the statements in the 'Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down' activity, page 104, one by one. Having read each of the statements, chat with the children using the talking points provided.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'The Birth of Jesus', page 105. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Read the Scripture story 'The Shepherds', page 106. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Read the Scripture story 'The Wise Men', page 106. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Show the children the figures of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds. Allow the children to identify each of the figures and use them as a visual aid to retell the Scripture stories in their own words, according to their own ability.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Angels appeared to shepherds who were tending their flocks in fields nearby and told them of Jesus' birth. They left the fields and went to the stable. Some wise men from the East spotted a star in the sky, which signalled to them that something wonderful had happened. They followed the star and it brought them to the birthplace of Jesus.
- Chat with the children about celebrating Christmas, as outlined on page 107, and conclude by reading the final prayer on page 109 for the children.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 22.
- Assign Children's Book, page 23, for homework.

Theme 4: We Hear the Gospel at Mass

1: All who heard him were amazed p. 13

2: We listen to the Gospel at Mass p. 14

1: ALL WHO HEARD HIM WERE AMAZED

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 4, pages 116/117.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 118.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 5, soft ball.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Luke 2), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Explore the differences in travel between Jesus' time and today.
 - » Imagine how Mary and Joseph felt when they couldn't find Jesus.
 - » Identify ways to show respect to their parents.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story 'The Boy Jesus in the Temple' in their

own words, according to their own ability.

- » Engage in a role-play activity to explore what Jesus told his friends about his experience in Jerusalem.
- » Pray a decade of the Rosary as a class.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Develop their relationship with Jesus in prayer.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by discussing stories with the children by carrying out the chatting activity and by playing the 'Story Game'. Both are explained on page 119.

Let's Learn ...

- Give the class a brief introduction to the Scripture story using the information provided under the heading 'Slideshow', page 120, but omit showing the slideshow.
- Read the Scripture story 'The Boy Jesus in the Temple', page 120. Show the children Poster 5 and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Engage the children in a role-play activity based on the Scripture story that they have just heard. This activity is outlined on page 121.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 24.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Once when Jesus was twelve, he, Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem for a festival called Passover. On their way home, Mary and Joseph realised that Jesus was not with them. After three days, they found him in the temple listening to the teachers and talking to them. Jesus returned to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and was a good and respectful son. He grew wiser and learned more about what God wanted him to do.

- Chat with the children about showing respect for our parents and families. Use the questions on page 122 to guide you.
- Invite the children to pray a decade of the *Rosary* with you, page 122.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 25, for homework.

2: WE LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL AT MASS

Teacher Preparation

- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 123.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, a bookmark printed for each child from pages 132–4, enough copies of the Gospel response templates (p. 135) so that there is one for each pair of children.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Luke 2), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Memorise the dialogue before and after the Gospel.
 - » Name Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as the four Gospel writers.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss the ways in which the Gospel is greeted at Mass.

- » Perform the threefold blessing gesture associated with the dialogue before the Gospel.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Revere the Bible as the inspired Word of God.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin today’s lesson by chatting briefly about bookmarks as outlined on page 124. Hold up the Teacher’s Manual and show how the dividers indicate the various sections. Also, as described in the activity, show how the Bible is made up of many different sections. The information under the art activity on page 124 will give you notes on the Gospels to share with the children. Allow the children to decorate their bookmark however they wish. While doing this task, encourage the children to retell the Gospel story on their bookmark to the person sitting beside them.
- Lead the children in the prayer given on page 124.

Let’s Learn ...

- Looking at the section entitled ‘Video’, share the information provided on the Gospel. Omit showing the video.
- You will now help the children to learn the dialogue that comes before and after the Gospel, page 125. Teach the children the gesture that accompanies the words ‘Glory to you, O Lord’.
- Allow the children the opportunity to practise both the dialogue and gesture. In pairs, using the photocopied sheets, the children can practise as suggested on page 126 or in a way that best suits your class.

Let’s Live ...

- *What you have taught:* The Gospel is proclaimed at Mass. It is preceded by the *Alleluia*. There are certain words, gestures and actions that people at Mass do before and after the Gospel is proclaimed.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 26. While carrying out this activity, chat to the children a little further on the threefold Sign of the Cross gesture, page 127.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 27, for homework.

