



YEAR

3

UNIT A

BELONGING – WE GATHER AS GOD’S FAMILY

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit involves the children exploring the different groups to which they belong. Through the theme of belonging they will study the Sacrament of Baptism as a Sacrament of Belonging to the Church. They will also learn how Catholics celebrate their belonging to the Family of God through the Celebration of Mass.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit links with previous work in Year 1 and Year 2 about Baptism and the celebration of Mass.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of Baptismal Symbols
- some knowledge of what takes place at the celebration of Mass.

SKILLS

Group work, discussion, thinking skills, reading skills, empathetic writing, interpreting symbolism and sequencing skills.

VOCABULARY

Belonging, Church, Sacrament, Confirmation, Mass, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Marriage, Font, Water, Oil of Chrism, White garment, Baptismal Candle, Parents, and God-parent.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that Baptism is the Sacrament of Belonging to God’s Family, the Church. They will be able to identify some signs and symbols of Baptism and express their meaning. They will be also be able to Sequence the Rite of Baptism and be able to discuss elements of the Celebration of Mass about gathering as the Family of God.

Less able children will know that Baptism celebrates Belonging to God’s Family. Be able to name some Baptismal symbols. Recognise that the Mass is an important celebration when God’s Family gather together.

More able children will know and understand that through, Baptism people are called by name to become part of God’s Family, the Church. They will be able to interpret and explain more fully the meaning of the Baptismal Symbols. They will be able to sequence the Introductory Rites of the Mass and explain some reasons why this is an important time for God’s Family to gather together.

A.T.1 A.T.2

3a 3c
3b
3c

2a 2a
2b 2c
2c

3a 3c
3b 4c
3c
4c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R3 Recognise joy and giving and receiving in relationships

L4 The values of sharing, showing respect and care for others.

L1 Accounts in Scripture of God's invitations

R1 Hear, read and explore Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus.

C1 Celebrations which mark significant events in the life of people.

C2 Elements of sacramental celebration.

C3 Signs and symbols and their significance in the liturgy.

C4 The rite of Baptism and the response it invites.

- Children to think and talk about the different groups they belong to. (e.g. family, school, class, church, cubs and brownies etc.)
- What do they like about belonging to these different groups? Have they any special roles and responsibilities in the group? Can they think of any signs and symbols associated with their group?
- Create a grid to list information about the different groups people belong to. Include names of people in the group, special features of the group and any signs and symbols associated with the group.
- Children to work in pairs to create an oral presentation about the different groups they belong to. Encourage them to use photographs or other objects associated with the group.
- Why do you think it is important to belong to a group? Why is it important to belong to somebody or something, rather than be on your own? If you had to put the groups you belong to in order of priority which would be first? Why?

- It was important for Jesus to share his life with other people and welcome them into friendship with him. The disciples became a special group that belonged to Jesus.
- Recall what they can remember about Jesus calling his disciples. Can they name the disciples and recall what some of them did for a living?
- Children to read the story of Jesus choosing the twelve disciples by name. Provide opportunities for the children to sit quietly and imagine this scene as if they had been one of the twelve. How would you have felt? How would you have reacted if you had been chosen? Why do you think Jesus wanted to share his life with these people? Can you recall any other stories of Jesus and the disciples together?
- Emphasise that this was a special choice that Jesus made.
- Do you think the disciples could have said no to Jesus calling them to be his disciples?
- Write an account of the choosing of the twelve disciples. Alternatively, create a telephone dialogue telling somebody the news about being chosen by name to be a disciple of Jesus and what it meant to you.

- Do you think that Jesus calls us to follow him today? What do you think he might be asking us to do?
- For Christians the most important group they belong to is the Church. Explain that the term "Church" means more than a building and can be used to describe the family of God who have been baptised.
- Recall with the children what they know about Baptism. Explain that Baptism is a special celebration called a sacrament. Through this celebration people are welcomed into God's family the Church.
- Discuss and role-play the rite of Baptism of a child. Emphasise the following parts of the rite and the signs and symbols associated with it.
 - The naming of the child: God calls us by name to belong to his family.
 - The signing of the cross on the forehead: A sign of welcome into the family of God.
 - Anointing with the oil of Baptism: God strengthening and protecting the child about to be baptised.
 - Baptismal promises made by parents and godparents: Importance of parents bringing up their child as part of God's family and expressing what they believe in.
 - Baptism in the name of the Trinity: We belong to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - Anointing with the oil of Chrism: Now the person is baptised they share in God's life and are part of God's family.
 - Clothing with white garment: A sign of belonging to God's family and being a follower of Christ.
 - Receiving the baptismal candle: The light of Christ guides those who have been baptised.
- As a follow-up create a storyboard with the children to sequence the different parts of the rite and explain the meaning of the symbols.
- Invite children to research information about their own Baptism. Create fact sheets with and stories about the day itself.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

R3 Relationships are enriched through giving and receiving.

L4 Of generosity and care for others.

- Know that we can belong to different groups.
- Understand the value and responsibilities of belonging to a group.
- Discuss and collect information about the groups they belong to.

L1 That God calls and invites a free response.

