



YEAR

3

UNIT H

HOLY WEEK

ABOUT THE UNIT

The unit is designed to help deepen the children's knowledge of some of the events of Holy Week and to deepen their understanding of the foundation of the Church's celebration of the Mass.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

Where the unit fits in This unit builds on the units from Year 1 and Year 2 where children studied Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday as part of their Holy Week work.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- some knowledge of the events of Holy Week.

SKILLS

Thinking skills, research skills, empathetic writing, report writing, word association skills.

VOCABULARY

Holy Week, hosanna, Palm Sunday, Last Supper, Mass, Eucharist, Breaking of the Bread, Son of David, Passover.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that Holy Week celebrates the last week of the life of Jesus here on earth. They will understand that the events of Palm Sunday and the Last Supper tell us about who Jesus is. They will be able to make some links between the Passover, the Last Supper and the celebration of Mass.

Less able children will know the story of Palm Sunday and some reasons why Jesus was special to the crowd. They will be able to retell the story of the Last Supper and recognise a link with the celebration of Mass.

More able children will understand that Jesus was preparing in Holy Week to die for others. Recognise in the Last Supper Jesus' sacrifice of his life. Appreciate that the different names for the celebration of Mass describe the reality being celebrated.

A.T.1 A.T.2

3a 2b
3c 3c

2a 2b
2c

3a
3c 3c
4a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R1 Hear read and explore gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus; death and resurrection.

C1 Celebrations which mark significant events in peoples lives.

C2 Elements of sacramental celebration

C6 The significance of the Church's names for the Eucharist; the Mass, Eucharist, the Lord's Supper, the Breaking of Bread.

R1 Hear, read and explore the gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus, the Last Supper.

- Revise with the children the names, traditions and liturgical colours associated with the different liturgical seasons of the Church's year. Put the seasons into the correct chronological order.
- Can the children recall some of the different symbols associated with the season? What do the symbols tell us about the season?
- Explain that "Holy Week" is the name given to the week when the Christian Church celebrates the death and resurrection of Jesus. Why do you think that it is given that name?
- Children to brainstorm ideas associated with the last few days in the life of Jesus and his resurrection from the dead.
- Can the children remember anything about the special celebrations that take place in church during this week?

- Palm Sunday is the beginning of the Church's celebration of Holy Week. Children to read the story of Palm Sunday from the Bible and recall the main points through questioning.
- Why do you think Jesus was so popular?
- What titles was Jesus given by the crowds waving their palms?
- Research the meaning of these titles.
- What do you think the people were expecting Jesus to do?
- Children to write their own story as one of the crowd. What did they see? What was the reaction of other people there?
- Children to imagine being a newspaper reporter, interviewing different people present at the event. What would you expect them to say about Jesus entering Jerusalem? Write newspaper reports and create headlines that include the titles given to Jesus in the story.
- Learn some Palm Sunday hymns. Make links between the singing of "hosanna" and the "holy, holy", at the celebration of Mass.
- Explore with the children the story of the Last Supper. Make a list of the different preparations that the disciples had to complete for the celebration.
- Recall what Jesus said at the table about being betrayed. How would you have felt if you had heard Jesus say these words? Why do you think that one of his friends might betray Jesus?
- Focus the children's attention on the words and actions of Jesus with the bread and wine. Took, blessed, broke and gave.
- Make a link with these words and the words of the priest at the celebration of Mass.
- Talk to the children about the priest being in the place of Jesus at the celebration of Mass, doing what he did at the Last Supper.
- Draw pictures and captions of Jesus' words and actions at the Last Supper. Draw pictures and captions for the similar words and actions of the priest during the celebration of Mass.
- Pupils to write diary accounts as a disciple at the Last Supper, recalling what happened and their thoughts and feelings at the time.
- Talk to the children about some of the different names that are given for the celebration of Mass today, e.g. Mass, Eucharist, The Lord's Supper, the Breaking of Bread. Children to find out the meaning of some of these terms and why they have been used to describe the celebration of Mass.
- The celebration of the Last Supper probably took place during the Jewish celebration of Passover.
- Research information about the Passover and the story and event it celebrates.
- Children to learn about the different foods shared at the Passover meal and their symbolic meaning. Include in this the seder plate, shank-bone, unleavened bread, bitter herbs and charoseth.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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 the story of Palm Sunday
- Understand some reasons why Jesus was so popular
- Identify the titles given to Jesus and their meaning.

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

G2 A developing awareness of the customs, traditions, major liturgical feasts and seasons.

C6 That participation in the Eucharist is sharing the prayer, thanksgiving and sacrifice of Jesus.

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 the story of the Last Supper.
- Understand that Jesus Showed his disciples the meaning of his death.
- Be able to empathise with the thoughts and feelings of the disciples.
- Make links between the celebration of the Last Supper and the celebration of Mass.
- Know that Jesus commanded his disciples to celebrate this meal in memory of him.
- That in celebrating the Mass we fulfil the command of Jesus.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Create a liturgical map for the classroom, highlighting dates and times of the different seasons of the year.

Have photographs and pictures of the different events of Holy Week and the Church's celebrations for the children to refer to.

Look at the story of Palm Sunday from a video presentation of the life of Jesus.

Include in the newspaper report a map that indicates the journey of Jesus from Bethany to Jerusalem and into the temple.

Find some religious art of the Last Supper.

Find out about the celebration of Holy Thursday in church and what happens during this special celebration of Mass.

Celebrate a simple Passover meal with the children.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt. 21: 1-11, Mk. 11: 1-11, Jn. 11: 12-19 – The Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem
Mk. 14:12-21, Lk. 22: 7-13, Mt. 26: 17-30 – The Institution of the Eucharist

OTHER LINKS

Music links: Some important links here for Palm Sunday songs and percussion. Also learn some songs about the Last Supper.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use the “Holy Holy” in class prayer as a reminder of the hosannas sung by the children of Jerusalem.
- Create a mime of the story of the Last Supper.
- Write a prayer to be said in preparation for the celebration of the Mass.

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?