

Diocese of Lancaster Salvation History Artwork

Commentary and Resources for
Prayer and Religious Education

Commentary for Teachers

Introduction

In a piece that moves through time, from left to right, the centenary artwork by artist, Olivia Holden, portrays the whole of Salvation History. Starting from the creation of the world, moving through the history contained in the Bible and then the history of the Church, gradually narrowing its scope to focus on the Diocese of Lancaster today.

This commentary is designed as a resource for school staff involved in preparing prayer and celebrations of the word, as well as anyone teaching RE in a primary or secondary school. It provides quite-detailed commentary to the content of the artwork that can be used as a guide or inspiration for collective worship or RE lessons. This will be especially effective if your school has chosen to display the artwork.

Our prayer is that linking these to this beautiful piece of religious art, as well as to the history of the diocese and salvation history more generally will help deepen our school communities' awareness of their connection to each other and to the whole people of God.

The first part of this booklet contains a commentary of each of the nine sections of the artwork. This is followed by a section linking the artwork to the outcomes contained in the Religious Education Directory (EYFS through to KS3) as well as thematic studies of the piece. There is a final section with ideas for using the artwork and commentary in prayer and celebrations of the Word.



Let there be light

Creation, Fall & Flood

The very left of the piece begins with the words from the beginning of the Bible, the very first words that God speaks, “Let there be light”.¹ Nearby we see the six days of creation portrayed in the multitude of living creatures: birds and insects, land animals (even a dinosaur) and sea creatures, all vividly portraying the abundance and order that God poured into his creation at the beginning of the world.²

Next to this is the Garden of Eden with the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve were permitted by God to eat of any tree in the garden except this one.³ Woven through its branches you can see the snake tempting Eve to eat the fruit.⁴ Notice how the snake’s pattern looks similar to the leaves, does his camouflage hint at his craftiness or hidden intentions? Also, notice the shape of the tree, it is almost like a cross, with its branches jutting at right angles from the trunk, it points forward to Jesus’ death: only because Adam and Eve gave into temptation did Jesus have to suffer and die.⁵ Eve’s feet stand on top of a snake-like vine, hinting that somehow, even as tragedy looms, evil will be conquered through her.⁶

Human beings are at the centre of creation, both because they are made in God’s image⁷ and because their choices affect the whole world around them too.⁸ It’s appropriate then that right above and below them the colours divide and darken halfway across the scene, through their disobedience to God, sin has entered the world. Sunshine gives way to the stormy skies of Noah’s flood; below them the light blue becomes darker too, as water filled with life becomes the water of judgement.

Riding on the waves of the flood is Noah’s ark, which is shaped like a Church. The Church is like the Ark, offering an escape from judgement to all who would come into her.⁹ A dove flies over the Ark, with an olive branch in its mouth. This recalls the dove that Noah released when the flood had finished, it came back with an olive branch to show that there was dry land once more.¹⁰ The dove also reminds us of the Holy Spirit who hovered like a bird over the waters of creation:¹¹ the Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of Life, who brings life, goodness and hope when everything seems chaotic and hopeless.¹²

¹ *Genesis 1:3*

² *Genesis 1:20–25*

³ *Genesis 2:16–17*

⁴ *Genesis 3:1–6*

⁵ *Romans 5:12–21; Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), 411*

⁶ *Genesis 3:15; CCC 489, 411*

⁷ *Genesis 1:26–27*

⁸ *CCC 400, 416–417*

⁹ *1 Peter 3:20–21; CCC 845*

¹⁰ *Genesis 8:11*

¹¹ *Genesis 1:2*

¹² *CCC 291, 703*

'I will provide
for you a
Lamb'

'HEAR OH ISRAEL
THE LAWS I GIVE
TODAY'

'I will sing
to the Lord'



The Birth of Israel

The next section begins with a path winding out of the floodwaters and upwards to the top of a green mountain. Two figures are on the road, a man and a boy: Abraham and Isaac. The road symbolises Abraham's journey following God. God has called Abraham to trust him and go on a journey from his home of Ur (in modern day Iraq) to a "far country."¹ Abraham trusted God, and because of his faith, God promised him three things: despite being childless, he would have many descendants; even though he was a wanderer, his descendants would have a homeland; and even though they were just one family, all the families of the earth would be blessed through them.² Notice Abraham's staff, which is both for walking and for leading his family—like a shepherd—wherever God leads.