Theme 5: Reconciliation

- 1: We can lose our way..... p. 15
- 2: The lost sheep..... p. 16
- 3. We celebrate God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation..... p. 17

1: WE CAN LOSE OUR WAY

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 5, pages 138/139.
- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 140.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Matthew 18), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Consider the impact that not showing love can have on themselves and others.
 - » Explore the importance of acknowledging when they have done wrong.
 - » Begin to be aware of the steps involved in the process of reconciliation.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Respond to Shauna’s story and

identify similarities with their own experiences.

- » Discuss what can be done when someone makes a bad choice.
- » Memorise and pray the *Act of Sorrow*.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Desire to say sorry when they do wrong.
- Desire to complete the steps to reconciliation.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin by reading the story ‘Shauna’s Story – Part I’, page 141. Discuss the questions that follow.

Let’s Learn ...

- Read the story ‘Shauna’s Story – Part II’, page 143. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Read the extract from ‘Shauna’s Diary’ to the class, pages 143/144. Engage the children in reflection using the questions given on page 144.
- Read the story ‘Shauna’s Story – Part III’, page 144. Discuss the questions that follow, page 145.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 28.

Let’s Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Shauna made a bad choice when she lied to her mother, teacher and friends in school. She didn’t live the way God wants us to and she felt lost. We sometimes make bad choices like Shauna. We can follow her example by

saying sorry to those around us and by telling God that we are sorry too. This is how we reconcile with God and with others.

- Assign Children's Book, page 29, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Act of Sorrow*, page 146.

2: THE LOST SHEEP

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 147.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Slideshow about sheep.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Matthew 18), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Consider the meaning of the Parable of the Lost Sheep.
 - » Identify God as the shepherd who will search for the lost sheep.
 - » Explore how God will always search for us and desires to bring us back to him.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the Parable of the Lost Sheep in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Engage in a role play of the Parable of the Lost Sheep in order to reflect on and empathise with the feelings of the lost sheep, its owner/shepherd and the flock of sheep.
- » Chat with others about the ways in which we can fail to love God and others.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Explore how God is merciful and goes in search of those who are lost so that they can be found again.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by displaying the slideshow on sheep that you will find in the online resources for this lesson. Discuss each picture using the commentary given on page 148. If online access is not available to your class, then omit showing the slideshow.
- Lead the class in praying Psalm 23, page 148.

Let's Learn ...

- Chat with the class about losing things using the questions given on page 149, or similar: 'Have you ever lost something that was precious to you?', 'Can you remember how you felt when you discovered that you had lost it?', 'Did you find it?', 'How did you feel when you found it?' You may wish to carry out a 'think-pair-share' activity on some of these questions.
- Engage the children in participating in the drama activity as outlined on page 150.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 30.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* When we do not love God and one another, we become like the lost sheep. In the Parable of the Lost Sheep, Jesus tells us that he will search for and find any of us who are not close to God. He will bring us back to God and to others. When this happens, there will be great celebration.
- Chat with the children about the Good Shepherd using the questions given on page 151.
- Assign Children's Book, page 31, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 151.

3: WE CELEBRATE GOD'S FORGIVENESS IN THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 152.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 12, Poster 6.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Matthew 18), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name the Sacrament of Reconciliation as the special way in which people who belong to the Church say sorry to God and celebrate God's forgiveness.
 - » Identify and explain the parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss how it feels to be forgiven.
 - » Chat about the ways in which we can start anew after celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - » Take part in a prayer service on the theme of Reconciliation.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Appreciate God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Develop an understanding of their sins and their need for forgiveness from others and from God.
- Desire to say sorry when they do wrong.

For those celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year:

- Desire to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Experience God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by asking the children to recall 'Shauna's Story' from Lesson 1 of this theme using a Round Robin strategy. Write the following five captions on the board:
 1. We do not show love for others or for God when we do something that we know is wrong.
 2. We can think about what we have done and realise that it was a sin.
 3. We can say sorry.
 4. We can be forgiven.
 5. We can make up for the times when we did not love God or others.
- Discuss each of the statements and encourage the children to identify where in 'Shauna's Story' we see each of these stages.

Let's Learn ...

