



YEAR

2

UNIT K

OUR CHURCH

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop children's understanding of what it means to belong to God's Family. In the unit we focus on the role of the parish and people with special responsibilities. Children will also hear about the origins of the Church through the lives of the Apostles.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning in Year 1 about the story of St. Peter and St. Paul and about special roles and responsibilities in the Church.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- some knowledge of the story of St. Peter and St. Paul after the Resurrection
- some knowledge of symbols and artefacts in the church building
- some knowledge of roles and responsibilities of people in the Church.

SKILLS

Group discussion, brainstorming, interviewing, researching, recording information, interpreting symbols, ICT, text level work.

VOCABULARY

Community, parish, Church, God's Family, priest, reader, altar server, deacon, musician, Peter, Paul, Damascus Road, symbol, role, responsibility.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that the Church is the Family of God and that the church building symbolises the beliefs of the people. Be able to recognise the different roles and responsibilities of people in the parish community.

A.T.1 A.T.2

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

Less able children will know that God's Family meet together in church, that there are special symbols in the church and that people do different jobs in and for the community.

1a 1a
1b 1c
 1d

More able children will have greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of members of the Church. Be able to interpret some of the symbols and artefacts of the Church. Understand that the origins of the Church are found in the teaching of the Apostles.

3a 3c
3b 3d
3c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Ch3 Ways of belonging to and being a Community.

C10 To hear about and explore ways in which people pray in church.

Ch1 God's call to key figures in the history of the people of God, past and present (e.g. Peter and Paul).

- Talk to the children about the word "Community".
- Explore different types of community to which they belong (e.g. family, school, town, village, etc.)
- What makes each of these a community?
- What roles and responsibilities do people take on? What would happen if they didn't fulfil their roles and responsibilities?
- Introduce children to the term "parish" being a special community of God's Family.
- Introduce children to some of the different people who have special roles and responsibilities in the parish (e.g. priest, reader, altar server, musician, deacon, etc.)
- Invite some of these people to visit school and talk about their special role and responsibilities.
- Create fact files about people with special roles and responsibilities in the parish.
- Why do you think the church is an important building in the parish? Brainstorm some of the things that happen in the church building.
- Children to write about why we need a church building.
- Arrange a visit to the local church. Identify different symbols and why the children think they are there.
- Why do you think the symbols are important?
- Which symbols do they like the best? Make some sketches of the symbols in the church.
- In groups children to make pages for a brochure about the church for younger children in the school.
- Reflect with the children about what it would be like if a Church community did not have a church building?

- Introduce the ideas of different members of God's Family praying in different ways. Invite a religious sister to visit school and talk about the way in which she prays. Children to prepare questions.
- Invite a priest to talk about the prayer of a priest. Children to prepare questions.

- Explain to the children that we belong to God's Family today because the first disciples of Jesus spread the Good News.
- Read the story of the conversion of St. Paul.
- Highlight what he was like before and after his conversion on the Damascus Road.
- Draw two pictures of Paul, before and after his conversion. Think of words to describe him.
- Explain to the children that Paul wrote many letters encouraging people to follow Jesus.
- If St. Paul was writing his letters today, what do you think he would write?
- Send e-mail or a letter to another class or school, containing some teaching about following Jesus today.

- Talk to the children about St. Peter being given the special task by Jesus to build up his Church.
- Recall the story of Pentecost and Peter telling the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus.
- Children to hear the story of St. Peter in prison.
- How did he end up in prison?
- Why would you have wanted to have Peter locked up?
- Why did people think he was doing something that was wrong?
- What would it have been like to have been chained between guards?
- Describe the scene in the prison.
- Highlight the words and actions of the angel. What did Peter do? What did he think was happening? Why do you think the angel was sent to Peter?
- Talk to the children about different things they had been given and things that had been handed on through families.
- Introduce the idea of Peter and Paul handing on their faith in Jesus.
- Ask the children to think about how they can hand on their faith today?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Ch3 That belonging and love may be expressed in many different ways in a Community.

- Know that people live in different types of community, e.g. family, school, towns, villages and cities.
- Understand that people have roles and responsibilities in those communities and the consequences if these roles were not carried out.
- Discuss, dramatise and write about what makes a community.

C10 Know that people pray in a variety of ways in church.

- Know that the Church is a special place where God's family gather together to pray.
- Understand some reasons why we need special places like church to pray.
- Observe, discuss and write about different symbols, artefacts and objects that help people pray in Church. These include stations of the cross, image of Our Lady, candles, presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Ch1 That God calls individuals and communities to share life and show care for each other.

- Know the story of the conversion of St Paul.
 - Understand that Paul was totally changed by this event.
 - Know that St Paul taught people about how to follow Jesus.
 - Understand that it is important for Christians to follow this teaching.
 - Think of ways in which they can respond to the teaching of St Paul as they try to follow Jesus.
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- Know the story of St Peter in prison.
 - Understand that God protected him at this difficult time.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Create a class display of different symbols and artefacts that are found in the church. Children to prepare labels and explanations for the different symbols.

Make a "handing on the Good News display" for the classroom.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Acts 9: 1-25 – The Conversion of St. Paul

Acts 11: 27-12: 23 – Peter in Prison

OTHER LINKS

School-Parish Links Invite some parishioners and parents to join the children on the visit to church. The parishioners might be willing to explain some important things in the church building and why it is a special place for them.

ICT Links: Take some digital photographs of symbols in the church building that could be used in ICT time.

Multicultural: Visit a place of worship from another major religion and learn about some special symbols found in their building.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Prayers for the parish community. Pray for all the different people who have a special role in the parish.
- Pray for people who are in prison today.
- Pray for priests and religious sisters.

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?