

YEAR

EASTER

5

UNIT 1

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children learn about the Church's Celebration of Easter through the Easter Vigil. They will learn about the Church's belief in eternal life through the Easter Story and the Story of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work in Year 3 and Year 4 about the Easter Story and how the Church celebrates Easter.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- experience of Easter stories
- appreciation of Easter symbols.

SKILLS

Research skills, group work, reference skills, sequencing skills, interpreting symbolism, thinking skills.

VOCABULARY

Resurrection, Easter Vigil, Easter Fire, Paschal Candle, Baptism, Eucharist, eternal life.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that the Easter Vigil is the Church Celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. They will know the structure of the Vigil and will understand the meaning attached to some of the symbols used during the Vigil. They Will be able to discuss the importance of Christian belief in eternal life.

A.T.1 A.T.2

3a	3a
3b	3b
3c	3c
4a	4a
4b	4b

Less able children will know that the Easter Vigil is a Celebration to remember the Resurrection of Christ. They will know some Easter symbols and recall the story of the Resurrection of Jesus.

3a	
3b	3b
3c	3c

More able children will have a greater knowledge and understanding of the meaning of the Church's Easter symbols. They will be able to ask questions about why the Church uses fire, water, bread and wine to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. They will understand and explain why belief in eternal life is essential for Christians.

4a	
4b	4b
4c	4c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C8 Elements of Sacramental celebration

C7 Community prayer through taking part in and preparing simple celebrations.

- Explain to the children that Easter is the most important season in the Church's year. Why do they think this is so?
- Revise previous learning about the Easter Season being fifty days long and some of the liturgical colours and symbols of the season.
- Recall Holy Week work on the Easter Triduum. What took place on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday? What happens on Easter Saturday night?

- Share with the children some of the different elements of the Easter Vigil. In groups ask the children to investigate the different parts of the Vigil and to report back to the rest of the class.
- Provide children with some texts of the ceremony.
- Through class and group work, explore the four parts of the Vigil.

Service of Light:

- Explore with the children the blessing of the new fire at the start of the Vigil. What are some of the qualities of fire? Brainstorm important words (e.g. strong, powerful, bright, etc.)
- What might this tell us about the Resurrection of Jesus?
- Children to use missals to look at the preparation of the Paschal Candle.
- Highlight the words used as the cross is cut into the candle and the letters Alpha and Omega are traced at the top and the bottom. What do these words tell us about Christ? Is he just like anybody else? What makes him so different?
- Notice that the current year is put inside the cross on the candle. Why do you think this is done?
- Explore with the children that this reminds us that Christ is Risen now and that it is in this moment of time that Christians can share in his life.
- Can the children remember the meaning of the five nails in the candle? What is the link with the crucifixion of Jesus? Highlight the words as the nails are put into the cross.
- Everybody in the Church has candles lit from the Paschal Candle.
- Explore the words of the Exsultet, an Easter song of praise sung at the Vigil.
- Read through parts of the text with the children and highlight some important aspects.
- Why do we rejoice? What does the song tell us about Jesus Christ?

Liturgy of the Word:

- During the Easter Vigil we listen to lots of readings from the Old Testament about what God Our Father has done for his people and we listen to one of the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection.
- Look at the readings of the creation of the world from the Book of Genesis, the exodus of the people of Israel from the Book of Exodus and an account of the Resurrection from one of the four Gospels.
- Why do you think that these readings are chosen for the celebration of Easter?
- Reflect with the children on how these readings reveal the powerful work of God the Father in the world and that the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is God's most powerful act.

Liturgy of Baptism:

- Explain to the children that it is customary for people to be Baptised during the Easter Vigil
- Brainstorm with the children the qualities of Baptism and some of the things we use it for (e.g. powerful, strong, used for cleaning, washing, etc.)
- Reflect on the power and danger of water (e.g. drowning).
- Explain to the children that in the first centuries of the Church's existence, people were Baptised by being fully immersed in the water three times. This was to symbolise that they were dying and rising to a new life in Christ and that their Baptism was in the name of the Holy Trinity.
- Reflect with the children about Baptism being a celebration of new life. That in a special way the person being Baptised shares in the life of Christ in a new and

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C8 Of how to participate in and prepare celebrations.

C7 That the Church celebrates the life and the love of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- Know that the Church celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus at the Easter Vigil.
- Understand some reasons why the Feast of Easter is the most important celebration in the Christian Year.
- Be able to discuss the meaning of some of the Church's actions and symbols used at the Easter Vigil.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Create a class display about the Easter Vigil.

Invite your priest, deacon or somebody from the parish to talk to the children about what happens at the Easter Vigil.

Make sure that you have available some copies of the Sunday Missal for the children to use.

Children to consider other ceremonies in the church when candles are used such as on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus.

Recall previous learning about the creation story and the celebration of Passover during the Holy Week unit.

Children to recall some of the parts of the Rite of Baptism. Include the clothing with the white garment, the anointing with the Oil of Chrism and the lighting of the Baptismal Candle from the Paschal Candle.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R4 Hear, read and explore the Gospel accounts of Key events in the life of Jesus: The Resurrection and the Ascension.

special way.

- Ask the children to think about ways in which they and others can share in the life of Christ because they have been Baptised.

