



YEAR

1

UNIT J

EASTER

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the season of Easter as a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. The unit focuses on the importance of the Resurrection and its message.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on previous learning about Easter in Reception.

PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- some prior knowledge of the season of Easter and what happened at the Resurrection
- some prior knowledge symbols and artefacts used to celebrate Easter.

SKILLS

Discussion, role-play, recount, sequencing, empathetic writing, questioning, interviewing, imagining, letter writing, art, interpreting symbols, technology, ICT, reflection.

VOCABULARY

Easter, empty tomb, Resurrection, Jesus, risen, Alleluia, Easter/Paschal Candle, Alpha, Omega, Peter.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead and will know the story of the women finding the empty tomb. They will be able to identify and explain the significance and symbolism of the Easter candle. They will also know that after the Resurrection the disciples told people about what they had seen and begin to understand the message of the Resurrection.

Less able children will know that Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, that this made people happy and will be able to suggest reasons for this.

More able children will have a greater understanding of what the Resurrection of Jesus means and the impact it had on the people who witnessed it. They will also be able to identify ways in which they can share the message of the Resurrection at home, in the parish and at school.

A.T.1 A.T.2

1a 1a
1b 1b

1a 1a

2a 2a
2b 2b
2c 2c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R2 Hear, read and explore and reflect upon a variety of imagery that speaks of God in the New Testament.

R3 Hear, read and become familiar with the main events, characters and places in the life of Jesus: The Resurrection.

C4 Become familiar with some ways the Church celebrates major seasons of the liturgical year.

C1 Take part in celebrations which express thanks and praise.

C2 Recognise the place and value of celebrations in family, school and parish.

- Revise with the children the main focus of the Season of Easter.
 - Share with the children the story of the women going to the tomb.
 - Discuss the thoughts and the feelings of the women when they realised that the body of Jesus was no longer there. Were their thoughts happy ones?
 - Role-play the story.
 - Children to write an account of the story giving the main points in sequence.
 - Children to write sentences as one of the women or a disciple that went to the tomb. Begin each sentence with "I" and explain what you saw and what happened.
 - Imagine you had found the tomb empty. What would you have thought had happened?
 - What would you have said when you had found that Jesus was risen from the dead?
 - Children to work in pairs to act as newspaper reporters interviewing one of the women. The interviews could be taped or written down in a series of question and answer speech bubbles.
 - Children to write a letter to somebody telling them all about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
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- Explain to the children that this is the most important season in the Church year.
 - Using yellow, white and gold papers, paints, sequins, etc. let the children decorate Alleluia for display. This can either be done individually or as a whole class display.
 - Let the children make crowns with Alleluia displayed around the side and an Easter candle on the front.
 - Talk to the children about the Easter Candle being a very important symbol of the season.
 - Explain to the children about the way the candle is used in church during the Easter Season.
 - Discuss the symbolism of the Candle. The Alpha and Omega, the nails with grains of incense to symbolise the wounds of Jesus and the light to proclaim his resurrection.
 - Bless the Easter Candle (use the water table) explaining the significance of each part of the ceremony and of the different symbols used in the candle.
 - Make 3D Easter candles from card getting the children to draw, stick on all the symbolic parts (use brass fasteners for grains of incense). Children to design an Easter poster. Words and phrases can be written on the computer and altered in terms of colour, size and font.
 - Write a letter telling someone about what has happened to Jesus.
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- Share with the children a story of St.Peter telling the people about the Resurrection of Jesus.
 - Children to imagine they had been one of the crowd listening to St.Peter. Would you have believed him? What would you have thought about his message?
 - Tell children the story of St.Peter in prison. Why was Peter put in prison?
 - Do you think he was strong?
 - How did God continue to help him?
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- Reflect with the children about some ways they could share the message of the Resurrection of Jesus at home, at school and in the parish.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

R2 That scripture stories reveal and hand on Good News about God and contain messages about life; that Jesus reveals the Good News of God his Father.

R3 That Jesus is the Son of God; that the Cross is the sign of Jesus' love for us.

C4 Know the basic meaning of Easter.

- Know the name of the liturgical season Easter.
- Know that Easter is the season we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead.
- Know the story of the women going to the tomb and finding that Jesus was alive.
- Be able to describe thoughts and feelings of women who went to the tomb.

C1 Develop an understanding of reasons to thank and praise God.

C2 Know that the school and parish have special celebrations.

- That the Easter Candle is a special sign of celebration and reminds us that Jesus is alive.
- Know that the Easter candle is a special symbol of Easter, reminding us that Jesus died and rose to life again.

- Know that after the Resurrection, the disciples went everywhere.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Blessing the Easter Candle works well as a KS1 Liturgy. The teacher can invite different children to perform different parts of the ceremony.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Mt. 28: 1-10 – The Resurrection of Jesus

Mk. 16: 1-8

Lk. 24: 1-12

Jn. 20: 1-18

OTHER LINKS

School-parish link to see the Easter Candle.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use many of the colours and symbols of the season during class prayer time.
- Learn an Alleluia song and some other Easter hymns.

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?