- Introduce the song 'I'm Sorry' (Track 12, p. 160) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Chat to the children about why we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as described on page 155. Now, using the online slideshow and commentary on pages 155–6, explain to the class how to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to display Poster 6: The Sacrament of Reconciliation along with the commentary given on pages 155–6.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 32.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a special way for people who are part of the family of God to meet God, to say sorry to God and to celebrate God's forgiveness. When we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we realise that there have been times when we didn't love others and didn't love God; we confess our sins to a priest; we accept our penance; we receive absolution. After celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we start again to act as friends of Jesus.
- Assign Children's Book, page 33, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 154.

Theme 6: Celebrating Mass

1: We offer gifts p. 18
2: 'Do this in memory of me' p. 19
3: We are nourished by receiving Holy
Communion p. 20

1: WE OFFER GIFTS

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 6, pages 164/165.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 166.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, wrapped gift for activity, CD Track 13.
- Online resources: Video – 'Preparation of the Gifts', Gospel response cards from Theme 4, Lesson 2.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Matthew 26), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Recall the main parts of the Mass from the Introductory Rites to the Liturgy of the Word.
 - » Explain the function and meaning of the items present on the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Wonder about the nature of gifts.
- » Discuss the words of the song 'We Come to You, Lord Jesus'.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Desire to participate fully and actively in the celebration of Mass.

Let's Look ...

- Begin today's lesson with the activity 'Granny's Gift', page 167. Here the children will be prompted to chat about gifts they have given and received. They will also discuss the gifts that can't be seen or held.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the online video 'Preparation of the Gifts'. They will see the part of the Mass where the gifts are brought to the altar. There are pictures of the paten and cruets in the online material that you may wish to show your class. This activity is described on page 168. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out pictures of the gifts in advance of the lesson.
- Introduce the song 'We Come to You, Lord Jesus' (Track 13, p. 186) to the children and chat about the lyrics (p. 169).

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the Preparation of the Gifts, which is when we offer gifts to God. The gifts that are offered are bread and wine, and these are brought to the altar. We can also offer gifts to God – gifts of kindness and helpfulness to others, and gifts of love and laughter.

- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 34.
- Allow the children the opportunity to practise the Mass responses in pairs, using the photocopied sheets.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 35, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 170.

2: ‘DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME’

Teacher Preparation

- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 171.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, Poster 7.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Matthew 26), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Consider the differences between eating food and sharing a meal.
 - » Associate the words said at the Last Supper by Jesus with the words said by the priest during the Institution Narrative.
 - » Memorise the *Prayer before Communion*.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Express feelings, questions, ideas and understandings about Jesus sharing meals with his friends.
 - » Mime actions to the words that Jesus said during the Last Supper.
 - » Pray the *Our Father* with actions.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Desire to celebrate their First Holy Communion.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin by chatting with the children about sharing meals with others. Use the last two bulleted questions of ‘Chatting’, page 172, to guide your discussion.

Let’s Learn ...

- Remind the children of the context of the Last Supper as described before the story on page 175.
- Read the Scripture story ‘The Last Supper’, page 175. Then invite the children to do the actions of Jesus while you narrate using the text.
- Show the children Poster 7 and chat with them about ‘The Institution Narrative’ as outlined on page 175. Omit showing the video.
- Teach the children the *Prayer before Communion*, page 176.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 36.

Let’s Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Jesus was a good friend to those around him. He loved spending time with people and sharing meals with them. At the Last Supper, Jesus shared a special meal with his friends. Jesus knew that this would be the last meal that he would share with them and he wanted to give them a special way to remember him. So, he took bread and wine, and through his words and actions he showed his friends that he would be with them always. Jesus Christ is still with us today and is present in a very special way in the gift of Holy Communion.
- Complete the chatting activity ‘About Receiving Holy Communion’, page 177.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 37, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Our Father* with actions, page 178.

