



YEAR

4

UNIT K

SHARING IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST: THE CHURCH AS A COMMUNITY

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children learn about the Universal Church established on the original teaching of the Apostles. They will reflect upon the Eucharist as the Sacrament which celebrates the Church's Unity. They will also be given opportunities to find out about religious customs from around the world.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work in Year 3 when the children considered the importance of belonging to the Church.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some experience of the celebration of Mass
- some experience of Christian customs from other cultures.

SKILLS

Research skills, map work, speaking and listening, interpreting symbols.

VOCABULARY

Universal Church, Catholic, Family of God, People of God, Body of Christ, Rome, Pope, Eucharist, Eucharistic Prayer, Memorial Acclamation, Doxology.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will know that the Catholic Church is spread throughout the world. They will understand that the Eucharist celebrates the unity of God's People throughout the world. They will be able to explain some beliefs of the Universal Church and religious customs from different parts of the world.	3a 3b 3c	3c
Less able children will know that Catholic Christians who live throughout the world celebrate the Eucharist. They will know about some beliefs of all Christians.	2a 2b	2a 2c
More able children will have a greater knowledge and understanding of some images of the Church. They will be able to express in their own words some of the beliefs of the Church and explain why the Eucharist is so important to the life of the Church.	3a 3b 4a 4b	3c 4a 4b

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R1 The life of the Church in other parts of the world, e.g. customs and traditions.

- Children to research the meaning of the word “community”.
- Look at different pictures associated with the idea of community. Children to look at these in groups and talk about what they tell us about community.
- Consider using some of the Mission Together and CAFOD images to help the children think about the global community.
- Create mind-maps of associated words and ideas for community.
- What are the most important ingredients in a community?
- What roles and responsibilities do people have to take on?

- Reflect with the children on God’s Family being a type of community made up of people throughout the world.
- Revise with the children the term “Church” meaning not only a building, but also a description of the Family of God.
- Revise different names learnt in Year 3 for the Family of God (e.g. Church, Family of God, Body of Christ, People of God)
- What do these names tell us about Christians?

- Children to look at a map of the world. Reflect with the children on people belonging to God’s Family throughout the world.
- Recall previous learning on the saints and the parts of the world the apostles went to.
- Find the land of Jesus’ birth. What is it called today? How far is it from the U.K.?
- Which countries do the children think most Christians live in? Which countries the least?
- Why do you think that people all over the world today are followers of Christ?
- Children to research the meaning of the word “Catholic”. What do you think it means to belong to a Universal Church?
- Read the story of Jesus telling Peter that he is the rock upon which the Church will be built. What does this story tell us about Peter’s special role?
- Find the city of Rome on the map.
- Research information about Rome using Internet resources and other books. Why is this city so important for Christians? Who is buried in Rome and what is the special role of the Bishop of Rome? How does he care for the Church throughout the world?
- From what they have learnt, ask the children to consider why the city of Rome reminds Catholic Christians they belong to a Universal Church.

- People throughout the world follow Jesus and belong to the Church. Children to create a survey sheet asking questions of other children and adults in the school about why being a follower of Jesus and belonging to the Church might be important.
- Present findings in the form of pie charts and graphs.

C3 Words and images used by Jesus to express communion.

- Jesus often spoke about forming a community and sharing a common life with his disciples and those who followed him.
- Children to research the “I AM” sayings of Jesus. Include in these the vine and the branches; the bread of life; the light of the world and the way, the truth and the life.
- What do these sayings tell us about Jesus? What do they say about the way in which Christians can share in the life of Christ?
- Children to make illustrations and interpretations of these sayings through art.
- Children to write a description of what these sayings mean to them.
- Children to think of other metaphors that they might use to describe the way we can share in Jesus’ life today.
- Explain to the children that the celebration of Mass is an important time when God’s family comes together to celebrate God’s life with us and to meet Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Read St. Paul’s account of the Last Supper in the Letter to the Corinthians. What does it tell us about the importance of celebrating the Eucharist together?
- Reflect with the children on the prayers of the Mass being an opportunity for the Church community to express its faith in God.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

R1 That the Church is world-wide and multicultural; of Christian responsibility for the sign we give and the Church's mission.

- Know that people today all over the world follow Jesus Christ.
- Understand some reasons why belief in Christ is important to people.

C3 Understand the vocabulary and imagery Jesus used to express communion with him.

- Know the "I Am" sayings of Jesus.
- Understand that they are important sayings to help Christians think about sharing in the life of Christ.
- Be able to describe and discuss these images of Jesus and what they mean to them.
- Know that the Mass is a celebration when Catholic Christians express their faith in God.
- Be able to identify some of the beliefs that are expressed in the prayers of the Mass.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Collect pictures and other sources of evidence about the local community in which you live.

Invite somebody from Mission Together or CAFOD to talk to the children about the global community.

Collect pictures and other artefacts from the land of Jesus' birth.

Look at pictures of the City of Rome. Research information about the Pope from the Internet and other resources.

Use some of these sayings of Jesus during collective worship.

Use pictures, photographs and videos of the Mass to focus on different prayers and actions.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Look at some of the words of the Creed. What do they tell us about the belief of Christians? Revise with the Children the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity.
- Look at some of the other acclamations of the Mass such as the memorial acclamations. What do they tell us about the belief of the Christian community?
- Explain to the children that the word “amen” is another way of expressing belief. It means, “yes, so be it.”
- In groups children to look at some of the prayers of the Mass that we say “amen” to. What do they tell us about the beliefs expressed?
- Talk to the children about the Doxology and the Great Amen at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer as an important expression of belief during the Mass.

- Find out about customs from different cultures for different seasons of the Church’s year. You might consider some of these different examples:
 - Advent: Los Posados – South American.
 - Christmas: presents at Epiphany – European.
 - Easter: painting Easter eggs – Polish.
 - Lent: Mardis Gras and Shrove Tuesday celebrations – European and American.

- What is important about these celebrations for the different cultures they come from?
- What do some of these customs tell us about the faith and belief of a Christian community?
- Teach the children some of the prayers of the Church in different languages (e.g. Sign of the Cross, Our Father and Hail Mary, etc.)
- Learn songs from different Christian cultures.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Explore different customs associated with the liturgical seasons from different parts of the world.
- Know some prayers and songs in different languages.
- Understand that Christians express their belief in God through worship and prayer.

Create a class book to be shared with the younger children about some of the customs of the Church throughout the world.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt. 16: 13-20 – Jesus Declares Simon to be the Rock

1 Corinthians 11: 17-34 – The Institution of the Eucharist

OTHER LINKS

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Before celebrating the Eucharist create some prayers of preparation for Mass.
- Create prayers of thanksgiving to be said after Mass as a class or alone.
- Find some prayers from other cultures and use these to emphasise we belong to one global family that praises God.

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?