The road has another meaning too: Abraham's journey to Mount Moriah with Isaac. In a foreshadowing of Jesus' suffering and death for the world, God asked Abraham if he, a father, would be willing to trust God completely and sacrifice his beloved son.³ In the picture we see Isaac, like Christ, carrying the wood for his own sacrifice.⁴ Above them, caught in a thicket, is a ram: Abraham had told Isaac that God would "provide the lamb for the sacrifice."⁵

Next, to the right, we see a depiction of the Israelites in Egypt and the Exodus. Abraham's family had grown, first through his son Isaac, then his grandson Jacob (also known as Israel), and then Jacob's sons, the fathers of the Twelve Tribes.⁶ They betrayed their brother Joseph, who became a slave and then a great ruler in Egypt after he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams and saved the kingdom from the effects of famine.⁷ After Joseph reconciled with his brothers, their families settled in Egypt.

The picture shows them four hundred years later: a new Pharaoh had enslaved the Israelites and killed their children.⁸ In the picture we see the Exodus: with Moses as their leader, God rescues the people. After ten plagues, Pharaoh finally lets them go, and they walk out of Egypt through the Red Sea, parted miraculously by God.⁹ We see this portrayed here by the people in the middle of the water—the Bible tells us it was piled up on their left and right like walls. Moses is at the bottom of the picture holding a staff, just like Abraham's, to lead the people of God.¹⁰

Just like the flood, they are saved by being taken safely through the waters. We see Miriam singing her song after they had crossed through the Red Sea: "I will sing to the Lord!"¹¹ High above, there is a cloud; out of it falls manna—mysterious food for God's people in the desert—here in the shape of little circles that point forward to the Eucharistic bread of the Church.¹² Every day God fed the Israelites, always giving them enough for that day, but no more—it was their "daily bread."¹³

From the Red Sea, Moses led the people through the desert to Mount Sinai, where God wrote down the Ten Commandments onto two stone tablets.¹⁴ You can see them at the top of the mountain in the picture. These laws weren't just rules, but were like a marriage proposal. They were given the free choice to accept God's covenant, which included sacrifice and suffering, but also the special honour of being his Chosen People, bringing his salvation to the whole world: "Hear, O Israel, the laws I give you today..."¹⁵ But the wounds of slavery and sin made it very hard for Israel to keep their promise to God. They continually failed to keep his laws and constantly needed rescuing.

¹ Genesis 12:1² Genesis 12:2–3

³ Genesis 22:1–2

⁴ Genesis 22:6

⁵ Genesis 22:8, 13

⁶ Genesis 35:10–12; Genesis 49:28

⁷ Genesis 37, 41:14–41, 45:1–15

⁸ Exodus 1:8–22

⁹ Exodus 14:21–22

¹⁰ Exodus 14:16, 31

¹¹ Exodus 15:1–21

¹² Exodus 16:4, 31–35; John 6:31–35

¹³ Exodus 16:16–21; Matthew 6:11

¹⁴ Exodus 19:20; Exodus 20:1–17

¹⁵ Deuteronomy 5:1; 6:4



YOU

'He will build a house for
his kingdom will last forever

The Kingdom of Israel

After Sinai, the Israelites spent 40 years in the desert before they finally crossed some more water, shown to the right of Mount Sinai. This time they cross the River Jordan into the Promised Land. The Promised Land was so fertile and beautiful that it was described as flowing with “milk and honey”: we can see the bees and the honey pot to the left of the river, whose waters are mixed with the white of the milk being poured from the jug.¹

