

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



**Second
Class**

Primary 4



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Grow in Love Series
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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: Called and Chosen

1: Our class – a circle of friends p. 2
2: Jesus chose followers p. 3
3: We are Jesus' followers p. 4

1: OUR CLASS – A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

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 Mark 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify the defining characteristics of their class.
 - » Reflect on the ways in which Jesus is their friend.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss some qualities of friendship.
 - » Pray in a meditative style to Jesus.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Begin to see Jesus as their friend.

Let's Look ...

- Begin the first lesson of the new school year by engaging the children in the activity on page 29, in which they reflect upon their class as a whole and the good qualities of the individuals within the class. This will allow you the opportunity to get to know the new group of children with whom you will be working this year. If you have taught the class before, you may wish to join in with the 'Tell Me About' activity.

Let's Learn ...

- Introduce the song 'Circle of Friends' (Track 4, p. 44) to the children and chat with them about the lyrics.
- Tell the children that our class is a circle of friends as suggested by the lyrics of the song. We have spoken about each member of our class at the start of today's lesson. Tell the children that you think someone might have been left out, and invite them to think about who this might be.
- Read the poem 'My Friend' to the class. Discuss the questions that follow the poem.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 2.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Our class is a 'circle of friends'. We can be kind, generous and loving to each other. This is how God wants us to be. God sent his only Son, Jesus, to be our friend. He wants to talk with us, and to listen to us.
- Assign Children's Book, page 3, for homework.
- Lead the children in meditative prayer, page 32.

2: JESUS CHOSE FOLLOWERS

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 33.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 1, CD Track 5.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Mark 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Reflect on the experience of being a leader and a follower.
 - » Memorise the names of the twelve apostles.
 - » Reflect on the ways in which the twelve apostles showed that they were friends of Jesus.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Imagine how Peter and Andrew

felt when they were chosen by Jesus.

- » Consider the ways in which they can show that they are followers of Jesus.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Become aware that Jesus calls them personally to be disciples.
- Desire to follow Jesus.

Let's Look ...

- Begin today's lesson by engaging the children in the activity 'Follow the Leader', page 34. Here the children will discuss the roles of a leader and a follower in the classroom and beyond.

Let's Learn ...

- Using the text before the story on page 35, prompt the children to identify Jesus as a leader. Show the children the Bible and invite them to tell you who we hear about in the Bible. Recall that there are four gospels in the Bible and that they were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- Read the Bible story 'Follow Me', page 35, to the children. Invite them to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Show the children Poster 1. Introduce the song 'The Apostles' (Track 5, p. 45) to the class and sing the song together.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 4.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Jesus chose twelve people to be his apostles. He wanted them to learn from him so that they could teach others about God and God's great love for us.
- Pose the following question to the children: 'How can you show that you are a follower of Jesus.' Invite a few children to share their responses.
- Assign Children's Book, page 5, for homework.
- Lead the children in the *Night Prayer*, page 37.

3: WE ARE JESUS' FOLLOWERS

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 38.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, symbols of Baptism.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'Jesus' Followers', video – 'Rory's Baptism Parts I and II'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Mark 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name and reflect on the different parts of the Baptism ceremony.
 - » Explore how God's love (grace) helps people to live as Jesus asks.
 - » Identify ways in which they can live as followers of Jesus.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Discuss the ways in which they can respond to God's love (grace) in their own lives.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Appreciate that God chose them at Baptism to be a follower of Jesus.

Let's Look ...

- Show the children the slideshow 'Jesus' Followers'. Ask the questions relating to each slide, page 39. Conclude the activity by reading the dialogue and questions after the pictures, page 39. Omit completing the written activity. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to either print similar pictures in advance of the lesson or describe what is happening in each of the slideshow pictures to the children.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the video 'Rory's Baptism – Part I'. Discuss the questions about the video, page 40.
- Show the children the video 'Rory's Baptism – Part II'. Discuss the questions about the video, page 40. If online access is not available to your class, you may decide to show the children either the symbols of Baptism or pictures of these symbols. Using the visual stimuli, lead the children in a discussion about Baptism. Use the questions and information on page 40 to ascertain the children's prior knowledge of the sacrament of Baptism and then build upon this.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* In Baptism, we are chosen to be followers of Jesus. As part of the Baptism ceremony, parents and family trace the Sign of the Cross on their child's forehead and the priest pours holy water on the child's head. They are also anointed with chrism and wrapped in a white garment. A candle is lit on their behalf.
- Use the three bullet points in the chatting section, 'About Baptism', page 42, to guide a discussion with the class about being a follower of Jesus.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 6.
- Assign Children's Book, page 7, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying *Prayer to Our Guardian Angel*, page 325.

Theme 2: Jesus

1: Jesus: healer, helper, friend p. 5
2: Jesus heals Simon Peter’s mother-in-law p. 6
3: Jesus heals Jairus’ daughter p. 7
4: Jesus gives his followers the Law of Love p. 8
5: At Mass, Jesus’ followers gather together p. 9

1: JESUS: HEALER, HELPER, FRIEND

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 2, pages 54/55.
- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 56.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, Poster 2, photocopy of pages 90/91.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name what they already know about Jesus.
 - » Identify Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee on a map of Israel.
 - » State what they believe is the best thing about Jesus.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Describe the Sea of Galilee and dramatise some events in the life of Jesus that happened near there.
- » Pray the *Our Father* with actions.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Encounter Jesus in Bible stories.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin this week’s lesson with the activity ‘Twenty Questions’, page 57.

Let’s Learn ...

- Name the places associated with the life of Jesus and some of the things that happened in each place. Use the events listed in bullet points under the ‘Sequencing Jesus’s Story’ heading, page 58.
- Show the children Poster 2. Ask them to find Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee on the map. Invite four children to attach the printed-out flashcards from page 90 to each of the places.
- Engage the children in the drama activity ‘Charades’, page 59. The children will work together in groups to mime an event in Jesus’ life that happened in the area around the Sea of Galilee.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 8.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth and visited Jerusalem on many occasions. He spent a lot of time near the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The stories of Jesus' life, death and Resurrection are told in the gospels. They tell us that Jesus was a healer, a helper and a friend.
- Join with the children in the 'Circle Time' activity, page 60. Here the class can share what they know and like about Jesus with their classmates.
- Assign Children's Book, page 9, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Our Father* with actions, page 60.

