

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Pope Francis identified the practice of going on pilgrimage as 'a genuine form of spreading the faith'.

**TIME TOGETHER**

**Chat Together**

About the top three items you would choose to bring on a pilgrimage and why you feel they would be important. Chat about pilgrimages you have heard about or made. Talk with your child about the stories of Lourdes and Knock. If there is a pilgrimage site in your local area, you might like to visit it with your child.

**Invitation to Pray**

Read together the *Prayer to Our Lady of Knock*.

**Be a pilgrim**

Take time to remember all the people around the world who are travelling on a journey or going on a pilgrimage at the moment. Ask their guardian angels to guide and protect them.

**THIS WEEK**

This week the children explored the experience of a pilgrimage and why people go on pilgrimage. They were introduced to the pilgrim site at Knock. They listened to the story of the apparition at Knock as it is told in the book *The Three Visitors*.

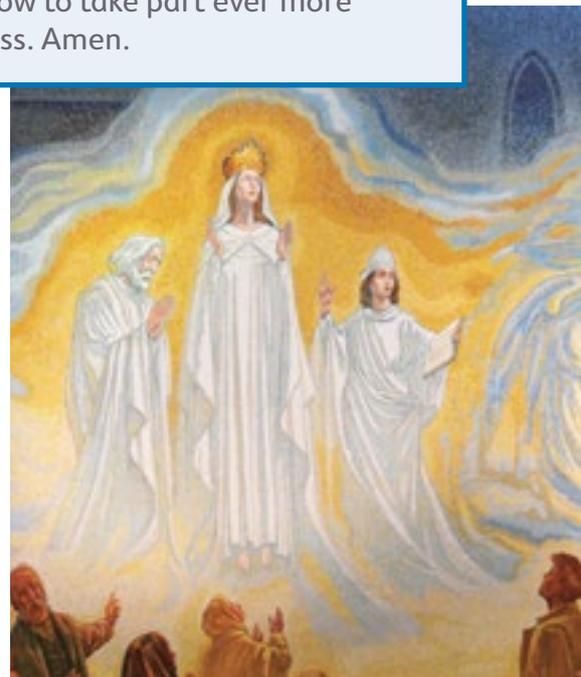
Read these facts about Knock together.

**Facts about Knock**

- Knock is situated in County Mayo and is recognised internationally as a Marian Shrine.
- The apparition at Knock took place on 21 August 1879.
- Our Lady, St Joseph and St John the Evangelist, and a lamb representing Jesus, the Lamb of God, appeared at the parish church in Knock.
- Fifteen witnesses were present at this apparition.
- Pope John Paul II visited the shrine in 1979.
- A novena is held every year in Knock, starting on 15 August.

**Prayer to Our Lady of Knock** (adapted)

Our Lady of Knock, you gave hope to your people. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine Son, remembering his promise, 'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find.' Help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to heaven. Fill me with love and concern for everyone, especially those who live with me. Comfort me when I am sick, lonely or sad. Teach me how to take part ever more reverently in the Holy Mass. Amen.



Our Lady of Knock, pray for us

## THEME 10: THE MASS | LESSON 1

# At Mass We Listen to the Word of God

## ABOUT WORDS

We use many words every day. We use words to communicate with one another and to express our feelings. We speak words of welcome, encouraging words, words of praise, angry words and sad words. It is good to reflect on the words we use and on how they affect others. The words we use can help people feel better, but sometimes we can hurt people's feelings by our words. We can also use words to communicate with God when we pray.



## ACTIVITY

- Look at the pictures. Chat with the person who sits next to you and decide which words you would say in each situation.

God's words are found in the Bible. The Word of God is read aloud at Mass. Read these lines from Psalm 31:

### A Prayer of Trust in God

I come to you, Lord, for protection...  
My trust is in you, O Lord;  
you are my God.  
I am always in your care...  
Look on your servant with kindness;  
save me in your constant love.

## THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

*You are invited to think about:*

- How we use words every day
- The sequence of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass
- The objects in the church relating to the Liturgy of the Word
- How carefully you listen to the Word of God at Mass

## KEY WORDS

**Minister of the Word:** the person who proclaims the Word of God at Mass.

**Sanctuary:** the area at the front of the church where the altar is located.

**Cantor:** sings the psalms and leads the assembly in singing the parts of the Mass.

**Assembly:** the people who gather for the Mass.

**Lectionary:** the book from which the Readings are read at Mass.

**Lectern:** the stand on which the lectionary is placed.



### FOR MEMORISATION

These are the responses that are used during the Liturgy of the Word:

*After the Readings*

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Before the Gospel*

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to (name).

**People:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*After the Gospel*

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 49:15)

The Lord says to his people ..., 'Can a woman forget her own baby and not love the child she bore? Even if a mother should forget her child, I will never forget you.'