At the head of the river, two trees stand on either side. They point forward to the tree of life at the end of the Bible that “grows either side of the river” in the heavenly city, and which brings healing to the nations of the world.² This imagery of richness and healing shows the connection between the Promised Land of Israel and heaven. We, like the Israelites, will finally come to the rich home God has promised us when we die and go to heaven. The world too, when Jesus returns, will find fullness, healing and rest.³

To the right of the white and blue River Jordan, we see a king being crowned by the prophet Samuel. Below him are the words: “He will build a house for me, and his kingdom will last for ever.”⁴ The king is David, the second king of Israel after the time of the Judges, who was chosen especially by God because of his faithfulness.⁵ David was the king who began preparations for building the first temple in Jerusalem, the house of God, to house the Ark of the Covenant, which held the Ten Commandments and became the centre of all worship and sacrifice in the kingdom.⁶ We can see the people building the temple on the hills above King David. Notice how the top of it looks just like the Ark; the temple preceded the Church as the place where God’s Spirit dwelt and where sacrifice was offered daily.⁷

¹ Deuteronomy 26:9; Exodus 3:8

² Revelation 22:1–2

³ Romans 8:18–21; Revelation 21:1–5

⁴ 2 Samuel 7:13

⁵ 1 Samuel 16:7, 13

⁶ 1 Kings 6:1, 19; Exodus 25:16, 21

⁷ CCC 2580–2581; Hebrews 9:1–7



me
ever: and

From Exile to Annunciation

David's political kingdom didn't last forever though—God was speaking about the Kingdom of God that would come through one of David's descendants, Jesus. And so we see the fall of David's kingdom depicted next; notice how the sky turns dark again. About 400 years after King David died, Jerusalem was sacked by the Babylonians, and the temple was destroyed. In the picture we see it lying in ruins, and another path and another journey for God's people is shown. This time, along the winding path, the people are being led to Babylon, into slavery, not out of it—notice the manacles on their wrists and chains hanging down. But even in exile there is hope: the doves flying over the city on the hill once again remind us of God's Spirit—that from evil and chaos, God can bring life. In Scripture, God said to the people going into exile, "I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans not to harm you, but to give you a hope and a future."¹ And so it is that after the 70 years in exile, the Jewish people returned to Jerusalem, the city on the hill, and rebuilt its walls and the temple.²

Now the story jumps forward another 400 years: the angel Gabriel hovers in the middle of the picture holding Mary's flower—the white lily. Just like Israel at Sinai, Mary has the choice to respond to God's proposal. The white lily represents her purity and perfect freedom; because of the Immaculate Conception she is—unlike Israel at Sinai—totally free from sin.³ She understands fully the honour and the suffering that will come with being the Mother of God and chooses it willingly. The moment of her fiat—her "Let it be done unto me as you have said"⁴—is the first moment of the Incarnation, when the eternal Son of God takes on flesh in Mary's womb. In contrast to Eve in the garden, Mary reaches up to God. She is also stepping on the serpent—a fulfilment of the prophecy that Eve's offspring would defeat Satan and repair the damage of the fall.⁵

Above Mary, and above another mountain, the sky turns dark again. But this time the darkness does not point to judgment or tragedy, but to the Nativity. Into the deep night of human history—when no prophet had spoken in Israel for 400 years, a wicked King Herod was on the throne, and the Romans occupied the Promised Land, when Israel seemed like it could not possibly bless all nations—God's light burst forth. The light of the Nativity star illuminates Mary and Joseph on either side of Jesus' crib, a feeding trough in a stable. Shepherds come to adore the newborn King. Camels bring the three wise men from faraway countries too, hinting at how, at last, God's third promise to Abraham—to bless all the families of the earth through his offspring—would be fulfilled.⁶