2: JESUS HEALS SIMON PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 61.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 8.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Mark 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Recall an experience of illness.
 - » Name the healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law as a miracle.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story of the healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Participate in a drama exploring how the various characters in the story of the healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law might have felt.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Experience Jesus' healing presence in their own lives.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by chatting with the children using 'About Being Sick', page 62. Here the children are invited to discuss their prior knowledge of sickness.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'The Healing of Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law', page 63. Ask the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Engage the children in the drama activity 'Still Images', page 64. Begin the activity from the part that says to divide the class into four groups. Here the children will act out a scene from the Scripture story we have just heard.
- Introduce the song 'Lay Your Hands' (Track 8, p. 89) to the children. Chat about the words and sing the song together.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 10.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Jesus visited Simon Peter's home and healed his mother-in-law who was ill with a very high temperature. Jesus took her by the hand and at once she was well again. This is one of the healing miracles of Jesus.
- Assign Children's Book, page 11, for homework.
- Lead the children in meditative prayer, page 67.

3: JESUS HEALS JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 68.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Mark 5), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Reflect on their own experiences of loss and grief.
 - » Consider how and why Jairus kept his faith in Jesus, even when his daughter had died.
 - » Explore the words 'Don't be afraid. Only believe'.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story of the healing of Jairus' daughter

in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Engage in a meditative prayer reflecting on the story.
- » Chat about their own belief in Jesus' presence with them.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Be open to the Risen Jesus' healing presence in their own lives.
- Nurture hope of the promise of eternal life.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by chatting with the children about losing a pet (this pet may have gone missing or may have died). Use questions such as these to guide the discussion: 'How did you feel when you realised that your pet was missing?', 'Did you try to find your pet? How?', 'Do you have a pet at home now? How would you feel if it went missing or died?'

Let's Learn ...

- Explain to the children that people are very, very sad when a person they know and love dies. Introduce the Scripture story that the children are about to hear by reading the introduction to the story, page 71.
- Read the Scripture story 'Don't be Afraid. Only Believe', page 71. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Engage the class in discussion on the Scripture story using the questions on page 71 for guidance.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 12.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* This week the children have learned about another Scripture story where Jesus performed a miracle – the healing of Jairus' daughter. Jesus said to Jairus, 'Don't be afraid, only believe'. Jairus kept his faith and trust in Jesus, and his daughter was healed.
- Ask the children to recall what Jesus said to Jarius in the Scripture story – 'Don't be afraid. Only believe'. Help the children to consider this in relation to their own lives as suggested in the chatting activity, page 73.
- Assign Children's Book, page 13, for homework.
- Lead the children in meditative prayer, page 74.

4: JESUS GIVES HIS FOLLOWERS THE LAW OF LOVE

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 75.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'As I Have Loved You'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at John 13), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Recall the ways in which Jesus showed love to others.
 - » Identify ways of showing love in school and at home.
 - » Explore the value of both showing and receiving love.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Consider the importance of rules in our lives.

» Discuss and memorise the Law of Love.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Come to value Jesus' teachings in word and deed.
- Relate their Christian actions to those of Jesus.
- Respond to the commandment of Jesus ('Love one another').

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by identifying the need for rules in sport and in school. Use these questions from page 76 or similar to guide the conversation:
 - » What would it be like if, when playing a sport, all the players decided to ignore the rules? What would the game be like?
 - » Are rules important? Why? Is it easy or difficult to follow rules? Why?
 - » Are there rules in school? What do you think is the most important rule in school? Which rules do you find it most difficult to keep? Why is that?

Let's Learn ...

- Introduce the word 'law' to the children as explained in the introduction to the Scripture story, page 77.
- Read the Scripture story 'Love One Another', page 77, and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Show the children the slideshow 'As I Have Loved You', which you will find in the online material for this lesson. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out similar pictures in advance of the lesson.
- Discuss each slide using the questions on page 77.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 14.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* There are many rules and laws in our lives. Jesus gave us a very important rule: 'Love one another as I have loved you'. We call this rule the Law of Love. There are many ways in which we can choose to live the Law of Love.
- Remind the children that it often feels good to be shown love, but it also feels good to show love to others. Jesus was telling us this when he gave us his Law of Love. Jesus wants us to love others as he did. Ask the children to think about the following questions: 'Do you remember a time when someone did something kind for you? How was that person following Jesus' Law of Love?' and 'What can you do at school and at home to show that you are following Jesus' Law of Love?'
- Lead the children in praying the *Our Father*.
- Assign Children's Book, page 15, for homework.

5: AT MASS, JESUS' FOLLOWERS GATHER TOGETHER

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 80.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Video – 'Introductory Rites', video – 'Penitential Act'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name Sunday as the day when the followers of Jesus gather together.
 - » Recall and explain the ministry of some members of the parish community – priest, altar server, sacristan, choir members.
 - » Identify the start of Mass as a time to recall the love and mercy of God.

Communicate and Participate

- » Describe what happens at the opening part of Mass.
- » Pray the correct responses for the Penitential Act.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Desire to keep the Lord's Day holy by going to Mass.
- Participate more fully in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson with the chatting activity 'About When the Followers of Jesus Gather Together', page 81. Begin the activity at the top of the second column.
- Under the heading 'Who am I?', page 81, you will see in bold writing the words 'priest', 'sacristan', 'altar servers' and 'the choir'. Help the children to recall and explain the ministry of each of these members of the parish community.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the video 'Introductory Rites'. Discuss the questions about the video, page 83. If online access is not available to your class, then explain to the children what happens at the first part of the Introductory Rites of the Mass: the Opening Hymn, the Sign of the Cross, the greeting and response.
- 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'.
- Show the children the video 'Penitential Act'. The introduction to this video and the questions for it are on page 84. Omit showing the video if online access is not available.
- Practise the *Kyrie* with the children by saying 'Lord, have mercy', 'Christ, have mercy' and 'Lord, have mercy'.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* On Sundays, the followers of Jesus gather together for a celebration called the Mass. During the first part of the Mass, we make the Sign of the Cross, and the priest welcomes us. Then, we remember God's love, mercy and forgiveness for the times that we did not live as Jesus wants us to. We ask God for forgiveness. We know that if we are sorry for the wrong things we have done, God will always forgive us. After that, we are ready to celebrate the rest of the Mass together.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 16.
- Assign Children's Book, page 17, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 82.

