

# YEAR

# 6

# UNIT K

## BELONGING TO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit of work the children will learn about the foundations of the life and teaching of the Catholic Church being rooted in the life and teaching of the Apostles. The children will learn about the role of the Pope and local Bishop in the life of the universal and local Church. They will also explore the life of the local parish community where the faith of God's People is nourished and celebrated.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work in Year 5 about the teaching role of the Apostles. It also supports other units of work concerned with the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the work of the Apostles after Pentecost
- some knowledge of the role of the Pope, Archbishop and the life of the parish.

### SKILLS

Research skills, writing skills, speaking and listening, interpreting symbolism, ICT skills, thinking skills.

### VOCABULARY

Apostle, preaching, teaching, Pope, Archbishop, priest, parish.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know that a direct link exists between the teaching of the Apostles, the role of the Pope and Bishops today and the faith that is nourished and celebrated in the local parish community today. They will recognise that the Church is a universal Church and that the life of the local parish is founded upon the faith of the apostles and the universal Church.

A.T.1      A.T.2

4a      4a  
4b      4b  
4c      4c  
4d      4d

**Less able children will** know that the Apostles proclaimed the Good News of Christ's Resurrection throughout the world. They will know some of the responsibilities of the Pope and Archbishop. They will understand that the church building and parish community is the place where Catholics celebrate and nourish their faith.

3a      3c  
3b      3d  
3c

**More able children will** be able to research information about the lives of the Apostles following the Resurrection of Christ. They will understand that the teaching and life of the Church today is founded upon the initial teaching of the Apostles. The children will be able to explain the role of the Pope and Archbishop in the universal and local Church. They will be able to consider the part Catholics can play within their local parish communities.

5a      5a  
5c      5d

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R5** Hear about and explore Gospel accounts of how the lives of men and women were changed by their encounters with Christ.

- Read the words of the Risen Christ to his Apostles in *Mt. 28: 16-20*.
- What commission did he give to them?
- Research stories of the lives of the Apostles and find out the different places that they went to in the world to proclaim the Good News. What was the Good News that they were carrying?
- Most of the Apostles suffered death by martyrdom. Why do you think they were willing to die for the message they were carrying?
- Explain to the children that the Bishops in the Church today are the successors to the Apostles.
  
- The Bishop of Rome, the Pope, is the successor of St. Peter. Research information about the life of the present Pope, his coat of arms and motto.
- Explore the responsibility of the Pope to teach in the name of the Catholic Church which is found throughout the world.
- Remind the children that the word “catholic” means universal.
- Find out about some of the teaching of the present Pope. Explain to the children that he writes Encyclical Letters which provide him with an opportunity to share the Good News of Christ with the whole Church and the world.

**Ch4** Opportunities to find out about the Church in the parish, diocese and wider world.

- Revise previous learning from Year Five about the Archbishop of Birmingham.
- Recall his work of preaching the Good News, teaching the Catholic Faith and caring for God’s People in the area of the country called a diocese. What is the name of our local diocese?
- Research information about the Archbishop of Birmingham and about this diocese which he is the Bishop of.
- What are his key tasks? Explain that he too writes letters to the people of his diocese to teach the faith and encourage them to follow Christ. These are called Pastoral Letters.
- Recall with the children the meaning of some of the vestments and symbols worn and used by the Archbishop. The Mitre is a sign of his responsibility to teach and preach. The Crozier as a sign that he is called to care for God’s People. The Pastoral Ring is a sign that he has been given special responsibility to love and care for God’s People. The Pallium is a piece of woven wool which the Archbishop wears over his vestments at Mass around his shoulders. This was given to him by the Pope and is given to some Bishops who have special responsibility in the Church.
  