¹ *Jeremiah 29:11*

² *2 Chronicles 36:22–23; Ezra 1:1–5*

³ *CCC 490–493*

⁴ *Luke 1:38*

⁵ *Genesis 3:15; CCC 410, 411, 490*

⁶ *Matthew 2:1–11; Genesis 12:3*



I GIVE

YOU

A NEW

COMMANDMENT

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

The Life of Jesus

Once again we see a tree and a white and blue river—the Jordan; again we see water and a dove flying over it: John the Baptist is baptising Jesus in the desert. Below him are the words John said to the people when he saw Jesus walking by: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”¹

Jesus isn’t washed by the water—the water is washed by him. Water has always stood for death and judgment, but now it is changed and stands for life and salvation too. The Holy Spirit is there in the form of a dove, showing this transformation and calling to mind the creation story and the flood.² Jesus’ baptism marks the beginning of a new creation: God’s hope is present, a new deluge is coming, but this time it is a deluge of God’s grace.³

In the same way, Jesus also transforms God’s Law. The Law of Moses, given at Sinai, was good, but the people could not follow it fully, and so it brought judgment.⁴ At the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus takes the law written on stone and writes it on hearts instead: “I give you a new commandment...”⁵ Through Jesus, we are set free from sin. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us, giving us the desire and power to obey God’s laws with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.⁶

In Jewish thought, water also often symbolised the nations other than Israel—the Gentiles—who throughout Israel’s history had seemed to threaten and endanger God’s people. As Messiah, Jesus reminds the Jewish people of their mission to “bless all nations”: they are called to travel into these “waters” to bring God’s salvation to the whole world.⁷

¹ John 1:29

² Matthew 3:16; Genesis 1:2; Genesis 8:8–12

³ 2 Corinthians 5:17; CCC 1214–1215

⁴ Romans 7:7–13

⁵ Matthew 5:17–48; John 13:34

⁶ Romans 8:2–4; CCC 1965–1966; Ezekiel 36:26–27

⁷ Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 42:6–7; Matthew 28:19



'TRULY THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD.'

'Hosanna to
the son of
David'

Holy Week and Easter

The portrayal of Jesus' life continues with a depiction of Holy Week. The city of Jerusalem is in the background while people waving palm branches welcome Jesus, riding into Jerusalem. The prophets had foretold that the Messiah would come like this: "Behold, your king comes to you, humble and riding on a donkey."¹ "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they shout.

Behind, at the right-hand edge of the city, we see Jesus with the Twelve Disciples in the upper room celebrating the Last Supper. Jesus holds the bread up above his head, as priests do at the consecration in the Mass—it looks like the manna in the desert and a communion host.²

Rising up from behind Jerusalem is another peak: Golgotha, the place of the crucifixion. After Jesus' death, the sky turned dark for three hours, from midday to three o'clock.³ But this time of darkness—the killing of the innocent Son of God by wicked men, the worst act of human evil—was also the fullest display of God's glory. In front of the dark cloud, the cross of Christ stands out brilliant white, blazing with the love of God poured out for us in the sacrifice of his Son.⁴

To either side of the cross stand the Apostle John and Mary, Jesus' mother. It was at the cross that Mary's suffering was greatest, but in that moment, Jesus tenderly entrusted her to the care of John.⁵

Below the cross, the green of the mountain is subtly divided in two, showing how the cross is the centre of history, after which the full light of God's love was revealed to the world. The words of the Roman centurion around the peak point to the clarity of this revelation: "Truly this man was the Son of God."⁶

Below and to the right of the cross, we see another garden filled with beautiful flowers, calling to mind Eden, where God walked with Adam and Eve "in the cool of the day."⁷ Early in the morning, in this new garden, it was here that the women came to the tomb, and Mary Magdalene was the first person to speak to the risen Jesus.⁸ We can see the stone that sealed the tomb rolled away, and behind it the empty tomb, reminiscent of the sun of creation at the very start of the piece, showing that death has been defeated and a new creation has begun.⁹