Theme 3: Advent and Christmas

1: Prepare the way of the Lord	p. 10
2: Messengers of God	p. 11
3: The birth of Jesus	p. 12

1: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 3, pages 96/97.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 98.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, candle and matches, Advent wreath, Advent calendar, empty crib, CD Track 9.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'John the Baptist and his Message'.
- Prayer space: Purple cloth (Advent), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Define a prophet as a person chosen by God to give a special message.
 - » Identify the relationship between John the Baptist's message of preparation and the message of Advent.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Engage in the construction of an Advent calendar.

- » Sing the song 'Prepare Ye'.
- » Suggest and discuss ways of preparing for Christmas during Advent.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Prepare for Christmas during Advent in a meaningful way.
- Celebrate their friendship with Jesus by recalling and celebrating his birthday.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by engaging the children in the chatting activity 'About the Advent Wreath', page 99. Identify Advent as the special time in which we get ready for Christmas. We light a candle on the Advent wreath each week of Advent as we prepare for Christmas.
- 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 and empty crib.

Let's Learn ...

- Introduce the song 'Prepare Ye' (Track 9, p. 120) to the children and chat about the words.
- God sent us messages about the coming of Jesus through the prophets. One of these prophets was John the Baptist. Show the children the slideshow 'John the Baptist and his Message'. Chat about each of the slides using the questions on pages 101/102. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out similar pictures in advance.
- Omit reading the poem 'Prepare, Prepare'.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 18.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Advent is the special time in the Church year when we prepare for Christmas. John the Baptist was a prophet, a messenger sent by God. We remember his message during Advent. His advice to people was to be ready to welcome Jesus into their hearts, to be ready to listen to Jesus, and to be ready to follow him.
- Show the children an Advent calendar. Chat with the children using the questions under the heading 'Advent Calendar', page 103. Omit completing the art activity described in this section.
- Assign Children's Book, page 19, for homework.
- Lead the class in prayer, pages 103/104. Omit opening the windows on the Advent calendar.

2: MESSENGERS OF GOD

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 105.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 9.
- Online resources: picture of *The Annunciation* by Fra Angelico.
- Prayer space: Purple cloth (Advent), Bible (open at Matthew 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name angels as messengers of God.
 - » Empathise with the feelings of the characters from the Christmas story to whom an angel appeared.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell two stories from the Bible in which angels

appear, in their own words, according to their own ability (the Annunciation and the shepherds in the fields).

- » Pray the first Joyful Mystery of the Rosary: The Annunciation.

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 the chatting activity 'About Messages and Messengers', as outlined on page 106. Conclude the activity by considering how God might pass on a message to someone. Look for prior knowledge from the children by asking if they know of a time when God passed on a message to someone.

Let's Learn ...

- Complete the art activity, page 108. This activity invites the children to look at and respond to the painting *The Annunciation* by Fra Angelico. This painting is available in the online resources for this lesson. If online access is not available, a print-out of the painting can be used. Use the questions on page 108 to discuss the painting.
- Read the Scripture story 'An Angel Appears to the Shepherds', page 109. 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 20.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Angels are messengers of God. At Christmas we encounter stories of angels appearing to various people to give messages from God about the birth of Jesus.

- Lead the children in prayer, page 110. Light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Sing the song 'Prepare Ye' (Track 9, p. 120) together. Pray a decade of the Rosary while remembering the first Joyful Mystery of the Rosary: The Annunciation.
- Assign Children's Book, page 21, for homework.

3: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 111.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 9, crib figures of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds.
- Online resources: Video – 'The Christmas Story'.
- Prayer space: Purple cloth (Advent), Bible (open at Matthew 2), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify the key moments in the Christmas story.
 - » Wonder about the kind of person Jesus was.
 - » Discuss the kind of person Herod was.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story of

the three wise men's visit to

King Herod in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Participate in a Reader's Theatre remembering the Christmas story.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Experience Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by showing the children the video 'The Christmas Story'. Chat to the children about the video using the questions on page 112. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to read the Christmas story from a children's Bible to your class. Read from the Annunciation through to the visit of the shepherds. Ask the same questions given following the story on page 112.

Let's Learn ...

- Discuss the wise men and King Herod using the questions and dialogue before the story, page 113.
- Read the Scripture story 'The Wise Men and King Herod', page 113. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* When Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky. The wise men followed this star and it led them to Bethlehem. However, on their way there, they asked King Herod where the new king was to be born. King Herod didn't like the thought of a new king, so he planned to get rid of Jesus. He asked the wise men to come back and tell him where Jesus was, but they did not.
- 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 Christmas story as suggested on page 115.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 22.
- Assign Children's Book, page 23, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 112. Light the first, second and third (pink) candles on the Advent wreath. Sing the song 'Prepare Ye' (Track 9, p. 120) together. Continue with the rest of the prayer time as on page 112.

Theme 4: We Hear the Word of God at Mass

1: Nothing is impossible with God p. 13
2: At Mass we listen p. 14

1: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 4, pages 124/125.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 126.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 4, CD Track 12.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Samuel 17), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify the story of David and Goliath as one that Jesus heard when he was a boy.
 - » Explore how knowing that God was with him made David feel.
 - » Consider challenges they might encounter in their own experience.

- *Communicate and Participate*

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

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Begin to understand that faith in God enables us to do extraordinary things.

Let's Look ...

- Begin today's lesson by reading the story 'The Hare and the Tortoise', page 127. Ask the children to recall the story. Then ask the questions that follow the story, page 127.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children Poster 4: David and Goliath. Give the class a brief introduction to the Scripture story using the information provided on page 129.
- Read the Scripture story 'David and Goliath', page 129. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the children to 'The Lord, He is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)' (Track 12, p. 139) and chat about the words. Information about this psalm is found on page 130.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 24.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* When David was fifteen years old, he defeated the giant Goliath in battle. Goliath was much bigger and stronger than David, but David was not afraid. He knew that God was with him, no matter how difficult a task he was facing.

- Engage the children in the chatting activity 'About Challenges', page 131. Use the questions to guide the conversation.
- Assign Children's Book, page 25, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Morning Prayer* together, page 325.

2: AT MASS WE LISTEN

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 132.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 12, soft ball.
- Online resources: Video – 'First Reading', video – 'The Gospel'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible (open at Samuel 17), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name stories that Jesus heard when he was a boy.
 - » Recall their favourite Bible stories.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Recite the appropriate responses

for the different readings contained in the Liturgy of the Word.

- » Pray the response to Psalm 23.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Desire to participate more actively in the Mass.

