



YEAR

2

UNIT F

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop children's understanding of the Liturgical year as a celebration of the life of Christ. The children will also learn about Baptism and Marriage as special sacramental celebrations.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning on Seasons of the Church year and the Sacrament of Baptism.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- some knowledge about Advent, Lent, Easter
- some knowledge about the symbols of Baptism.

SKILLS

Groups discussion, ICT, interpreting symbols, interpreting customs, role-play, writing prayers.

VOCABULARY

Liturgical year, Advent, Christmas, Ordinary time, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Custom, Symbol, Baptism, Sacrament, Oil of Baptism, Marriage, Commitment, Promise, Vow.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will know the Seasons of the Liturgical year and be able to describe some of the customs and symbols associated with them. Know that the Sacraments are special celebrations and identify some of the rituals that take place in Baptism and Marriage.	2a 2b 2c	2b 2c
Less able children will know the names of the Seasons of the Liturgical year. Recognise that Baptism and Marriage are important celebrations that take place in church.	1a 1b	1a 1c
More able children will know in greater detail the Seasons of the Liturgical year and their sequence, and why the customs are celebrated within a given season. Understand how we celebrate and share in the life of Christ through the different seasons and celebrations of the Liturgical year.	3a 3b 3c	3c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C3 Become familiar with some ways the Church celebrates major seasons of the liturgical year.

- Children to recall different celebrations and what happens (e.g. Harvest, Halloween, Shrove Tuesday, Sports Day, Weekends and Holidays).
- Why are these special times? In what ways are they different from other days?
- During the year we celebrate the life of Jesus at different times.
- Recall the different seasons of the Church year in order (Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time).
- Research the meaning of each season and the symbols, colours and customs associated with them.
- Use ICT paintbrush programme to recreate different symbols for the seasons.
- Research customs from different parts of the world to show how Christians celebrate different seasons.
- Include for Christmas: the Mexican tradition of Los Posades, Irish custom of a lighted candle in the window, African custom of drums.
- Include for Lent: the use of ashes, Stations of the Cross.
- Include for Easter: an Easter garden, Paschal Candle, Garden Tomb, Easter Water.

C4 Hear about, explore and become familiar with the main rites and symbols of Baptism.

- Revisit work in Year 1 about Baptism being a special celebration.
- Introduce children to the word "Sacrament" and explain that Sacraments are important celebrations when we meet Jesus and celebrate God's love for us.
- Explain that Baptism is the first Sacrament Christians celebrate.
- Ask the children to think about being welcomed. How do you show others that they are welcome?
- Read some of the teaching of Jesus about welcoming other people.
- In Baptism we are welcomed into God's family.
- Look at photographs of the signing of the cross on the forehead, anointing with the oil of Baptism, Baptism in water, lighting of Baptismal candle.
- In what way do these signs and symbols show the person being baptised has been welcomed into God's family?
- Show the children the Oil of Baptism. Explain that the person being Baptised is anointed with this oil as a sign of God's care and protection of them.
- Show the children a video presentation of a Baptism.
- Create books about Baptism as a Sacrament of welcome.
- Revisit previous learning at Christmas about Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem.
- Think about how Joseph cared for Mary on the journey.
- How did he look after his family after Jesus was born? Where did they live?
- Can they recall any other stories about Joseph, Mary and Jesus?

L11 Hear about and explore Jesus' call to love your neighbour as yourself.

- Explain to the children that Marriage is another Sacrament.
- Look at pictures of a wedding taking place in Church. What can you see happening?
- Children to hear and talk about some of the words of the vows. What do you think they mean?
- What does it mean to make a promise? What are some of the promises you have made? What has made them difficult or easy to keep?
- Children to role-play parts of the Marriage ceremony.
- Look at a wedding ring. Can you find its beginning or end?
- When you give somebody a precious gift like a ring, what are you saying?
- Explain that the wedding ring is the symbol of a couples love and commitment to each other. It has no end.
- Children to conclude the unit by writing prayers for married people.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C3 Know stories and events that surround major feasts of the Church year.

- Know that during the year God's family gathers together to celebrate different seasons and feasts.
- Begin to understand that in different parts of the world Christians have different customs to celebrate the feasts, seasons and special events.

C4 That Baptism is a beginning and welcome into the Church.

- Know that Baptism is a beginning and welcoming into the family of God.
- Know some of the actions that take place at the celebration of Baptism.
- Understand the importance of the anointing with the oil of Baptism of care and protection.
- Name and identify the different symbols used at Baptism.

L11 That Jesus asks his followers to love.

- Know some of the actions that take place at a celebration of marriage.
- Know that a wedding ring is a symbol of marriage.
- Know that Mary and Joseph were husband and wife.
- Understand that Joseph showed great love and care for Mary.
- Think of ways Joseph cared for Mary and Jesus.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Use the internet to find other world customs.

Find photographs of a Baptism for class display.

Collect different Baptismal symbols for the class.

Find photographs of a marriage ceremony.

Ask a newly married couple to talk to the children about their celebrations about the Sacrament of Marriage.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

OTHER LINKS

Multicultural links: Explore celebrations from other Christian cultures as part of this unit. Help the children to understand that God's Family exists throughout the world.

ICT Link: Paint brush programmes looking at religious symbols. Use a digital camera to take photographs of symbols and other activities associated with this unit.

DT Link: Textile work on the Stations of the Cross.

Music Links: Hymns and religious songs from other cultures.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Exploring songs from different seasons of the Church year and songs from different cultures.
- Pray for people who believe in Christ in other parts of the world.
- Remind the children that God is the Father of all people when they say the Our Father.
- Pray for people who are going to be baptised soon and pray for married people.

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?