3: WE ARE NOURISHED BY RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 179.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Video – 'Receiving Holy Communion'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Matthew 26), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Explain that Jesus gives us the gift of himself in Holy Communion.
 - » Identify how to prepare meaningfully for the reception of Holy Communion.
 - » Memorise the *Prayer after Communion*.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Discuss the ways in which Holy Communion nourishes us to live as Jesus taught us.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Appreciate the connection between Eucharist and daily Christian living.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting with the children about the importance of food in our daily lives as outlined on page 180.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the video 'Receiving Holy Communion'. Discuss what they see and explain to them the ways in which we can prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion as described on page 181.
- Revise the *Prayer before Communion* with the children, page 181.
- Help the children to learn the *Prayer after Communion*, page 181.
- Teach the children how to hold their hands when they are receiving Communion and practise the reception of Holy Communion with them.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Jesus gives himself to us in Holy Communion. This helps us to live as his friends. It is important to prepare for Holy Communion, and to receive it with respect.
- If the children in your class are celebrating their First Holy Communion this year, complete the chatting activity on page 183. If not, you may omit this part.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 38.
- Pray the Prayers Before and After Communion with the children.
- Assign Children's Book, page 39, for homework.

Theme 7: Holy Week and Easter

1: Jesus in Jerusalem p. 21
2: Jesus is risen! p. 22

1: JESUS IN JERUSALEM

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 7, pages 190/191.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 192.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 8, photocopy of palm leaf template given on page 209 for each child.
- Prayer space: Red cloth (Palm Sunday), Bible (open at John 12), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Reflect on the experience of being a supporter, and of being supported.
 - » Explain that Palm Sunday and Good Friday are two key days in the celebration of Holy Week, and identify what is remembered on each of those days.

- *Communicate and Participate*

» Discuss and retell the stories 'Jesus Comes into Jerusalem' and 'Jesus is Crucified' in their own words, according to their own ability.

» Memorise and pray the *Sanctus*.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Enter into the spirit of the Church's celebration of Holy Week.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by carrying out the drama activity as described on page 193.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus Comes into Jerusalem', page 194. Show the children Poster 8. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Teach the children the *Sanctus* prayer and explain the meaning of each line as outlined on page 194.
- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus is Crucified', page 195. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 40.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* On Palm Sunday, we remember that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Many of the people were excited to see Jesus. They waved palm branches and shouted, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'. Later that week, some of those people turned against Jesus and did not speak up for him when he was arrested and then crucified. We remember Jesus' crucifixion on the day we call Good Friday.

- Engage the children in the art activity given on page 197. Here the children use the photocopied templates of the palm leaves. Explain to the children that at Mass on Palm Sunday they will hear the Gospel reading about how Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem. At Mass on Palm Sunday they will also receive blessed palm leaves to keep in their homes.
- Lead the children in praying the *Sanctus* together.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 41, for homework.

2: JESUS IS RISEN!

Teacher Preparation

- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 199.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, CD Track 14.
- Online resources: Fresco by Fra Angelico for art activity.
- Prayer space: White cloth (Easter season), Bible (open at John 20), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Examine an illustration depicting Jesus’ encounter with Mary Magdalene and respond to it.
 - » Reflect on the ways in which they and their families can celebrate Holy Week and Easter.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Imagine how Jesus felt during Holy Week.

- » Discuss and retell the story ‘Mary Magdalene and the Risen Jesus’ in their own words, according to their own ability.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Develop their faith in the Risen Jesus.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin by asking the children to recall, in their own words, the story ‘Jesus is Crucified’ that we listened to last week. You may wish to use a Round Robin technique for this activity.
- Lead the children in meditative prayer as outlined on page 200.

Let’s Learn ...

- Invite the children to look at the fresco by Fra Angelico, which you will find in the online resources for this lesson. Engage the children in a chat about the painting using the questions given on page 201. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out a large copy of this painting, or several smaller copies, in advance of the lesson.
- Read the Scripture story ‘Mary Magdalene and the Risen Jesus’, page 201. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the song ‘Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks’ (Track 14, p. 207) to the children.

Let’s Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Three days after Jesus died and was buried, Mary Magdalene went to his tomb. When the stone was rolled away from the entrance, she saw that the tomb was empty. Mary thought that someone had taken Jesus’ body away. Then, the Risen Jesus appeared to Mary, and told her to tell his friends that he had been raised from the dead.
- Ask the children the following question: ‘How do you celebrate Holy Week and Easter?’ Allow the children to share their responses with the class.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 42.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 43, for homework.