Let's Look ...

- Begin today's lesson by asking the children to 'think-pair-share' on the question 'What is your favourite story from the Bible? Why do you like that story?'
- Engage the children in the 'Story Game' activity, page 133. Here the children will sit in a circle and retell a known Bible story by passing around a soft ball. Omit the written activity described at the end of the game.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the video 'First Reading'. Chat about the video using the questions on page 134. If online access is not available to your class, describe to the children orally what happens at this stage of the Mass.
- Practise the response 'Thanks be to God' with the children, which is said after the minister pronounces 'The word of the Lord' at the end of the first and second readings.
- Sing 'The Lord, He is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)' (Track 12, p. 139) together.
- Show the children the video 'The Gospel'. Chat about the video using the questions on page 135. If online access is not available to your class, describe to the children orally what happens at this stage of the Mass.
- Practise the dialogue before and after the Gospel with the children, page 135.
- Practise the gesture that accompanies the words 'Glory to you, O Lord'.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* The Liturgy of the Word is the part of the Mass where we hear readings from the Bible. The First Reading is often a story that Jesus heard when he was a boy. Then we pray a psalm. Then the deacon or priest reads a story about Jesus from the Gospel. There are certain words and actions that are said and done during this part of the Mass.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 26.
- Assign Children's Book, page 27, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Night Prayer*, page 325.

Theme 5: Reconciliation

1: Choices p. 15
2: Zacchaeus made bad choices p. 16
3: We can be forgiven p. 17

1: CHOICES

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 5, pages 144/145.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 146.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Luke 19), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Recall Jesus' command to love God and to love others.
 - » Explore the need to say sorry to God and to others when we hurt other people.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Engage in activities exploring good and bad choices, and the consequences of same.

- » Demonstrate their understanding of the word 'sin' by writing/drawing about a time when they have sinned.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Decide to follow Jesus in their moral lives.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by reading the story 'What Sweets?', page 147. Discuss the questions that follow the story. Conclude by explaining that we sometimes make bad choices and do things that we know are wrong. We call these things 'sins'.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus Teaches Us', page 149. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Engage the children in the chatting activity 'About Sins', page 150. Here the children will chat about sins and about saying sorry to someone when they have done something wrong towards them, and saying sorry to God. The children will also be prompted to discuss forgiveness.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 28.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Sometimes we act in ways that are not loving towards others and towards God. When we do, we sin. God does not want us to sin, but even when we sin, God will not stop loving us. When we are sorry for what we have done and ask God for forgiveness, God will always forgive us. We should also forgive others when they tell us that they are sorry.

- Lead the children in prayer, page 151. Omit the section that mentions a 'Sorry Box'.
- Assign Children's Book, page 29, for homework.

2: ZACCHAEUS MADE BAD CHOICES

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 152.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 5, CD Track 14.
- Online resources: Interactive activity – 'Choices'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Luke 19), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Describe Zacchaeus before he met Jesus.
 - » Evaluate what Zacchaeus promised to do after he met Jesus to make up for the wrongs he had done.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story of Zacchaeus in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Explore Zacchaeus' relationships with the people of Jericho before and after his encounter with Jesus.
- » Pray the *Confiteor*.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Respond to Jesus' call to change as Zacchaeus did.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson with the interactive activity described on page 153, 'Choices'. You will find this activity in the online resources for this lesson. Through this activity the children will assess choices as being good or bad. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to view the activity in advance of the lesson and then describe the scenarios to the class.

Let's Learn ...

- Chat with the class about Zacchaeus the tax collector as outlined on page 154. The children will receive some background information on Zacchaeus. They will also be asked to 'think-pair-share' on what they think Zacchaeus would do in various scenarios.
- Read the Scripture story 'Zacchaeus and Jesus', page 154, to the class. Show the children Poster 5. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the song 'Zacchaeus' (Track 14, p. 166) to the class.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 30.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Zacchaeus was a greedy man who forced people to pay more tax than they owed so that he could become wealthy. One day, Jesus met Zacchaeus. Jesus surprised everyone by telling Zacchaeus that he wanted to visit his house. While they were there, Zacchaeus told Jesus the ways in which he had sinned, and told Jesus that he was sorry. Zacchaeus decided on a way to make up for what he had done. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus.
- Assign Children's Book, page 31, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Confiteor*, page 157.

3: WE CAN BE FORGIVEN

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 158.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Video – 'Sacrament of Reconciliation Parts I and II'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at Luke 19), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify times when they do wrong.
 - » Examine the five steps in the rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss each of the steps in the rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - » Consider how people can show

they are sorry when they do wrong.

- » Pray the *Act of Sorrow*.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Develop an understanding of how they sin and of their need for God's forgiveness.
- Respond to God's love by saying sorry when they do something that is wrong.

Let's Look ...

- Begin by asking the children to recall the story of Zacchaeus from last week's lesson. You may wish to do this using a Round Robin strategy.
- Recall that sometimes we also make bad choices. We might say or do things that are wrong or we might hurt others. When we realise and admit that we have done something wrong, we too can say that we are sorry, just as Zacchaeus did. When we do so, we reconcile with God and with others.

Let's Learn ...

- Engage the children in the chatting activity 'About the Sacrament of Reconciliation', page 160.
- Show the children the video 'Sacrament of Reconciliation – Part I'. Here the children will see how we tell the priest about the things for which we are sorry. Discuss the questions on page 160 based on the video. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out some pictures in advance of the lesson to display while reading the commentary on page 160.
- Show the children the video 'Sacrament of Reconciliation – Part II'. Here the children will see the priest giving penance and absolution, as described on page 161. Discuss the questions on page 161 based on the video.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 32.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we have an opportunity to reconnect with God and with other people. There are five steps in celebrating the sacrament:
 1. Knowing that I have done something wrong and feeling sorry.
 2. Saying sorry (Confession).
 3. Accepting penance and praying the *Act of Sorrow*.
 4. Receiving the priest's absolution.
 5. Trying again to act like Jesus.
- Lead the children in praying the *Confiteor*, page 327, and *Act of Sorrow*, page 325.
- Assign Children's Book, page 33, for homework.

