



YEAR

4

UNIT L

SPECIAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will learn about the different tasks and responsibilities given to people in the Church. This will help them to develop their understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ made up of many different people.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on the Pentecost unit and on previous work in Key Stage 1 about the Church. It also serves as preparation for further work on the life of the Church in Year 5 and Year 6.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some previous knowledge and experience of the parish community and people who take on different roles in that community.

SKILLS

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

VOCABULARY

Good News, Body of Christ, vocation, responsibility, religious, priest, Eucharistic minister, sick SVP.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will know that different people have different responsibilities in the life of the Church. They will understand the special role played by priests and religious, but will be equally aware that every member of the Church has a special role and responsibility as they try to follow Christ.	3a 3b 3c	3a 3c
Less able children will know about some important roles and responsibilities in the life of the Church.	2a 2b 2c	2a 2b 2c
More able children will be able to consider why different roles and responsibilities are important to the life of the Church. They will be able to consider why the priest has an important role in the life of a parish community. They will have a greater understanding of the variety of ways that people can respond to God's call to serve.	4a 4b 4c	4a 4b 4c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Ch3 How the school community has opportunities to be 'good news' for others.

- Brainstorm with the children the difference between good news and bad news. How do you feel when you receive good news? How do you feel when you receive bad news? How does this effect your actions sometimes?
- Revise previous work completed on Pentecost and recall how the Apostles proclaimed the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus and invited other people to follow him.
- Explain to the children the word "gospel" means good news.
- Look at the opening words of St. Mark's Gospel. What does Mark say his Gospel is?

- Children to think about different things that are handed on through families. Ask them to think of things they might have at home that belonged to older brothers or sisters, or grandparents and great grandparents.
- Think about how these things can remind us of people who had them before.
- Read what St. Paul wrote in the First Letter to the Corinthians about handing on his faith.
- Reflect with the children on Christians handing on what they have heard and come to know about Jesus through those who have come before them.
- What do you think would have happened if the Apostles had not told anybody about the Resurrection of Jesus?
- In groups children to research some information about saints over the last two thousand years of Christianity. How in their different ways did they hand on the "Good News" about Jesus?
- Create a class timeline from the first Apostles until the end of the 20th century.

- Specific people today have the responsibility of spreading the good news to other people.
- Interview a priest and possibly a deacon about their specific role in the community. What are their roles? Why do you think their roles are important in a Church community?
- Create a simple CV for a priest. Include name, parish, roles and why they are important?
- Revise work from Year 3 on the seven Sacraments. Explain that priesthood and the diaconate are part of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

- Religious have special responsibilities to pray and to care for God's family.
- Research information about the life of a monastery and the work of a monk. What is special about their way of life? What do you think might be difficult?
- Research information about religious sisters and the work they do. Interview a Religious Sister and find out about her special role in the Church.

- Talk to the children about married couples having a special responsibility to love and care for each other and their family.
- Talk about the importance of the wedding ring being a symbol of everlasting love and commitment between a man and a wife.
- What responsibilities do you think married people have to each other? What special responsibilities do you think they have to their children?
- Revise previous work on "vocation". Explain to the children that marriage for Christians is as much a vocation as having a vocation to be a priest.
- Revise previous work on the seven Sacraments in Year 3. Highlight marriage as one of the important Sacraments that Christians celebrate in their lives as a sign of their love and life-long commitment to each other.

Ch2 How the local church is 'good news' for people and how everyone can have a part in this.

- St. Paul wrote to the people of Corinth about the Church being the Body of Christ. Read this extract with the children. What does this tell us about roles and responsibilities in the Church?
- Do only a few people have roles and responsibilities?
- Revise the prayer of St. Theresa of Avila, "Christ has no hands but our hands."
- Lots of people have different roles in the parish. Make lists and identify key tasks.
- Use the parish newsletter to find information about the life of the parish and the roles and responsibilities different people have.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Ch3 That all Christians share the responsibility of being a sign of God's love.

- Know that priests and men and women who enter religious life have important responsibilities in the life of the Church.
- Understand the importance of their vocation to serve others in the Church.
- Identify some of the key tasks and discuss the importance of these responsibilities.

- Know that married people have special responsibilities to each other and their families.
- Identify and discuss some of the symbols associated with marriage.

Ch2 That everyone has a place in the Church and opportunities to live and share its life; of Christian responsibility for the sign we give and the Church's mission; that all Christians share the responsibility of being a sign of God's love.

- Know that every member of the Church has a special responsibility to proclaim the good news to others.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

continued...

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Interview parishioners with specific tasks and responsibilities.
- In what ways do the children think the role of these people is important in the community?
- Children to create brochures about what they have learnt about the local parish.

- Read the Miracles of the Healing of the Deaf and Dumb Man and the Healing of the Leper.
- What attitudes did Jesus portray in these miracles?
- What does the word compassion mean?
- The parish community shows compassion for the sick through the work of Eucharistic ministers and the SVP. Research their roles and responsibilities.
- What does the word “responsibility” mean?
- What responsibilities do the children undertake in school?
- What happens when you take up your responsibilities? What happens when you don’t?
- Revise Pentecost work about the Apostles sharing the Good News.
- The Good News of Christ can be brought to other people by what we say and what we do.
- Read the story of John the Baptist disciples coming to Jesus to ask if he was the Messiah.
- What does this tell us about Jesus’ words and actions?
- In teams, children to work out how they can bring the Good News at home, school and elsewhere.

- Visit your local Church. Look at different things in the Church which reveal how the parish community shares good news together such as:
 - Font welcomes people into the Family of God.
 - Lectern, sharing the Word of God.
 - Priest’s chair, the Priest shares the Good News of Jesus in a special way.
 - Altar, Jesus feeds his people.
 - Statues and candles, people called to Pray.
 - Confessional, to share Good News of Reconciliation.

- Children to write their own reflections on what they have seen in the church and why they think some of the different symbols and artefacts are important for sharing the good news with other people.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 2-3: 17 – Paul Declares What Has Been Handed on to Him.

1 Corinthians 12: 12-30 – The Church is the Body of Christ

Mk. 7: 31-38 – The Healing of the Deaf and Dumb Man

Lk. 17: 11-19

Lk. 7: 18-23 – John Sends His Disciples to Jesus

OTHER LINKS

School-Parish Links are important for this unit.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Pray for your priest, deacon and all the people of your parish community.
- Pray that people will recognise that God is calling them to serve him.
- Pray for married people and for our families.
- Pray for the sick and those who care for them.

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?