R1 That the Bible is God's living Word; begin to find their way round the Bible; that in word and deed Jesus revealed the love and mercy of God his Father.

- Know that Jesus called his disciples by name to share his life.
- Understand some of the reasons why he wanted to share his life with others.
- Be able to discuss and write about the experience of being called by Jesus.

C1 That the celebration of significant events express thanksgiving and joy in growth and change.

C2 A developing awareness of customs and traditions.

C3 Of the significance and power of symbols.

C4 Understand the meaning of the Baptismal liturgy.

- Know that Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation into the Church.
- Understand that parents and godparents make important promises and the meaning of the Baptismal symbols which express belonging.
- Be able to sequence the different parts of the rite of Baptism.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The children could find photographs and objects from the different groups they belong to.

Out of school learning could include researching information about their families. Collecting photographs and drawing pictures.

Find out about people who answer God's call in a special way today. Find out about the work of a priest and a religious sister.

Visit your church and look at the font, the holy oils of Baptism and Chrism and the paschal candle. Look at the holy water stoups in the church and talk about blessing ourselves with holy water when we come into church as a reminder of our Baptism.

Take lots of photographs for class display. You might also take some digital photographs for follow up ICT work. Include key vocabulary as part of the display.

Ask the children to find Baptismal candles and perhaps their own Baptismal garments.

Add these images to your class display.

Invite people who have received some of the different sacraments to talk to the children, e.g. older children who have celebrated Confirmation, a priest, married couple etc.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C1 Celebrations which mark significant events in the life of people
C2 Elements of sacramental celebration
C3 Signs and symbols and their significance in the liturgy.

C5 The broad structure of the Eucharist.
C11 A variety of prayers and prayer forms, formal and informal, used for personal and community prayer.

- When we are Baptised we belong to the Church. Discuss with the children the different names given to those who belong to the Church. E.g. family of God, body of Christ, people of God, the Church. What do you think these different titles mean? What do they tell you about being baptised?
- Children to create slogans and pictures of these different images of belonging to the Church.
- Children to recall as many celebrations as they can remember that take place in the church.
- Provide children with pictures of the celebration of the seven sacraments. In groups ask them to look at the pictures and talk about what is happening in the celebration. Ask them to identify any signs and symbols they can see.
- Explain that Catholic Christians celebrate seven sacraments. In these celebrations we remember that we belong to God's family, we remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we remember that God is present in a special way in each sacrament giving us his love and sharing his life with us.
- Invite the children to talk about the pictures they have been looking at. Through the discussion that takes places cover the following points:
 - Baptism is the first celebration of welcoming and belonging to God's family.
 - Confirmation is a celebration of receiving the Holy Spirit.
 - Reconciliation is a celebration of receiving God's forgiveness.
 - Anointing of the sick is a celebration of God's healing and protecting of those who are sick.
 - Marriage is a celebration of God blessing the love of a man and woman and uniting them together.
 - Holy Orders is a celebration of God choosing somebody to follow Jesus in a special way as a priest so that they can serve and care for God's family.
- Create pictures and story boards about the sacraments and explore in writing the signs and symbols and the way in which each sacrament supports and helps God's family.
- The Mass is the most regular sacrament we celebrate together as a school community or parish.
- Who is at Mass in the church? Where do they come from? What special roles do different people have at Mass?
- Children to recall as many different things as possible that take place in the Mass.
- In small groups use children's Sunday missals to find more information about what happens.
- What do you think are the most important parts of the Mass? Which part do you like the best? Why?
- Explore with the pupils the first part of the Mass about gathering together to celebrate.
- Explain that when we gather together to celebrate, we believe that Jesus Christ is with us in a very special way. Recall the different images of the Church: family of God, body of Christ, people of God.
- Explore and sequence the gathering rites of the Mass with the children.
- Sign of the Cross: a reminder we belong to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Greeting: We gather together in the presence of the Lord.
- Penitential Rite: we ask God to forgive us our sins.
- Gloria: we praise and thank God as his family.
- Opening prayer: we pray together as the family of God.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

C1 That the celebration of significant events express thanksgiving and joy in growth and change.

C2 A developing awareness of custom and traditions.

C3 Of the significance and power of signs and symbols.

- Know the names of the seven sacraments.
- Understand that they are special moments of prayer and celebration when we encounter God's presence in a unique way.
- Be able to discuss and identify some of the actions, signs and symbols of the sacraments.

C5 Of what the Church is doing in the celebration of the Eucharist.

C11 Increased understanding of the variety of forms of prayer.

- Know and be able to research some of the different parts of the celebration of Mass.

- Know the structure of the first part of the Mass.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mark 3 13-19 – The Choosing of the Twelve Apostles

OTHER LINKS

Multi-cultural links – explore some initiation rites in other world religions.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use the prayers of the introductory rite of the Mass.
- Celebrate the Feast of the Birthday of Mary as a celebration of belonging to a family.
- The Our Father as the common prayer of God's Family.
- Create prayers for the people of the different groups which the children belong to.
- Use some prayers from the Rite of Baptism.
- Write prayers for Parents and God-parents to be given to them.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?