Theme 6: At Mass, We Give Thanks and We Receive Holy Communion

1: 'Do this in memory of me' p. 18
2: At Mass, we thank God p. 19
3: At Mass, we receive Holy Communion p. 20

1: 'DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME'

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 6, pages 170/171.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 172.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at John 13), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Reflect on and discuss the act of washing feet.
 - » Identify the actions of people who are following Jesus' command to 'wash feet'.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Role play the four actions of Jesus at the Last Supper.
- » Discern the ways in which they can act as followers of Jesus.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Desire to act as followers of Jesus.

Let's Look ...

- Begin today's lesson by chatting with the children about a special meal that their families shared together. Ask the children the bulleted questions under the heading 'Vox Pop', page 173. Omit showing the 'Vox Pop' video.

Let's Learn ...

- Engage the children in the chatting activity 'About Jobs', page 174. Here the children will be asked to recall times in the Bible when Jesus gathered with his friends to eat. The children will also learn why, in Jesus' time, people washed their feet before they sat down to eat.
- Read the Scripture story 'The Washing of Feet', page 175. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story, page 175.
- Read the Scripture story 'Bread and Wine', page 175. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story, page 176.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 34.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* On the night before he died, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his followers. Before they ate, Jesus took a basin and began to wash his followers' feet. He told them that they should do for others as he had done for them. Then, Jesus took bread and wine, blessed them and shared them with his friends. He said 'This is my body' and 'This is my blood'. Jesus asked his followers

- to remember him by gathering together and doing the same thing as he had done. When they remembered him in this way, he would be with them in a special way.
- Ask the class to list some of the things that Jesus' followers might do in the world today. Some ideas are found under the heading 'Followers of Jesus', page 177. Then ask the class the following question: 'If you could take a picture of yourself doing something to show that you are a follower of Jesus, what would you take a picture of?'
- Assign Children's Book, page 35, for homework.
- Lead the children in praying *Grace Before Meals* and *Grace After Meals*, page 173.

2: AT MASS, WE THANK GOD

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 179.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 16.
- Online resources: Video – 'Preparation of the Gifts'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at John 13), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Reflect on the things for which they are thankful.
 - » Watch and discuss the video 'Preparation of the Gifts'.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Pray the prayer 'Blessed be God

for ever' with understanding.

» Sing the song 'Eat this Bread'.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Express gratitude to God the Father for everything and especially for the gift of Jesus.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by asking the children to 'think-pair-share' about something for which they are thankful.
- Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving, page 180.

Let's Learn ...

- Introduce the song 'Eat This Bread' (Track 16, p. 191) to the class and chat about the words. Sing this song together.
- Show the children the video 'Preparation of the Gifts'. You will find the video in the online resources for this lesson and the teacher dialogue on page 181. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to explain and describe this part of the Mass to the children. You may choose to print images to show the class.
- Help the children to revise the *Prayer before Communion*, page 181, by reading it for them and encouraging them to repeat it after you.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* At Mass, we give thanks to God for all that has been given to us. We present gifts of bread and wine to the priest, which later in the Mass will be changed to become the Body and Blood of Christ, which we receive in Holy Communion.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 36.
- Assign Children's Book, page 37, for homework, and conclude by praying the *Prayer before Communion* with the children.

3: AT MASS, WE RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 183.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 6.
- Online resources: Videos – 'The Institution Narrative', 'Receiving Holy Communion'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible (open at John 13), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Sequence the actions of the Mass.
 - » Demonstrate the correct way to receive Holy Communion.
 - » Name some titles for Jesus, including 'Lamb of God'.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss the real presence of Jesus in Holy Communion.

» Pray the *Lamb of God* with understanding.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Participate more fully in the celebration of the Eucharist.
- Reverence the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.
- Appreciate the importance of the Mass.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by chatting with the children about Mass. Use the bulleted questions under the heading 'Sequencing the Mass', page 184, to guide the conversation. Omit the interactive activity mentioned in this section.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the video 'The Institution Narrative', which can be found in the online resources for this lesson. After the video, discuss the questions on page 185. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to describe this part of the Mass to the children.
- Show the children the video 'Receiving Holy Communion'. Discuss it using the first three bulleted questions on page 186.
- Show the children Poster 6. Encourage them to describe what they see.
- Teach the children how to hold their hands when they are receiving Communion and practise the reception of Holy Communion with them.
- Explain to the children the ways in which we can prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, as described in the second column under the heading 'Receiving Holy Communion', page 186.
- Help the children to revise the *Prayer after Communion*, page 186, by reading it for them and encouraging them to repeat it after you.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* The actions of the priest at Mass mirror the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper, when he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and shared it. At Mass, the bread and wine are changed, and Jesus becomes present to us in a real way, under the appearance of bread and wine. That is what we receive in Holy Communion – the real presence of Jesus. We do so with great respect. After Holy Communion we can talk to Jesus and tell him that we love him and that we want to live like him. We can also tell him about anything that is worrying us and anything for which we want to pray.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 38.
- Assign Children's Book, page 39, for homework, and conclude by praying the *Prayer after Communion* with the children.

Theme 7: Holy Week and Easter

1: The death of Jesus p. 21
2: The Resurrection p. 22

1: THE DEATH OF JESUS

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 7, pages 194/195.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 196.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Video – 'The Stations of the Cross'.
- Prayer space: Red cloth (Good Friday), Bible (open at Luke 22), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Recall their own experiences of betrayal and denial.
 - » Identify the Stations of the Cross as pictures that tell the story of Jesus' death.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Explore Judas' act of betrayal.

- » Discuss and retell the story 'Peter denies knowing Jesus' in their own words, according to their own ability.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Appreciate the cross as a sign of love.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by discussing the word 'betray' with you class. Listen to suggestions of what the word may mean and note some of these examples. Now discuss the word 'deny' and ask the children the following questions: 'Can you think of another word that means "deny"?', 'Can you think of a time when you denied something that you knew was true? Why did you do that?'
- Lead the children in praying the *Act of Sorrow*, page 198.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus is Betrayed by Judas', page 199. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Read the Scripture story 'Peter Denies Knowing Jesus', page 200. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Show the video 'The Stations of the Cross' to your class. Afterwards, discuss the bulleted questions on page 200. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out pictures of the Stations of the Cross in advance of the lesson.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 40.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* After Jesus and his apostles had finished the Last Supper, they went to a nearby garden to pray. There, Judas, one of the twelve, led the

people who wanted to get rid of Jesus to him, and betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Later, Peter denied three times that he knew Jesus. When he realised that he had done wrong, Peter cried. The next day, Jesus was crucified.

