

# YEAR

# 6

# UNIT E

## BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION CELEBRATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will learn about the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. They will explore the signs and symbols of both these Sacraments and will hear about the gift of the Holy Spirit being given in the celebration of these Sacraments.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on the previous work in Year 4 and Year 5 about Baptism and Confirmation. It will provide an opportunity for the children to bring together their knowledge of the symbols and actions associated with these Sacraments.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the symbols of Baptism and Confirmation.

### SKILLS

Sequencing skills, referencing and researching information, interpreting symbolism, writing and discussion skills.

### VOCABULARY

Baptism, Confirmation, anointing, Oil of Chrism, Baptismal Promises, laying on of hands, Baptismal name, Confirmation name, parent, God parent, sponsor.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know that Baptism and Confirmation are Sacraments through which Christians receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. They will be able to identify the actions, signs and symbols of Baptism and Confirmation and recognise which symbols are used in both Sacraments.

**Less able children will** know that the Holy Spirit is given at Baptism and Confirmation and will be able to name some of the symbols used in both Sacraments.

**More able children will** have a greater knowledge and understanding of the actions, signs and symbols used at Baptism and Confirmation. They will be able to explain their meaning and why they are connected to both Sacraments.

A.T.1    A.T.2

4a    4a  
4b    4b  
4c

3a    3c  
3b  
3c

5a    5a  
5c    5c

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R4** Hear, read and explore Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus: The Baptism of Jesus.

**C3** Signs and symbols and their significance in the liturgy.

**C6** The Rites of Baptism and Confirmation and the response they invite.

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- Revise with the children the story of the Baptism of Jesus.
  - Create a “Gospel grid” and record from the four Gospels details about the Baptism of Jesus.
  - Compare and contrast the different accounts.
  - What are the main things that these accounts tell us about Jesus?
  - What major difference exists between Jesus and John? Why was John unsure about Baptising Jesus?
  - What does this tell us about Jesus?
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- Explain to the children that for Christians, Baptism celebrates the giving of the Holy Spirit and their being welcomed into the Church as the Family of God.
  - Revise the symbols, signs and actions that are associated with Baptism.
  - Role-play the celebration of the Rite of Baptism. Use lots of the prayers that are part of the celebration of the Sacrament in your role-play.
  - Ensure that the following elements are included in the role-play:
    - The naming of the child.
    - The signing of the cross on the forehead.
    - Laying on of hands and anointing with the Oil of Baptism.
    - The Baptismal Promises made by the parents.
    - Baptism in water in the name of the Holy Trinity.
    - Anointing with the Oil of Chrism
    - Role of Parents and Godparents.
    - Baptismal Candle is presented after being lit from the Paschal Candle.
  - Through discussion explore the meaning of these different signs and symbols.
  - Why do you think that the giving of the name is important? (God calls us by name.)
  - Why is making the sign of cross on the forehead important? (Sign of welcome into God’s Family and a sign of belonging to Christ.)
  - Why is the laying on of hands and anointing with Oil of Baptism important? (Prayer of protection and strengthening the person who is to be Baptised.)
  - Why do the parents (and sometimes the person being baptised if they are old enough) profess their Faith at a Baptism?
  - Why do we receive Baptism in the name of the Holy Trinity? (A reminder that we belong to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit comes to live in us at this moment.)
  - Why are we anointed with the Oil of Chrism? (As a sign that we now belong to Christ and share in his life.)
  - What role do the parents and the Godparents play at a Baptism? (Promise to support the person as they grow in faith.)
  - Why do we receive a Baptismal Candle? (The light of Christ is now our guide in life.)
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- Write a booklet about the Rite of Baptism explaining the different signs, symbols and actions. Use illustrations or photographs of a Baptism taking place.
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- Explore with the children the Rite of Confirmation. Make sure that the following elements are included:
    - Renewal of Baptismal promises.
    - Laying on of hands calling down the Holy Spirit on those being Confirmed.
    - Giving of a new name.
    - Anointing with the Oil of Chrism.
    - Support given by Godparent or sponsor.
  - Identify the similarities that exist between Baptism and Confirmation.
  - Write a booklet about the Rite of Confirmation in the form of a story that could be shared with younger children in the school.
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- Through discussion ask the children to think about the meaning of the word “Confirmation”. What does this Sacrament “confirm” when it is received?
  - Why do you think that the promises that were made (often on behalf of the person)

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R4** That Jesus is the Son of God.

- Know the story of the Baptism of Jesus.
- Understand that Jesus is the Beloved Son.
- Identify similarities and differences between the Gospel accounts.

**C3** Of patterns and forms of liturgical prayer.

**C6** That Sacraments express and deepen communion with Jesus; of the promises of Baptism and how they are to be lived and renewed.

- Know in detail the Rite of Baptism
- Understand the meaning of the Baptismal symbols, signs and actions and some of the prayers.
- Be able to discuss and write about the Rite of Baptism.

**C6** That Sacraments express and deepen communion with Jesus; the promises of Baptism and how they are to be lived and renewed; of the significance of anointing within Confirmation.

- Know the Rite of Baptism
- Understand that it celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Be able to sequence the Rite, identify symbols and explain similarities with the Rite of Baptism.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Create a class display of some of the symbols associated with Baptism and Confirmation.

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## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

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

- at Baptism are renewed at Confirmation?
- Compare and contrast the Baptismal promises with statements found in the Creed that is prayed at Mass. What links can you identify?
  - Read the Baptismal promises and think of ways in which you could actually live out the promises that you are making.
  - Explore the words of anointing with the Oil of Chrism. "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."
  - Brainstorm different words for "sealed" and consider what this might mean about the presence of the Holy Spirit in the person being Confirmed.
  - Explain to the children that in the Scriptures, people who were anointed with oil were given a special task to do on God's behalf.
  - Revise the story of the anointing of David as King of Israel. What task was he anointed for? What responsibility did this give him?
  - In Confirmation Christians are anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. What might the presence of the Holy Spirit enable them to do?
  - Explain to the children that in some of the other Sacraments of the Church people receive the laying on of hands and anointing with the Oil of Chrism as a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit. This takes place at the Ordination of a Bishop and a Priest when they receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
  - Research some of the tasks undertaken by a bishop and a priest. In what way might they need the presence of the Holy Spirit to fulfil their tasks in the life of the Church?

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

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

- Know that anointing with the Oil of Chrism takes place at the Ordination of a Bishop and Priest.
- Understand that this sets them apart for special tasks within the life of the Church.
- Be able to identify important tasks performed by the bishop and priest.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Mt. 4: 13-17* – Accounts of the Baptism of Jesus

*Mk. 1: 9-11*

*Lk. 3: 21-22*

*Exodus 29: 1-9* – Aaron is anointed to serve God

*1 Samuel 16: 1-13* – The Anointing of David as King of Israel

## OTHER LINKS

ICT: Use clip art to explore some of the different symbols associated with Baptism and to find symbols of the Holy Spirit.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use some of the prayers from the Rite of Baptism and the Rite of Confirmation during collective worship as a reminder of the Gift of the Holy Spirit that has been given.

## 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?**