Look at the picture above and, as you do, think of the words that God said to his people. Imagine God saying those same words to you.

### ACTIVITY

- At Mass the Liturgy of the Word follows a particular format:
  - The First Reading
  - The Psalm
  - The Second Reading
  - The Gospel Acclamation
  - The Gospel
  - The Homily
  - The Creed
  - The Prayer of the Faithful
- Identify a passage from the Bible that might be read as the First Reading at Mass; the Psalm; the Second Reading and a Gospel reading. Record your choice in your Religious Education journal.

**THIS WEEK**

The children explored what happens at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word, the part of the Mass that invites us to respond to God's Word. The Liturgy of the Word begins with the First Reading, and this is followed in turn by the Psalm, the Second Reading and the Gospel. The people stand while the Gospel is being read. The Minister of the Word stands at the lectern and reads the Word of God from the Lectionary. The priest sits on the presider's chair when the readings and psalms are being read. The area where the altar is located and where the readings take place is called the sanctuary.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

During the Easter season, the First and Second Readings at Mass are taken from the New Testament.

**TIME TOGETHER****Chat Together**

About your favourite Bible story. Chat about the characters in the story. Who is your favourite character and why?

**Invitation to Pray**

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your Word, which nourishes our lives. Give us your grace to hear your Word and the courage to do what you ask. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Be a good listener**

Listen especially at Mass, so that you will really hear the Word of God as it is being read.

- See if you can find these items in the photographs above:
  - Sanctuary
  - Presider's Chair
  - Lectern
  - Lectionary
  - Minister of the Word
  - Assembly

THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

You are invited to think about:

- Saying thanks to people you know
- Being an active participant at the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Saying thanks to Jesus for all his gifts

KEY WORDS

**Ciborium:** sacred vessel that holds the Body of Christ.

**Tabernacle:** the place where the Blessed Sacrament is kept.

**Sanctuary lamp:** when this is lighting it shows that Jesus is present in the tabernacle.

**Monstrance:** a sacred vessel that holds the Blessed Sacrament.

THEME 10: THE MASS | LESSON 2

# At Mass We Remember and Give Thanks

**ABOUT REMEMBERING, PRESENCE AND THANKSGIVING**

We remember and celebrate special events and occasions. Some events happen once in a lifetime but are remembered and celebrated every year. At these celebrations people often share a meal, give a gift and say thanks. At the celebration of Mass we give thanks to God for all that he has done for us. We remember what Jesus did at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples and gave them the gift of his Body and Blood. Each time we go to Mass we, too, are invited to receive the Body of Christ. The Mass is also called the Eucharist, which means thanksgiving.

- What do we remember at Mass?
- Why is the Mass a sacrifice?
- Why do we say thanks to Jesus?
- What do you see happening in the pictures?





These are some of the words the priest prays at Mass during the Eucharistic Prayer:

### FOR MEMORISATION

*Prayer of Welcome to Jesus*  
Lord Jesus, I love and adore  
you.

You're a special friend to me.  
Welcome, Lord Jesus,  
O welcome,  
Thank you for coming to me.

*Prayer of Thanks to Jesus*  
Thank you, Lord Jesus, O thank  
you  
For giving yourself to me.  
Make me strong to show your  
love  
Wherever I may be.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice  
and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Eucharist is another name for the Mass. Eucharist means thanksgiving.

**TIME TOGETHER**

**Chat Together**

About family occasions when you gather to remember and celebrate. You may have some photographs that will help you to recall family celebrations. Chat about those occasions. Chat about all the things your family can be thankful for.

**Invitation to Pray**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for giving us the gift of yourself in Holy Communion. We thank you for your presence in our lives each day and in the Blessed Sacrament. Help us to place all our trust in you now and forever. We ask this through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Be thankful**

Make a list of the things you feel thankful for in your family. Would you like to say thanks to God for any of these things? Who else might you like to thank?

**THIS WEEK**

The children reflected on the times in their lives when they feel thankful. At Mass those gathered give thanks to God for all he has done for them. They recall the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples and gave them the gift of his Body and Blood. He told them to do what he had done in memory of him.

Read this poem together.

**Remember**

Remember forever the words Jesus said  
 While filling the wine cups and breaking the bread.  
 'Remember whenever you do this,' said he,  
 'Remember to do it in memory of me!'  
 Remember whenever with others you stand  
 And take the communion host into your hand,  
 Whenever your voices are raised in a hymn,  
 Remember you do this in memory of Him.

Next time you visit the church, remember that the Risen Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament that is kept in the tabernacle. You can pray to him and thank him for all his gifts to you and your family. The Blessed Sacrament is sometimes placed in the monstrance and left on the altar so that people can come and pray. This is called prayer of adoration.