- Show the class the cross/crucifix from the prayer space and engage them in discussion about crosses. Use the suggested dialogue and questions on page 202 to guide the conversation. Omit the art activity described in this section.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 41, for homework.

2: THE RESURRECTION

Teacher Preparation

- Read ‘Before You Begin’, page 204.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, Poster 7.
- Prayer space: White cloth (Easter season), Bible (open at Mark 16), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Sequence the Stations of the Cross in the correct order.
 - » Identify the distinguishing features of the paschal candle.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story ‘The Women at the Tomb’ in their own words, according to their own ability.

- » Consider the actions of the women after they had heard the news of Jesus’ Resurrection.
- » Pray the *Mystery of Faith*.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Enter into the Stations of the Cross.
- Enter into the joy of Easter.

Let’s Look ...

- Begin this week’s lesson by asking the children to recall, in their own words, the Stations of the Cross, about which we learned last week. You could choose to use a Round Robin technique for this activity. You may wish to follow up with the bulleted questions on the Stations of the Cross, page 205.

Let’s Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story ‘The Women at the Tomb’, page 206. Show the children Poster 7 and invite them to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Explain to your class that it is a mystery to us how Jesus died, rose from the dead and will come again. We remember this at Mass when we pray the *Mystery of Faith*. Introduce the children to the *Mystery of Faith*, page 207, and invite them to say each line after you.
- Engage the children in the chatting activity ‘About the Paschal Candle’, page 207. Here the children will learn that a new paschal candle is lit on Holy Saturday night each year. Discuss the questions on page 207 with your class.

Let’s Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Three days after Jesus died, three of his followers – Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome – went to the tomb to take care of Jesus’ body. But when they got there, the stone that had been in front of the entrance was rolled away. An angel told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead. Every year, we light a new paschal candle in the church on Holy Saturday night to remember this.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 42.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 43, for homework.
- Lead the class in praying the *Mystery of Faith*, page 207.

Theme 8: We Can Live as Jesus Asked

- 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 214/215.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 216.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Painting of the Ascension, chart paper or white board for KWL chart.
- Prayer space: White cloth (Easter season), Bible (open at Matthew 28), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Sequence events in the life of Jesus, including his death, Resurrection and Ascension.
 - » Wonder at how the disciples may have felt as they watched Jesus ascend into heaven.
 - » Recall Jesus' promise to his followers to be with them always.

Communicate and Participate

- » Discuss and retell Jesus' promises to the disciples in their own words, according to their own ability.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Become aware that Jesus' promise to be with his disciples extends to them.

Let's Look ...

- Begin today's lesson by showing the children a painting of the Ascension, which you will find in the online resources for this lesson. Ask the children to describe the event in the life of Jesus being depicted in the painting. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out the picture in advance of the lesson.
- Invite the children to share what they can remember about the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Fill out a KWL chart as outlined under the heading 'Guess the Picture', page 217. Rather than filling in the 'L' column at the end of the week, instruct the children that it will be filled in instead at the end of today's lesson.

Let's Learn ...

- Encourage the children to sequence orally some of the events in the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. You may wish to do this by either showing the children copies of the template on page 235, by writing the names of the events on the board, or by calling out the chosen events. Omit the cutting and sticking tasks mentioned as part of this activity.
- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus' Promise to His Friends', 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.
- Fill in the 'L' column of the KWL chart, which was started at the beginning of today's lesson.
- Invite the children to reflect again on Jesus' promise, 'I am with you always', using these or similar questions:
 - » How does it make you feel to know that Christ is with you always?
 - » Is it important to you that Christ is with you always?
 - » Do you ever talk to our Lord Jesus? How do you do that? What do you say?
- Assign Children's Book, page 45, for homework, and conclude by praying the *Glory be to the Father* together.

2: 'I WILL SEND A HELPER'

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 221.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Tracks 2 and 3, Poster 8.
- Online resources: Slideshows – 'Pentecost: Setting the Scene', 'Symbols of the Holy Spirit'.
- 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*
 - » Consider why the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the gift of being able to speak in different languages.
 - » Identify wind and fire as symbols of the Holy Spirit.
 - » Wonder about the effect of the Holy Spirit on their own lives.

Communicate and Participate

- » Discuss and retell the story of the first Pentecost in their own words, according to their own ability.
- » Engage in a meditation on the first Pentecost.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Become aware of the activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by showing the children the slideshow 'Pentecost: Setting the Scene'. Chat about each of the pictures using the questions and dialogue provided on page 223. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out similar pictures in advance of the lesson.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'Pentecost', page 223. Show the children Poster 8. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Discuss wind and fire as symbols of the Holy Spirit, as outlined on page 224. You may wish to use the pictures on the slideshow, which you will find in the online resources for this week's lesson, or print out pictures of fire and wind in advance of the lesson.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 46.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Just as Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends. It happened at Pentecost when the disciples experienced a rush of wind and tongues of fire in the room where they waited. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and became able to speak many languages. This enabled them to share the Good News with all who were gathered in Jerusalem that day.

- As covered in the chatting activity 'About the Holy Spirit', page 226, tell the children that they can pray to the Holy Spirit, just as the disciples did, for help to bring the good news of God's love to the world. They cannot do this in the same way that the disciples did, by speaking different languages, but they can do it by being kind, by showing love and by sharing what they have with others.
- Assign Children's Book, page 47, for homework.
- Lead the children in meditative prayer on the first Pentecost, pages 226/227.

3: 'GO AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS'

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 228.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'The Society of Missionary Children'.
- Prayer space: White cloth (Easter season), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Define 'disciple' and 'Christian'.
 - » Wonder about how Jesus' last words apply to them.
 - » Consider the ways in which they can act as disciples in what they say and what they do.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss the work of the Society of

Missionary Children.

- » Participate in praying to the Holy Spirit.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Desire to share the Gospel of Jesus with others.
- Identify a role for themselves in their Church community.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson with the circle time activity 'Good News', which is explained on page 229. Here the children will be invited to share the best news that they have ever heard.

Let's Learn ...

- Engage the children in the chatting activity 'About Jesus' Last Words', page 230. The children will be asked to recall the final things that Jesus told his disciples before he ascended into heaven. Using the questions on page 230, chat with the children about the followers of Jesus, who are called 'Christians'.
- Show the children the slideshow 'The Society of Missionary Children', which you will find in the online resources for this lesson. Use the questions and dialogue on page 230 to guide your discussion on each slide. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to view the slides and the website of the Society of Missionary Children (Ireland) in advance of the lesson so that you can share the information with your class. You may wish to print out the logo of the Society of Missionary Children to show to the children.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* There are many ways in which we can fulfil Jesus' command to share the Good News with the world. We can do this through what we do and what we say. We can also pray for each other and for children who live in poverty and fear. The Society of Missionary Children is a group in the Church that encourages children to help other children.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 48.
- Assign Children's Book, page 49, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 229.