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

- Children to recall and if necessary research the meaning of the word "Eucharist".
- What do you think the Church thanks God Our Father for at the Easter Vigil?
- Remind the children that in this part of the Vigil we do what Jesus did at the Last Supper.
- Recall the words and the actions of the priest with the bread and wine.
- What do these gifts become? Remind pupils that the Risen Christ is now present in the form of bread and wine.
- Highlight parts of the Eucharistic prayer which proclaim the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- Learn the words of the Memorial Acclamations as a reminder that we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

- Through art work, represent different parts of the Easter Vigil in poster or banner form. Include the blessing of the new fire, the preparation of the Paschal Candle, Baptism and the celebration of Eucharist.
- Use word-processing skills to produce key phrases and prayers from the Easter Vigil using a variety of fonts, and display with the posters and banners.
- Create some poems using the language and imagery of fire to reflect on the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- Make some prayers to the Risen Christ using some of the things that are said about him in the words of preparation of the Paschal Candle.
- Create a simple version of the Exsultet as a class Easter prayer.

- Find accounts of the Resurrection of Christ in the four Gospels.
- Identify similarities and differences in the various accounts.
- Record these in a form of a chart or a fact file.
- Why do you think there are differences in the accounts of the Resurrection?
- Why did some people doubt the fact that Jesus was alive?
- In what ways do you think the resurrection of Jesus changed the lives of the disciples? Make lists of words to express your ideas.
- Children select a character and explore the story from the point of view of one of their chosen characters. Ask the children to try and address some of the following questions in their writing.
- What was it like when you realised that Jesus was alive? What had your feelings been like previously? What are your beliefs about Jesus now that you have seen him alive?
- Summarise feelings engendered or events of the Easter story by producing a Haiku as studied in Year Four within Literacy.

- Children to read and to dramatise the story of the Ascension of Jesus from the Acts of the Apostles.
- From reading this story, why do you think Jesus had to return to God his Father?
- Do you think that the apostles were sad to see Jesus return to the Father?
- From the words of the text, what do you think might have helped them to overcome their sadness?
- Children to write their diary entry as one of the apostles witnessing the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

- Explore with the children the human reality of death. Some children might want to share their own experiences of losing somebody in their family or a pet that has died.
- Reflect with the children on this sometimes being a source of sadness and loneliness.
- Consider some reasons why people might find it hard at times to believe in a life

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

R4 That the Gospels proclaim that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promises; that Jesus' death on the cross expressed his love for his Father and for all people, and changed the world.

- Know that the four Gospels of the New Testament contain accounts of the Resurrection of Jesus.
 - Be able to recall in some detail what happened to Jesus at the resurrection.
 - Understand that this changed the lives of the disciples.
 - Be able to research different accounts of the Resurrection from the Gospels.
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- Know and be able to retell the story of the Ascension of Jesus.
 - Be able to think about the thoughts of the disciples at this event.
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- Know that death is part of life and can bring times of sadness.

Remind the children that every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead for the Church. This is why it is the holy day of the Church.

Children to recall the story of Emmaus and the disciples recognising the Risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Remind the children that every celebration of Mass is a celebration when we meet the Risen Christ.

This part of the topic may need to be treated sensitively depending on the needs and experiences of the children.

It might be important to consider with the children why Christians don't believe in reincarnation. Jesus has returned to the Father. Where he has gone we hope to follow.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C3 A variety of prayers and prayer forms used in community prayer.

- after death here on earth.
- Explore with the children Christian belief in the resurrection of the dead to everlasting life. As Christ has gone to heaven to be with the Father, Christians hope to share in that life after their death.
 - Read the story of Jesus going to the house of his friend Lazarus after the latter had died.
 - Focus on the dialogue between Martha and Jesus.
 - What does Martha say to Jesus?
 - What does Jesus say in reply?
 - Teacher to speak in role as Jesus. Explain what had happened when you got to the house of Lazarus and why you said to Martha that you were the resurrection and the life.
 - Children to “hot seat” Jesus and ask him questions about this.
 - Children to write up the questions they would want to ask Jesus about everlasting life.
 - Explain to the children that one of the most important prayers that Catholics pray during Mass is the Creed.
 - Discuss with the children the final statement of the Creed. “We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” What do these words mean?
 - Explain to the children the importance Catholics attach to praying for people who have died asking God to give them eternal life.
 - Can the children think of some reasons why they would consider it important to pray for people who have died?
 - Explore some of the prayers and customs of praying for the dead. Include prayers such as the “Eternal Rest” and the “In Paradisum”. You might also include lighting candles as a prayer for those who have died and November being a special time in the Church year to pray for the dead.
 - Create some prayers for people who have died using some phrases from the “Eternal Rest” and the “In Paradisum”.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Know that Christians believe in the promise of Eternal Life.
- Understand that the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ into heaven is the hope of eternal life for all who follow him.
- Be able to recall teaching of Jesus and the words of the Nicene Creed about eternal life.

C3 Increased understanding of variety of forms of prayer.

- Know some of the Church's prayers for those who have died.
- Understand some reasons why it is important to pray for the dead.
- Be able to write or join in prayers for those who have died.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1: 1-31 – Creation stories
Genesis 2: 4-24

Exodus 14: – The Festival of the Passover and

Exodus 15: – The Crossing of the Red Sea

Mt. 28: 1-10

Mk. 16: 1-8 – The Appearances of the Risen Christ

Lk. 24: 1-12

Jn. 20: 1-10

Jn. 11: 17-27 – The Death of Lazarus

Lk. 24: 50-53 – Stories of the Ascension

Acts 1: 9

OTHER LINKS

Art links: Look at some paintings of the Resurrection of Jesus through the ages of religious art.
Research: Christian customs of prayer for the dead.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use some of the prayers from the Easter Vigil for class prayers and assemblies.
- Use the Easter Candle and blessed Easter Water.
- Learn new Easter hymns.
- Use the 'Alleluia' as a song during collective worship.

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?