- Remind the children that the parish is the name given to the local Church community that gathers together in prayer to celebrate Mass and the other Sacraments.
- Research information about your local parish.
- What is the name of your church?
- When was the church built?
- Was there another church before the present one was built?
- Has the Church been consecrated?
- How big is the parish you live in?
- What is the name of your priest(s)?
- What are their main tasks in the parish?
- Find out about other things people do in the local parish to spread the Good News and care for God’s Family.
- Interview your local priest, deacon and other parishioners to find out important information about life in the local parish.
- You might include a survey that could be given to parents and parishioners about the parish community and why they think it is an important place.
  
- Make a visit to the church building and identify the major artefacts and symbols associated with prayer and the celebration of the Sacraments.
- If the church has been consecrated, point out the twelve consecration candles.
- Explain that at the consecration of a church the Archbishop pours the Oil of Chrism over the altar and on the walls in twelve different places.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R5** That love and service express love of God and response to God's Word and at times will demand sacrifice.

- Know the story of the Apostles being sent to preach the Good News.
- Understand some reasons why they wanted to share the Good News with others.
- Research about some of the places that they went to and what happened to them.
  
- Know that the Pope is the Bishop of Rome.
- Understand that he has responsibility for the Church throughout the world.
- Be able to research information about his life and ministry.

**Ch4** That the Church is world-wide and multicultural; about the organisation of the local Church – parochial and diocesan; that teaching of Christ is handed down through the local Church.

- Know some of the duties and responsibilities of the Archbishop of Birmingham.
- Understand that as a Bishop he is a successor of the Apostles today.

- Know some important details about the local parish community.
- Understand that the church building is a special place of prayer and worship for the People of God.
- Be able to Identify roles and responsibilities of people in the parish.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Use Internet facilities and books on the lives of the saints to support this research.

Find out information about the Archbishop of Birmingham and the Archdiocese from the web-site of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

This unit of work might provide an opportunity to visit the Cathedral of St. Chad in Birmingham; The Archbishop's Church.

Use local parish web-sites to find information about activities and people in the parish.

Create web-pages about the church using the information you have researched, digital photographs, parishioner survey results and your own personal thoughts about the life of the parish.

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## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**Ch1** God's call to individuals and their different responses.

**Ch2** The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to individuals and groups for the service of the whole community.

**Ch4** Opportunities they have to be the Church in the parish, diocese and wider world.

- Why do you think he uses the Oil of Chrism to do this?
- Explore the idea of anointing being set apart for God and the Oil of Chrism as a sign of the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit.
- Why do you think the Oil of Chrism is put on the walls in twelve places?
- How many Apostles were there? What did they do after the Resurrection?
- Explore with the children the idea of the Apostles spreading the Good News throughout the world and that the local Church is built on the foundations of their preaching about two thousand years ago.
- Read with the children *Ephesians 2: 19-22*. What might this tell us about the local parish community?
- Explore with the children the idea of everybody playing their part in the local community to share and spread the Good News.
- Explain that in the Sacrament of Confirmation the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given so that those who are being Confirmed may play their part in the Family of God.
- Ask the children to think of the contribution they could make to the local parish community now and in the future.
- Create some promise or commitment certificates that could be used to identify the part they might play in the parish.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

**Ch1** Of the variety of forms of Christian life and service in the Church.

**Ch2** That belonging to the Church brings privileges and responsibilities for sharing life, gifts and service of each other.

- Know that as Baptised and Confirmed members of the Church they have a part to play in the local parish community now and in the future.
- Be able to think about opportunities they have of sharing in the life of the local parish community.

**Ch4** That the Church is world-wide and multicultural; about the organisation of the local Church – parochial and diocesan; that the teaching of Christ is handed down through the local Church.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Mt. 28: 16-20* – The Commissioning of the Apostles to Proclaim the Good News

*Ephesians 2: 19-22* – The Church Built on the Foundations of the Apostles

## OTHER LINKS

There are lots of important links with ICT in this unit of work. School-parish-diocese links should also be developed.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Remember to pray for the Pope, Archbishop, Priests in your parish and the People of the parish community.
- Reflect during Collective Worship on the roles and responsibilities they can undertake in the life of the local Church both now and in the future.
- Pray for guidance in fulfilling your vocation as a follower of Christ.

## 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?**