

YEAR

1

UNIT M



FOLLOWING JESUS TODAY

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of what it means to follow Jesus today. The unit develops the children's understanding of how, as followers of Jesus, we belong to the Church and the different ways that the Church, and the different members of it, follow Jesus.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on previous learning about Baptism in Reception and the Mass in the Families and Celebrations unit in Year 1.

PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- some prior knowledge of important times and events in the life of the Church and ways in which the Church celebrates these
- some prior knowledge of the meaning of Baptism
- some prior knowledge of the Mass.

SKILLS

Discussion, recall of information, interpreting symbols, brainstorming, questioning, research, thinking, art, ICT, map work, creating and interpreting tables.

VOCABULARY

Holy Day, Jesus, Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Feast, Resurrection, Sunday, Mass, Baptism, Easter, Church, Family of God, priest, vestments, CAFOD, Advent, Christmas, Presentation, Lent.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will understand that they belong to the Church through Baptism and that this means being part of God's family and a follower of Jesus. They will be able to describe signs of their belonging to the Church and ways in which they, and other members of the Church, follow Jesus and celebrate his life.

Less able children will know that they are part of God's family through Baptism. They will be able to describe some ways in which they, and others, follow Jesus today.

More able children will have a greater understanding of what belonging to the Church means. They will understand that they are 'descendants' of the first disciples.

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

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

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

C3 Hear about the Church's celebration of Sunday as a special day.

Ch3 Opportunities today to live and share life following the example of Jesus.

Ch2 How people who heard the Good News of Jesus began to share a way of life.

- Introduce children to the term "Holy Day".
- Recall with the children special days in the year when we celebrate the life of Jesus (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, etc.)
- Revisit the story of the Resurrection. Which day of the week does the Resurrection take place on? Numerically which day of the week is Sunday?
- Explain to the children that Sunday is the Christian celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- Recall previous learning from the Celebrations Unit about the reasons people go to Mass.
- Explain to the children that Sunday Mass reminds us that Jesus is alive and is with us today.

- In Reception the children learned that Baptism is a beginning and a welcome into the Church. Using photos explore what takes place at a Baptism. Focus the children's attention on the clothing.
- Why are clothes important to us? What do they do for us?
- Explore the Baptismal clothing. Explain to the children that the white garment worn at Baptism is symbolic of God's love and care.
- Explain that white is the colour of Easter and that Baptism is a celebration of Jesus' new life.
- Talk to the children about the importance of water. What do we use water for? What would we do without it?
- Explain that the water poured over the head at Baptism is a sign of God giving the person being Baptised a special share in his life.
- Leave a bowl of water on a white cloth on the prayer table. Surround this area with the children's names written in white against a coloured background.

- Brainstorm with the children the meaning of the word "Church". How many different words associated with Church can the children come up with?
- Explain to the children that the term Church means more than a building and is used to describe the Family of God.
- Explain to the children that the disciples were the first members of the Church.
- Who is the Church now? Write a list together.
- Discuss with the children how people who belong to the Church try to follow Jesus (e.g. meeting together, praying together, hearing and spreading the Good News).
- Invite a priest to talk to the children about the way he tries to follow Jesus.
- Research some of the important roles of the priest. Learn the names of the different vestments that he wears during the celebration of Mass.
- Create a simple job description for a priest.
- Why do you think we need priests?
- Look at some pictures of the celebration of Mass and the different jobs people are doing. Discuss the importance of these different roles.
- Paint pictures showing all the different jobs done during Mass. Write captions for each painting. Display them in school or Church.

- Refer to Jesus telling the disciples that they must look after the poor/people who need help.
- Use materials from organisations such as CAFOD to explore the work being done both abroad, nationally and locally for those in need. The Internet provides much information.
- Locate on maps the places where CAFOD is working.

- Find out what and how much money the school and parish have raised? Present it in a simple table that the children can interpret.
- Try to establish some roles of responsibility the children could take in and around the Church, e.g. creating a prayer focus, giving out hymn books, litter picking.

- Revise special times when God's family celebrates together (e.g. Advent, Christmas, Presentation, Lent and Easter).
- Make a comparison table to explore what is similar and what is different about these celebrations, e.g. what colour is used, what symbols are used, what special prayers are said, what particular hymns are used etc.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C2 Know that the school and parish have special celebrations.

C3 Know that God's family gathers to meet Jesus at Sunday Mass.

- Know that God's Family gathers to pray and be together on Sunday in Church.
- Know that God's Family comes together in church to celebrate the life of Jesus at different times of the year.
- Know that at the celebration of Baptism the baby receives a white garment.
- Understand that this symbolises God's love and care for the person.

Ch3 That the Church is men, women and children who try to follow the example of Jesus.

Ch2 That the Church is the community which continues Jesus' mission to proclaim Good News to the whole world.

- Know that Christians today have opportunities to follow Jesus.
- Understand that different people have special jobs to do during Mass.
- Think about what children can do at school and home to show that they are following Jesus.
- Discuss and recognise ways in which people today follow Jesus.
- Know that all over the world people try and follow the example of Jesus.
- Know about ways in which Christians help those who are poor and hungry (e.g. CAFOD).
- Know some of the customs associated with Advent, Christmas, Presentation, Lent and Easter.
- Understand that these celebrations help us to learn more about Jesus' life and how we can follow him.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Have available pictures and symbols of the different Holy Days of the year.

Role-play parts of the Rite of Baptism.
Have Baptismal symbols on display.

Celebrate a special liturgy using the gift of water.

Learn some songs about the children being the Church and belonging to God's Family.

Create paintings of Jesus and the children together, with the title "We are the Church!"

Use a variety of materials provided by CAFOD or Mission Together for display and further class work.

Revise children's previous learning about the ashes for Ash Wednesday, the Candles for the Presentation of Jesus, the Water for Easter etc.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

OTHER LINKS

Some important home-parish links with exploring the work of the priest.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use some of the Baptismal symbols during prayer time to explore themes of sharing in the life of Jesus today.
- Pray for your local priest.
- Pray for those who care for the poor and needy of the world.

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?