



YEAR

3

UNIT J

## THE EUCHARIST IS A THANKSGIVING TO GOD

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this topic the children are provided with opportunities to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They will think about why this is such an important celebration in the life and worship of Catholic Christians.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

Where the unit fits in The unit builds on previous work about the Mass in Year 3 and also some work in Year 2 about the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of what the Priest does at the altar when the gifts of bread and wine are presented.

### SKILLS

Interpreting symbols, group work, research work, empathetic writing.

### VOCABULARY

Liturgy of the Eucharist, thanksgiving, bread and wine, sacrifice, resurrection, Holy Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Body of Christ.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** be able to sequence the Liturgy of the Eucharist and discuss the different words and actions associated with this part of the Mass. They will understand that this is a celebration of thanksgiving for the death and resurrection of Christ who is present in the form of bread and wine.

**Less able children will** be able to recall some of the words and actions of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They will know that Christ becomes present in the form of bread and wine.

**More able children will** understand the importance that the Church attaches to the Celebration of the Mass. They will be able to speak confidently about the words and actions of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and explain why it is a celebration of thanksgiving for the sacrifice of Christ and his resurrection.

	A.T.1	A.T.2
	3a	3c
	3c	
	2a	2a
	2b	2c
	2c	
	3a	3c
	3b	
	3c	

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**C1** Celebrations which mark significant events in peoples lives.

**C5** The broad structure of the Eucharist.

- Discuss with the children the different types of celebration they have taken part in.
- Look at some of the things associated with the act of celebrating (e.g. gathering with those you belong to, remembering and celebrating an important event, showing your respect and love for others, taking a gift, sharing in food and drink, we enjoy the celebration and get something out of it).
- Create a brochure about what makes a good celebration.
- When Mass is celebrated, all the things which make up a really good celebration are there.
  - We come together as God's family.
  - We listen to the Word of God
  - We pray for other people
  - We bring our gifts of bread and wine.
  - We share in the meal which Jesus has given us.
  - We are strengthened to follow Jesus by receiving him during this celebration.
- Compare and contrast the celebration of Mass and other celebrations. Help the children to see important links but also important differences.
- In what way is the celebration of Mass different? What makes it a very special celebration?
- Recall the Introductory Rites of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Word studied in previous units.
- Explore with the children what happens at Mass after the Liturgy of the Word and the prayers of intercession. Explain that the third part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Recall the first action of this part of the celebration: The presentation of the bread and wine.
- Read with the pupils the prayers of offering the gifts of bread and wine.
- What do they say about the bread and wine? Why do you think it is important that we give something to God?
- An important part of any celebration is thanksgiving.
- Discuss with the children some of the things we can give thanks for at different celebrations. Why is it important to say thank you?
- Jesus did so much for the people he met. Read and dramatise the parable of the ten lepers.
- Children to find out what leprosy is?
- Explain that lepers were isolated people who could not be part of the community because of their illness.
  
- How do you think Jesus felt about the lepers who came to him? Create a "mind map".
- In what ways were their lives changed through their meeting with and being healed by Jesus?
- What do you think the Jewish Priests might have said when they saw the lepers healed?
- What does the miracle tell us about the importance of giving thanks?
- Imagine that you are the leper who came back and gave thanks. Children to work in groups, one child sharing his or her experience as the leper and the others asking questions.
- Use dictionaries and thesaurus to find out the meaning of the word Eucharist.
- Explain that during this part of the Mass we thank and praise God our Father for everything he has done through Jesus his son.
- Look at one of the texts of the Eucharistic Prayer (e.g. Eucharistic Prayer for Masses with children).
- Highlight in blue the different parts of the prayer which thank and praise God.
- Revise Preface Dialogue.
- Learn by heart the opening dialogue to the Preface and the words of the "Holy Holy".
- Make a card cut-out of a chalice and write inside some of the different words of the Eucharistic Prayer about praising and thanking God.
- Explore the meaning of the word "Sacrifice". Use dictionaries and thesaurus and find as many word associations as possible.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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

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

- Know the names of the four parts of the Mass.
- Understand that each part has a special meaning.
- Be able to identify and explain what happens at each part of the Mass.