¹ Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5, 9

² Exodus 16:31; John 6:32–35; Luke 22:19; CCC 1323; CCC 1337–1344

³ Luke 23:44–45

⁴ Romans 5:8; John 3:16; CCC 613–618

⁵ John 19:26–27; CCC 964

⁶ Mark 15:39

⁷ Genesis 3:8

⁸ John 20:1, 14–16

⁹ Matthew 28:2–6; 1 Corinthians 15:54–57; CCC 638–655

'Go out into the whole world
and proclaim the good news.'



The Ascension, Pentecost & The Spread of the Gospel

To the right is a smaller hill, and on it is depicted the Ascension of Jesus; he is disappearing into the clouds as the disciples look up at him. To the right are the words he spoke to them before his ascension, the Great Commission: “Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News.”¹

He tells them that before they do this, they must wait in Jerusalem for power from heaven. This is what is depicted in the room below. It is Pentecost, and we can see the disciples praying in the upper room and flames appearing over their heads. In Judaism, Pentecost was a celebration of the first fruits of the harvest, which were offered in the temple and brought God’s blessing.² When Jesus ascends to heaven, he is the first fruits of the resurrection; he enters the heavenly temple, and the Holy Spirit is the blessing poured out onto the Church.^{3 6} When the fire of the Holy Spirit falls on the Twelve Apostles, they are given the power to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ with wisdom, boldness, and miraculous signs.^{4 7}

Equipped with the Holy Spirit, we see them going out into the whole world proclaiming the Good News. Notice the twelve birds at the top, showing each of the Apostles filled with the Spirit, sharing the peace of Christ, and bringing the Holy Spirit’s creative power into the chaos of the world. The disciples travel by boat, by carriage, and by foot with the Gospel in their hands. The twelve birds can also represent the twelve fruits of the Spirit.⁹

The carriage at the bottom reminds us of one of the first people from another country to be baptised: the Ethiopian eunuch, who worked in the court of Queen Candace.^{5 8}

¹ Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 1:9

² Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:15–21

³ 1 Corinthians 15:20; Hebrews 9:11–12 ⁶ CCC 662–667; CCC 731–732

⁴ Acts 2:1–11 ⁷ CCC 696; CCC 1287; CCC 857

⁵ Acts 8:27–39 ⁸ CCC 1226–1229

⁹ Galatians 5:22–23



Rome, Church Mission & England

Now, we see two more roads winding into the distance and up another hill. On the right is Saint Peter; notice the keys on his belt, symbolising the keys of the Kingdom that Jesus gave him.¹ Peter is on the road to his martyr's death in Rome on an upside-down cross. He asked to be killed this way because he said he wasn't worthy to be killed in the same manner as Jesus.²

Just below Peter, we see Saint Paul, who has met Jesus on the road to Damascus and is kneeling on the ground, laying aside the sword he had used to persecute Christians.³ Jesus appeared to him, and he became a Christian, devoting his whole life to spreading the Good News of Jesus.⁴

Both Saints Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome, and at the top of the other path, you can see St Peter's Basilica. There is a saying from the Early Church that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. Remarkably, just three centuries after Pentecost and after many seasons of Roman persecution, the Roman Empire—which crucified Jesus and killed tens of thousands of Christians—became Christian.⁵ Even today, St Peter's Basilica looks out on the circuit where the wicked Emperor Nero raced chariots and had Christians put to death for entertainment.