Theme 9: Creation

- 1: God created us p. 26
2: God wants us to be happy p. 27

1: GOD CREATED US

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.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or white cloth (Easter season), Bible (open at Genesis 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Engage in discussion on the Creation story from the book of Genesis, recalling the things God made.
 - » Reflect on a range of individual gifts.
 - » Identify the gifts God has given to them.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Discuss and retell Genesis 1:27-31 in their own words, according to their own ability.

Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Appreciate that their gifts and talents have been given to them by God.
- Respect their bodies and the bodies of others because they were created by God.

Let's Look ...

- Recall the Creation story from the book of Genesis, and then ask the children the following questions:
 - » Can you name all the things God made? Let's think-pair-share.
 - » There is no one except God who could have created all of these things. What does that tell us about God?
 - » Why did God decide to create all of these things?

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'God Created People', page 242. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Engage the children in the slideshow activity 'Our Gifts and Talents', as described on page 243. In the slideshow the children will see a series of pictures of children displaying a wide range of gifts and talents. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out similar pictures in advance of the lesson.
- After chatting about the slideshow, encourage the children to 'think-pair-share' on their own individual gifts and talents, first with the person beside them, and then with the other pairs seated close to them. Finally, invite some pairs to share their thoughts with the whole class.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 50.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* God created the world and everything in it. God created people and gave them gifts and talents to enable them to care for the world that God created. God also gave gifts to each person. Every person has different gifts and talents. Everyone's gifts and talents are important.
- Assign Children's Book, page 51, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 241.

2: GOD WANTS US TO BE HAPPY

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 246.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 9.
- Online resources: Video – 'What God Wants'.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or white cloth (Easter season), Bible (open at Genesis 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Consider how God wants the world to be.
 - » Consider how they can play a part in making the world as God wants it to be.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Discuss and retell the story of Adam and Eve in their own words, according to their own ability.

» Participate in a prayer service on the theme of Creation.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Begin to recognise their own role in making the world as God wants it to be (bringing about God's kingdom).

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by showing the children the video 'What God Wants', which you will find in the online resources for this lesson. Answer the questions on page 247 based on the video. If online access is not available to your class, then omit asking the first bulleted question. Instead ask the children to list things that God would like to see happening in the world. You may need to break this down into things God would like to see happening in their homes, at school and in their community. Then continue by asking the rest of the questions on page 247.

Let's Learn ...

- Introduce the Scripture story that they will hear today using the dialogue before the story on page 248.
- Read the Scripture story 'Adam and Eve', page 248. Show the class Poster 9. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Engage the children in the role-play activity as explained on page 249. Here the children will enter into role as Adam and Eve.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* God's plan is that all people would live happily in the world. Adam and Eve were created to be kind, generous and loving as God is, but they disobeyed God, and so they had to leave the garden that God created for them. We too are created to be good. We can help to make the world just as God wants it to be by being kind, generous and loving, as God is.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 52.
- Assign Children's Book, page 53, for homework.
- Lead the children in a prayer, page 251. Begin at the first 'Teacher' part in the second column and continue to the end of the prayer service.

Theme 10: Grow in Love

1: 'As I have loved you' p. 28
2: Growing in Love p. 29

1: 'AS I HAVE LOVED YOU'

Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 10, pages 256/257.
- Read 'Before You Begin', page 258.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 10.
- 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*
 - » Empathise with each of the sisters in the story 'The Twin Sisters'.
 - » Explore how Jesus' way of love is not always the easiest way.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Chat about a joyful person that they know, and explain how they feel when they are with that person.

- » Discuss and evaluate the actions of the various characters in the story in relation to Jesus' message of inclusion.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Begin to realise that following Christ isn't always easy because God's love is a radical kind of love.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by reading the story 'The Twin Sisters – Part I', page 259. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'The Twin Sisters – Part II', page 261. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Chat with the children further about the story. The children are asked to imagine that Jesus was one of the guests at Katrinka's party. Encourage the children to discuss the three bulleted questions in the second column under the heading 'Role Play', page 262.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* We can show God's love by being kind to our neighbours and friends. When we are kind to others, we can help them to be happy but we are also happier ourselves. When we offer love to others they are encouraged to respond in love. God's love is for everyone. God's love is not an exclusive kind of love, rather it includes all.
- Show the children Poster 10. Ask the children to identify how the people depicted are following Jesus' example. Ask the children if it is easy to follow Jesus' example. Remind them that Jesus' way isn't always the easiest way, but it is the most loving way, and it will help to make us more loving people.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 263.

2: GROWING IN LOVE

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 264.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, photocopy of the loop cards on pages 272/273.
- 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 Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Reinforce their learning from *Grow in Love* Second Class/P4.
 - » Identify aspects of Christian faith, morality, liturgy, prayer and the Word of God that they have learned throughout the year.
 - » Reflect on their favourite thing they have learned this year.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Play a loop card game together to illustrate their learning throughout the year.
- » Participate in an end-of-year prayer service.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Desire to participate in liturgy as a form of celebration and thanksgiving.

Let's Look ...

- Engage the children in the 'Loop Card Game' as explained on page 265. The cards have a question and answer relating to content covered in *Grow in Love* Second Class/P4.

Let's Learn ...

- Lead the children in the chatting activity 'About What We Have Learned', page 266. Allow the children to 'think-pair-share' on questions about their favourite things covered in *Grow in Love* this year.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* We have learned lots during the year. It is good to look back and remember what we have learned.
- Involve the children in preparing for the end-of-year prayer service as suggested on page 267.
- Lead the children in a prayer service to mark the end of the school year, pages 268/269. 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 Brigid (1 February).....	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, Poster 11.
- Online resources: Slideshow – 'The Joyful Mysteries'.
- Prayer space: Blue cloth (in honour of Mary), Bible (open at Luke 1), candle, cross/crucifix, holy water.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify the joyful moments in the life of Jesus found in the Joyful Mysteries of the *Rosary*.
 - » Name each of the Joyful Mysteries of the *Rosary*.
- *Communicate and Participate*
 - » Explain how to pray the *Rosary*, and how to use Rosary beads.