- Know that during the Eucharistic prayer we praise and thank God for everything God has done through Jesus.
- Understand some reasons why it is important to praise and thank God.
- Identify from the Eucharistic prayer some of the things we praise and thank God for.

- Know that during the Eucharistic prayer the priest asks the Holy Spirit to change the gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.
- Be able to identify these words in the text.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Explore other stories and events in the life of Jesus which are about giving thanks.

Find out as much as you can about Samaritans.

Use some type of ICT presentation to aid the reading and learning of parts of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Use the “Holy Holy” in collective worship to help children learn the prayer.

Learn a musical setting of this prayer.

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## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Create acrostic poems with the word Sacrifice.
- Who are the people who make sacrifices for you?
- What do you sometimes do for others that might be a sacrifice? Discuss and write about these reflections.
- Revisit the Eucharistic Prayer. Look at the words of invoking the Holy spirit over the gifts to become the Body and Blood of Christ.
- Explore with the children the next words and actions which recall what Jesus said and did at the Last supper. Children should know these words.
- What was the sacrifice of Jesus mentioned in his words at the Last supper. Ask the children to recall as much as they can about Jesus' suffering and death on the cross.
- Talk to the children about the actions of Jesus, that he took, blessed, broke and gave the bread and cup of wine.
  
- Explain that when this is done in memory of Jesus at Mass, the bread and wine become his Body and Blood.
- Recall stories of the Resurrection of Jesus. Ask the children to remember what happened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. How did they know that Jesus had risen from the dead?
- In the liturgy of the Eucharist we remember and celebrate that Jesus is risen from the dead. Children to learn two Memorial acclamations which remind us that Christ is alive.
- Children to brainstorm reasons why sharing a meal with other people is very important.
- Share with the children the feeding of the five thousand.
- Create a table highlighting the actions of Jesus and the actions of the other people.
- What is the difference between this food that Jesus shared with the crowd and the food that he gave to his disciples at the Last Supper?
- Write a diary account as the little boy who brought the loaves to Jesus at the feeding of the five thousand.
- Explore with the children the words of the "Lamb of God." Look at pictures of the breaking of the bread and Holy Communion at Mass. Discuss and write about why this is such an important time during this celebration.
- Talk to the children about healthy eating. What would happen if they ate chips and sweets all day and everyday? Introduce them to this statement, "You are what you eat."
- If we eat the Body of Christ at Mass what do we become?
- Explore the prayer of St. Theresa of Avila about being the Body of Christ in the world today.
- Children to discuss and write about how they can bring Christ to the world.
- Discuss the dismissal at Mass, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Children to create captions about the meaning of these words.
- Explore with the children some stories of Saints who received Jesus in the Eucharist (e.g. Vincent de Paul and Maximillian Kolbe).
- How do you think Jesus helped them to be strong, and to do the things that they had to do for him?
  
- Introduce the children to the different names given to the celebration of Mass. Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, Last Supper and Mass.
- Children to find the meaning of these terms and discuss the ones that they like.

**C6** The significance of the Church's names for this Sacrament.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Know that the priest recalls what Jesus did at the Last Supper and what happened to Jesus when he died and was raised to life.
- Understand that we are remembering and celebrating Christ's death and Resurrection.

- Know the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand.
- Understand some reasons why Jesus fed the crowd and what they learnt about Jesus.
- Recognise that in the Eucharist we are fed with Jesus.

- Know that the celebration of Mass ends with the dismissal, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."
- Understand that the Eucharist helps Christians to live out their mission as disciples of Christ.
- Be able to think about ways in which they and other people can do this.

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

- Know that different names have been given to the celebration of the Mass.
- Understand that these names tell us something important about the celebration of Mass.
- Be able to discuss the meaning of the titles.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Mt. 26: 17-21, 28-30* – The Last Supper

*Lk. 17: 11-19* – The Healing of the Leper

*Lk. 23: 44-56* – The Death of Jesus

## OTHER LINKS

ICT link: Through Clipart look at some symbols of the Eucharist to accompany the definitions that the Church gives to this Sacrament.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use some of the prayers of the Litany of the Eucharist during class prayer time. These might include the Holy Holy, the Memorial Acclamations and the doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.
- Create some prayers which the children could use as a thanksgiving after Holy Communion.
- Learn some musical settings of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

## 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?**