Now the picture begins to focus in on Lancaster. To the right of the scene in Rome, we see a new river—this time it represents the English Channel. The monks to the left are the first missionaries to bring the Catholic faith to the pagan people of Great Britain. Among them was St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, who brought formal union with the Church in Rome.⁶ Canterbury was a Catholic diocese until the English Reformation, when King Henry VIII set up his own "Church of England" so he could divorce his first wife, Catherine, and marry Anne Boleyn—something the Church upheld as contrary to God's law.⁷

Henry VIII began a period of great persecution, taking parish churches and cathedrals away from the Catholic Church and giving them to the state. He also disbanded and demolished almost all convents and monasteries, giving their buildings and land to those who were loyal to him and were willing to disown their Catholic faith. These persecutions lasted for many years and were especially severe during the reign of Elizabeth I, when Catholicism was officially suppressed. It was illegal to hold Mass, and priests were hunted down, imprisoned, and killed. Among them were the Lancaster Martyrs, Saints Edward Bamber, Ambrose Barlow and Edmund Arrowsmith,⁸ pictured here walking up the hill on the right. Lancashire and Cumbria were areas of the country most resistant to the suppression of Catholicism, but even so, these martyrs were executed for being Catholic on Golgotha Hill in Lancaster. Along with Our Lady of Lourdes, they are the patrons of our diocese.

¹ Matthew 16:18–19

² CCC 881; John 21:18–19

³ Acts 9:1–6

⁴ CCC 442; Acts 13:2–3; 2 Timothy 4:6–8

⁵ CCC 2473; Tertullian, *Apologeticus* 50

⁶ CCC 857; Bede, *Ecclesiastical History* I.25

⁷ CCC 1605; Matthew 19:6

⁸ CCC 2474



Illustrated by Olivia Holden

The Diocese Today

In the final scene, and on the same hill where the Lancaster Martyrs were killed, we see St Peter's Cathedral in Lancaster. Just like in Rome, the blood of the martyrs has led to the growth of the Church. Far from being suppressed, Catholicism has grown in our area, so much so that the Church created a new diocese—Lancaster—founded in 1925, one hundred years ago.

A familiar image reappears: the winding path, showing the journey of God's people. The Church is a pilgrim Church, journeying with each other through life and towards God.¹ Through the Church and its Sacraments, God leads us as he led people before: out of death and slavery to sin and into life and freedom, to our promised home in heaven.²

Once again, there is a leader leading the people: As Abraham, Moses and Peter led the People of God, so today the Bishop of Lancaster, leads the people of the diocese toward the Church, the ark of salvation.³

The path also looks like a river, and the two trees standing either side of the cathedral recall the river of life that flows from the heavenly Jerusalem bringing healing to the world.⁴ In the same way, the sacraments of the Church and the sacrificial love of God's people flow from the Church today, bringing God's love and grace to the whole world.