Theme 8: Jesus is Still With Us

- 1: 'I am with you always' p. 23
- 2: 'I will send a helper' p. 24
- 3: 'Go and share the Good News' p. 25

1: 'I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS'

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 8, pages 212/213.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 214.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 9.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'From Crucifixion to Ascension'.
- Prayer space: White cloth (Easter season), Bible (open at Acts 2), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify that we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven forty days after Easter Sunday.
 - » Consider Jesus' promise that no matter what happens to us, we are not alone.
 - » Recall Jesus' promise to his friends to be with them always.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Describe the event of the Ascension of Jesus.
- » Pray in thanksgiving for Jesus' assurance that he is always with us.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Appreciate the closeness of Jesus in their lives at all times and pray in thanksgiving for his presence.

Let's Look ...

- Begin today's lesson by chatting about 'last words' as described on page 217. Invite the children to add ideas they might have to the list.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the slideshow of images of Jesus' death on the cross to his Ascension into heaven. Use the questions on page 217 to guide your discussion on each slide. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out similar pictures to show the children in advance of the lesson or use the images on Poster 9.
- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus' Last Words', page 218. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 44.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Before Jesus went back to heaven, he said some important last words to his friends. He told them that he wanted them to continue his work, that he would send a helper to support them (the Holy Spirit) and that he would be with them always.

- Carry out the 'Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down' activity, page 219. Through this activity you will assure the children that Jesus is always with us.
- Assign Children's Book, page 45, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 220.

2: 'I WILL SEND A HELPER'

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 221.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'Wind'.
- Prayer space: Red cloth (Pentecost), Bible (open at Acts 2), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Wonder about why the wind is used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
 - » Consider how the disciples felt prior to the descent of the Holy Spirit.
 - » Reflect on how the Holy Spirit can help them as it helped the disciples.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story of

the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Memorise and perform gestures to indicate the Ascension of Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit.
- » Pray to the Holy Spirit.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Appreciate that the Holy Spirit can be their helper.

Let's Look ...

- Begin the lesson by engaging the children in a discussion on the wind. Display the slideshow of pictures of the wind moving various items and discuss the questions for each picture as given on page 222. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish out to print out similar pictures in advance of the lesson.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'Pentecost', page 223. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Teach the children the Pentecost Gesture, page 224.
- Carry out the drama activity as described on page 224. Here the children will create still images of the scene in the upper room before and after the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 46.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Jesus' friends were gathered together in Jerusalem. They were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. They spent their time praying. They were frightened and missed Jesus very much. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised came to them and they were no longer frightened. Their fear was transformed into courage.
- Assign Children's Book, page 47, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying *Prayer to the Holy Spirit*, page 224.

3: 'GO AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS'

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 226.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, photocopy of the 'mission challenges' on page 236.
- Online resources: Video – 'The Holy Spirit Helps Jesus' Friends'.
- Prayer space: White cloth (Easter season), Bible (open at Acts 2), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Outcomes

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Engage in a classroom-based 'mission' in order to begin to understand what is meant by missionary activity.
 - » Wonder about why people wanted to join the followers of Jesus in their mission.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell how the friends

of Jesus lived after Pentecost, in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Discuss how they can continue the work of Jesus.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Be able to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to love as Jesus asks.

Let's Look ...

- Begin today's lesson with the 'I Have a Mission' activity as given on page 227. Here the children will work in teams of three to carry out one of the 'mission' challenges.
- Recall the gestures from last week's lesson indicating that Jesus was lifted up to heaven at the Ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Practise these gestures and pray the *Prayer to the Holy Spirit*, page 227.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'After Pentecost', page 228. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Show the children the video 'The Holy Spirit Helps Jesus'. Use the questions on page 228 to guide your discussion on the video. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to view the video in advance of the lesson and relay the information to your class.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* After Pentecost, Jesus' friends went out to all the corners of the earth to spread the Good News about God's love for all people. This missionary activity was continued by others and continues in the present time.
- Chat with the children about the ways in which they can continue the work of Jesus in their own lives. Help them to give examples.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 48.
- Assign Children's Book, page 49, for homework.

Theme 9: Creation

1: God made the world p. 26
2: God made us ... we are special p. 27

1: GOD MADE THE WORLD

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 9, pages 238/239.
- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 240.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, CD Tracks 2 and 3.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Genesis 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Consider their response to the gift of God’s Creation.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story of Creation in their own words, according to their own ability.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Develop the Christian virtue of a sense of wonder and reverence for God’s Creation.
- Appreciate their dignity and worth as created and loved by God.