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

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Begin to develop an appreciation of the *Rosary*.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by chatting about special moments that families have. We must realise that there are also sad moments in families. Use the discussion questions and dialogue under the heading 'Our Family Album', page 277, to guide your conversation. Omit showing the video to the class.

Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the slideshow 'The Joyful Mysteries'. You will find this slideshow in the online resources for this lesson. The explanation of each slide is on page 278. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to use Poster 11 for this activity.
- Show the children the Rosary beads from the prayer space. Teach the children how to use Rosary beads to help when praying the *Rosary*. Share with the class the information provided in the three bullet points under the heading 'The Rosary', page 279.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Praying the *Rosary* is a way of thinking about the moments in Jesus' life. Some of those were happy moments. We call these 'Joyful Mysteries'. There are five Joyful Mysteries of the *Rosary*. We think about each of these as we pray one *Our Father*, ten *Hail Marys* and one *Glory be to the Father*.

- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 54.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 55, for homework.
- Lead the children in the prayer service, page 281.

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 284.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual.
- Online resources: Video – ‘Vox Pop’.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Identify the saintly qualities in people they know.
 - » Evaluate why Vincent de Paul was named a saint.
 - » Consider the ways in which they can act like St Vincent de Paul.

- *Communicate and Participate*

- » Discuss and retell the story of St Vincent de Paul in their own words, according to their own ability.

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 completing the chatting activity ‘About the Saints’, page 285. Here the children will be asked to share their prior knowledge of the saints with the class. Lead the children in the prayer found on page 285.

Let’s Learn ...

- Read the story ‘St Vincent de Paul – Part I’, page 286. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Read the story ‘St Vincent de Paul – Part II’, page 287. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.

Let’s Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Vincent was born in France about 400 years ago. He was a priest who tried his best to help people who were poor or in need. He was helped by a woman named Louise. After they died, Vincent and Louise were named as saints. On November 1 every year, we celebrate the lives of people like Vincent and Louise, ordinary people who showed God’s love to the world in an extraordinary way. We can pray to the saints to help us to be like them.
- Show the children the video ‘Vox Pop’. This video can be found in the online resources for this lesson. In it, the children will see other children answer the question ‘How can you act like St Vincent?’ Discuss the questions on page 288 after watching the video. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to discuss the question ‘How can you act like St Vincent?’ and come up with answers to it together as a class.
- Complete the activity in the Children’s Book, page 56.
- Assign Children’s Book, page 57, for homework.

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 291.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual.
- 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*
 - » Name Lent as a time of preparation for celebrating the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) and Easter.
 - » Reflect on the fact that followers of Jesus undertake Lenten promises as a sign that they want to live like Jesus.
 - » Identify the trifold nature of Lenten promises.

Communicate and Participate

- » Explore and retell the story of Jesus in the desert in their own words, according to their own ability.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Enter into the spirit of Lent by undertaking a trifold Lenten promise.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by chatting to the children about preparing. The children are prompted to recall a time when they had to prepare for something. From here you will discuss Lent as a time of preparation for Easter. The dialogue and questions in the final three bullet points under the heading 'Preparing', page 292, will guide you.

Let's Learn ...

- Read the Scripture story 'Jesus in the Desert', page 293. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Read the poem 'Jesus Went into the Desert', page 293. Demonstrate the actions that go with each line. Ask the children to follow you in doing the actions while repeating each line after you.
- Lead the children through the chatting activity 'About Lent', page 294. Here the children will discuss what Jesus did while in the desert to prepare for the work that God sent him to do. Through this chatting activity the children will learn about the trifold nature of Lenten promises.

Let's Live ...

- *What you have taught:* Before Jesus began to do the work that God had sent him to do, he spent forty days and forty nights in the desert. During this time, he prayed to God, and he fasted. As followers of Jesus, we too have a time during the year when we fast, when we try to be more generous than usual and when we pray in a particular way. We call this time 'Lent', and it helps us to prepare for celebrating the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) and the season of Easter.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 58.
- Assign Children's Book, page 59, for homework and read the prayer on that page together.

4: ST BRIGID (1 FEBRUARY)

This one-week lesson should be undertaken during the week in which St Brigid's Day is celebrated.

Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin', page 299.
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 22, picture of St Brigid.
- Prayer space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, St Brigid's Cross, holy water, Rosary beads.

Learning Objectives

That the children would be enabled to:

- *Understand*
 - » Name 1 February as the Feast Day of St Brigid, and identify ways in which they can celebrate this day.
 - » Think about the ways in which they can show their love for God, as St Brigid did.

Communicate and Participate

- » Discuss and retell the story 'St Brigid Builds her Church', in their own words, according to their own ability.
- » Participate in a prayer service in honour of St Brigid.

Faith Formation Goal

That the children would also:

- Be inspired by the story of St Brigid.

Let's Look ...

- Begin this week's lesson by chatting with the children about building things. Identify something that they have attempted to build, e.g. a snowman, a Lego model, a dog kennel. Was it easy or hard to build? What materials did you need? Did it take a little while or a long time to build?
- Show the children a picture of St Brigid. Ask the children to 'think-pair-share' on the following questions: 'Does anyone know who this woman is?', 'What do you already know about St Brigid?', 'Saint Brigid also wants to build something. Can you guess what that might be?', 'What is the very first thing Brigid would need to build a church?', 'If Brigid didn't have any land on which to build her church, what would she do?'

Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'St Brigid Builds her Church', page 302. Invite the children to retell the story in their own words, according to their own ability. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the song 'We Sing a Song to Brigid' (Track 22, p. 307). Chat to the children about the lyrics of the song. The lyrics of the second verse reflect the story of St Brigid and her church.
- Complete the activity in the Children's Book, page 60.

Let's Live...

- *What you have taught:* Brigid wanted to build a church so that everyone would have a place to come to, to pray to God, but she didn't have any land on which to build it. Brigid knew it wouldn't be easy to build a church, but she knew that that was what God wanted. So, Brigid went to the local chieftain to ask him for some of his land, but the chieftain would only let her have as much land as her cloak would cover. Brigid put her cloak down on the ground and it grew and grew, until it covered more than enough land for her to build her church. The chieftain was shocked, but Brigid knew that it was God who had helped her.
- Assign Children's Book, page 61, for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer, page 305. Begin the prayer from the first 'Teacher' section in the second column.