Let’s Look ...

- Lead the children in meditative prayer, page 241.

Let’s Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story ‘Creation Story – Part I’, page 242. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Read the Scripture story ‘Creation Story – Part II’, page 242. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 50.

Let’s Live ...

- *What you have taught:* In the beginning there was nothing, and from nothing God created the world and its many wonderful gifts – sky, earth, sea, creatures of the air, creatures of the earth and creatures of the sky. Invite the children to answer the following questions as given on page 244:
 - » Is there anything we can say to God who created this wonderful world out of nothing?
 - » Is there anything you can do to show how you feel about God’s world? How can you show respect for it?
- Assign Children’s Book, page 51, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 244.

2: GOD MADE US ... WE ARE SPECIAL

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 245.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Tracks 7 and 18.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Genesis 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Explore how each person is special.
 - » Explore the interdependence of people with all of God's Creation.
 - » Memorise the quote 'God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased' (Genesis 1:31).
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Participate in a prayer service on the theme of Creation.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Appreciate their interdependence upon one another, upon the earth and upon God.
- Develop a sense of gratitude to God for the blessings of Creation and all of God's gifts.
- Desire to respect others and the natural environment as created by God.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this lesson by recalling the first two parts of the Creation Story from last week. Invite the children to retell the stories in their own words. You may wish to use a Round Robin technique for this activity.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'Creation Story – Part III', page 248. Discuss the questions that follow.
- Engage the children in a discussion about people using the bulleted questions given under the heading 'Collage of People', page 249.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 52.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* God's Creation consists of many wonderful gifts. All of these gifts are connected to one another. Nothing is unimportant; all are valued parts of Creation. The Creation of people is the high point of God's Creation. People are connected to one another and to all other gifts of Creation.
- Carry out a prayer service on the theme of Creation as outlined on page 251. You may need to tweak this to suit your own class and the setting of your lessons.
- Assign Children's Book, page 53, for homework.

Theme 10: Grow in Love

1: Living in Love p. 28
2: Growing in Love p. 29

1: LIVING IN LOVE

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 10, pages 254/255.
- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 256.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, CD Track 1, photocopy of pages 269–70 so that each group of three children has a scenario, photocopy of page 271 so that there is a ‘voucher’ for each child.
- Online resources: Slideshow – ‘Showing Love’.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at John 13), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Explore the practical implications of the Law of Love.
 - » Identify times when they showed love to others or others showed love to them.
 - » Memorise the Law of Love.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss Jesus’ Law of Love.
 - » Participate in a drama activity

exploring various examples of receiving and sharing love.

- » Decide on and do an ‘act of love’ for someone.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Respond to the commandment of Jesus to love one another.
- Relate their Christian actions to the teachings of Jesus.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin today’s lesson by showing the children the slideshow ‘Showing Love’ and discussing the questions on each picture as outlined on page 257. If online access is not available to your class, carry out the discussion using the questions provided but omit the parts that ask direct questions about the pictures.

Let’s Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story ‘Love One Another’, page 259. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story. Help the children to memorise the Law of Love: ‘As I have loved you, so you must love one another’ (Jn 14:34).
- Sing the song ‘Grow in Love’ (Track 1, p. 131).
- Engage the children in the drama activity as explained on page 260. Here the children, in groups of three, will act out a given scenario. The rest of the class can talk about how a person in each scenario is showing love for someone else.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Before he died, Jesus asked his friends to love one another as he had loved them. As Jesus' friends, we too can show love for one another as Jesus asked. We can do this by making friends, being generous, caring for those who are sick, caring for the world, having courage and being kind to our family.
- Using the photocopied 'Act of Love' vouchers, invite the children to fill out the voucher. The children may wish to decorate their voucher for homework before giving it to the person to whom it is made out.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 261.

2: GROWING IN LOVE

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 262.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 4.
- Online resources: Interactive activity – 'Growing in Love'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at John 13), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.
- Consider inviting families and parish representatives to the End-of-Year Prayer Service.

Learning Outcomes

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Reflect on their experience of being in First Class/P3.
 - » Identify their own learnings from the Scriptures throughout the year.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss ways of following the Law of Love, and what to do when we fail to live up to it.

» Prepare for and participate in an end-of-year prayer service.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Deepen their awareness of the implications of the Law of Love in their own lives.
- Appreciate and desire to follow the Law of Love.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by singing the song 'Together Again' (Track 4, p. 45). Carry out a discussion following the song as suggested on page 263.

Let's Learn ...

- Allow the children to 'think-pair-share' on the topic of their favourite Bible story.
- Complete the interactive activity 'Growing in Love', and discuss the questions on page 264. If online access is not available to your class, omit the interactive activity section.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* This year we have learned a lot about God and about Jesus. Jesus gave us the Law of Love to teach us how to live and how to love. The Law of Love helps us to grow in love of God and of one another.
- Involve the children in preparing for the end-of-year prayer service as suggested on page 266.
- Lead the children in a prayer service to mark the end of the school year, page 267. You may need to change the prayer service to suit your own class, the setting of your lesson or length of lesson.

Theme: Seasonal Lessons

1: The <i>Rosary</i> (October)	p. 30
2: Celebrating the Saints (1 November)	p. 31
3: Lent (Ash Wednesday).....	p. 32
4: St Patrick (17 March)	p. 33

1: THE ROSARY (OCTOBER)

This one-week lesson should be undertaken during the month of October.

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 276.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Rosary beads (full set and single decade).
- Online resources: Images of Mary and the Presentation for the chatting activity about the Rosary.
- Prayer space: Blue cloth (in honour of Mary), Bible (open at Luke 2), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify Rosary beads as a way to help people to pray the *Rosary*.
 - » Explain how to pray a decade of the *Rosary*.
 - » Identify the Presentation as a joyful moment in the life of Mary and Jesus.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Consider how, when and where

they might pray a decade of the *Rosary* during the month of October.

- » Participate in saying a decade of the *Rosary*.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Begin to develop a devotion to Mary through the *Rosary*.
- Demonstrate due reverence for blessed Rosary beads.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by engaging the children in the 'Counting Game' activity, page 277. Here the children will be shown Rosary beads and will learn that Rosary beads help us when praying the *Rosary*.

Let's Learn ...

- Chat with the children about the *Rosary* using both the text on page 278 ('Chatting' activity) and the online images. If online access is not available to your class, omit showing the images.
- Teach the children how to use Rosary beads to help when praying the *Rosary*. You may have both a full Rosary beads and a single decade Rosary beads to show the class. When praying a decade of the *Rosary*, we pray an *Our Father* at the beginning, then ten *Hail Marys*, and a *Glory be to the Father* at the end.
- Invite the class to pray a decade of the *Rosary* together.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* The *Rosary* is a prayer in which we remember things that happened in Mary's life and in the life of Jesus. When we pray the *Rosary*, we pray one *Our Father*, ten *Hail Marys* and one *Glory be to the Father* while thinking about an event in the life of Jesus and his mother Mary. We can use *Rosary beads* to help us pray the *Rosary*. We use *Rosary beads* by moving our fingers from one bead to the next.
- Chat about praying the *Rosary* using the text and suggested questions on page 279. Omit the suggestion that the *Rosary* is prayed in school each day for the month of October. Instead, suggest that a decade of the *Rosary* could be prayed each week at our lesson for the month of October.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 54.
- Assign Children's Book, page 55, for homework.

2: CELEBRATING THE SAINTS (1 NOVEMBER)

This one-week lesson should be undertaken close to the Feast of All Saints (1 November).

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 283.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 19, Poster 11.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, *Rosary beads*.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Describe the 'little way' of St Thérèse of Lisieux, and identify ways in which they too can do little things with great love.
 - » Identify the saints as people who live their lives in the way Jesus taught.
 - » Explore how we can pray to the saints for help to live like them.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story of St Thérèse of Lisieux in their own words, according to their own ability.
 - » Suggest ways of living according to the 'little way'.
 - » Participate in a prayer service marking the Feast of All Saints.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Seek to emulate the lives of the saints and to ask their help in prayer.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by reading the story 'Doing Little Things with Love', page 284. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'St Thérèse of Lisieux', page 286. Show the children Poster 11 and discuss the questions that follow.
- Introduce the song 'This Little Light of Mine' (Track 19, p. 290) to the children and chat about the lyrics as suggested on page 287.
- Complete the chatting activity 'About the Saints', page 287. Here the children are invited to name people who have died whom they would like to remember during the month of November.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Saint Thérèse of Lisieux was born in France over a hundred years ago. Because of ill health, she couldn't travel all over the world telling people about God as she wanted. Instead, she committed to doing little things with great love. On 1 November every year, we celebrate the lives of the saints, ordinary people who showed God's love to those around them. We can pray to the saints to help us to be like them.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 56.
- Assign Children's Book, page 57, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer using the text comprising the second column of the prayer service on page 289.

3: LENT (ASH WEDNESDAY)

This one-week lesson should be undertaken during the week in which Ash Wednesday is celebrated.

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 293.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Video – 'Vox Pop Parts I and II'.
- Prayer space: Purple cloth (Lent), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads, Trócaire box.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify things that we can turn away from during Lent.
 - » Explore different ways of turning towards God during Lent.
 - » Decide on a Lenten promise.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss the merits of turning

away from some things and turning towards others.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- See Lent as an opportunity to turn back to God.
- Enter into the spirit of Lent by undertaking a Lenten sacrifice.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by carrying out the 'Turn Away From, Turn Towards' activity, page 294. Conclude the activity after discussing 'Note 3'. Omit the last part of the activity.

Let's Learn ...

- Chat with the children about Lent using the dialogue given on page 296. Here you will assess the children's prior knowledge of Lent and build upon it.
- Show the video 'Vox Pop – Part I' to the class, page 297. In this video, various people answer the question 'What are you turning away from during Lent?' Discuss the questions based on the video, page 297. Show the children the Trócaire box at this stage of the lesson. If online access is not available to show the video, then use the dialogue and questions about the videos as presented on page 297 to the best of your ability.
- Show the video 'Vox Pop – Part II' to the class, page 297. In this video, various people answer the question 'What are you turning towards this Lent?' Discuss the questions based on the video, page 297.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Lent is a season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. During Lent we turn away from things that distract us from God. We can turn away from eating too many sweets, watching too much TV, or from bad behaviours, for

- example. During Lent we also turn towards the things that help us to turn towards God and other people, such as sharing, kindness and showing love.
- Invite the children to first think about what they may decide to turn towards or turn away from this Lent. Allow the children time to write down their Lenten promises to take home with them.
 - Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 58.
 - Assign Children’s Book, page 59, for homework.
 - Lead the children in prayer, page 295.

4: ST PATRICK (17 MARCH)

This one-week lesson should be undertaken close to the Feast of St Patrick.

Teacher Preparation

- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 302.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, CD Track 15.
- Online resources: Slideshow – ‘The Life of St Patrick’.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Recall the story of Patrick’s life.
 - » Make a connection between the lighting of the paschal fire and the people who walked in darkness (as explored in ‘Theme 3: Advent and Christmas’).
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story ‘St

Patrick’s Fire’ in their own words, according to their own ability.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Begin to appreciate the importance of St Patrick in the faith story of Irish people.
- Be inspired to follow the example of Patrick, who spent his life in God’s service.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin this week’s lesson by chatting with the children about their memories of St Patrick’s Day. Use the questions under the heading ‘St Patrick’s Day Parade’ on page 303 to guide your conversation. Omit showing the video.
- Introduce the first verse of the song ‘Christ be Beside Me’ (Track 15, p. 309) and chat about the lyrics as outlined on page 303. Work together with the children to decide on appropriate actions to perform while singing.

Let’s Learn ...

- Introduce the slideshow ‘The Life of St Patrick’ and recall the story with the children as described on page 304. If online access is not available to your class, then recall the story without showing the slideshow.
- Read the story ‘St Patrick’s Fire’, page 305. Discuss the questions that follow the story.

Let’s Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Saint Patrick brought the Good News of God’s love to the people of Ireland by lighting a fire on the Hill of Slane before the High King at the time, King Laoire, lit his spring fire. Patrick did this to illustrate to the people how God would bring ‘light to those in darkness’. After Patrick had lit his fire on the Hill of Slane, many people came to believe in God’s love for them, including King Laoire.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 60.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 61, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 303.