¹ CCC 675–677; *Lumen Gentium* 48

² CCC 849–856; CCC 1219

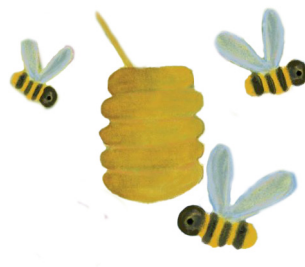
³ CCC 857; CCC 871–875

⁴ *Revelation* 22:1–2; CCC 1131

EYFS - RE Directory Links

| Branch | RED Outcome | Artwork Details | Why the link works | Lens |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------|
| 1 Creation & Covenant | "God made our beautiful world and everything in it." | Creation – "Let there be light" & the six days of creation | The mural's opening burst of light and the parade of animals visualise the goodness and variety of God's world that children learn to name and praise. | Hear |
| 1 Creation & Covenant | "God made me." | Humans at the centre of creation | God made humans, including you and me. What was their home like? | Hear/ Believe |
| 1 Creation & Covenant | "The whole of Creation shows God's love for us." | Garden of Eden & stewardship thread | First panel shows the variety of God's creation coming from his first words. | Believe |
| 1 Creation & Covenant | "Look after God's world." | Adam and Eve in the Garden. | What jobs did Adam and Eve have in the Garden? What jobs do we have to look after the world? | Live |
| 2 Prophecy & Promise | "Mary was going to have a baby... His name will be Jesus." | Annunciation (white lily scene) | Gabriel and Mary pictured together - what was he saying to her? | Hear |
| 2 Prophecy & Promise | "Jesus was born in Bethlehem... shepherds hurried to see him." | Nativity star, stable, shepherds | The mural shows the night sky, manger, shepherds and Magi—helping children retell and sequence the Christmas story. | Hear |
| 2 Prophecy & Promise | "Mary had a baby called Jesus." | Nativity follow-up panel | Who is in the manger? What is his name? | Believe |
| 2 Prophecy & Promise | "Celebrate Advent... get ready for Christmas." | Nativity & star leading forward | Where did the star come from? How did the wise-men feel when they got closer? | Live/ Celebrate |
| 3 Galilee to Jerusalem | "Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan." | Baptism of Jesus (tree, dove, white & blue water) | Children can point to the river. What were John and Jesus doing there? | Hear |
| 4 Desert to Garden | "People waved palms and shouted Hosanna to welcome Jesus." | Palm-Sunday procession in Holy Week panel | Children can mime waving palms and replay the welcome; matches outcome verbatim. | Hear |
| 4 Desert to Garden | "Jesus shared a special meal called the Last Supper." | Upper Room bread held aloft | Why is Jesus holding up the bread? Why are they all eating together? | Hear/ Believe |
| 4 Desert to Garden | "Jesus died on the cross because He loves us." | Dark sky & brilliant white cross on Golgotha | It was sad when Jesus died, but his cross is glowing white. | Believe |
| 4 Desert to Garden | "God raised Jesus to life on Easter Sunday." | Garden, rolled away stone, empty tomb glowing like the sun | Jesus' body wasn't in the tomb. It's glowing like the sun. What has happened? | Hear |
| 5 To the Ends of the Earth | "Jesus went back to his Father in heaven." | Ascension hill — Jesus rising into the cloud | Children can point to Jesus "disappearing" and say where He has gone. | Hear |
| 5 To the Ends of the Earth | "The Holy Spirit came with wind and flames." | Pentecost upper-room — flames above Apostles' heads | How can we tell the Holy Spirit is in the room with the disciples? What can you see above them? | Hear |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------|
| 5 To the Ends of the Earth | "The disciples told everyone the Good News." | Apostles travelling by boat, carriage, foot | Where are the people going? Why are they travelling? | Believe/ Live |
| 5 To the Ends of the Earth | "The Church family helps us follow Jesus." | Bishop leading people | Why is the bishop holding their hands? Where is he taking them? What is his job? | Believe |
| 6 Dialogue & Encounter | "Saints are friends of Jesus who teach us." | Saints Peter & Paul, Augustine of Canterbury + Lanc. Martyrs | Pupils learn that saints were brave and loved Jesus; outcome encourages naming a saint. | Hear |
| 6 Dialogue & Encounter | "God loves every person in every country." | River = English Channel, monks bringing faith to Britain | Why did Christians cross the sea to tell everyone about God's love? | Believe |



Year 1 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| RED Outcome | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U1.1.1 | Retell the Genesis 1 Creation story | Burst of light & six days animal panorama | Children see the pictorial retelling and can describe it in their own words. |
| U1.1.2 | All that exists comes from God our Father | Same creation panel | Teacher points to the whole scene and pupils say "God made everything". |
| U1.1.4 | God asks people to care for the world | Garden of Eden | What do you think Adam and Eve's job was in the garden? |
| D1.1.1 | Responses to Creation through art or music | Any Creation or Ark panel | What did the artist try to show us about creation in the first panel? |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U1.2.1 | Christmas story shows God's love in Jesus | Nativity panel – star, Mary, crib | Pupils name Jesus as God's gift of love. |
| U1.2.2 | The Bible as a special book. | The first 7 panels are all from the Bible. | Which parts do you think are in the Bible? |
| U1.2.3 | Sequence Annunciation → shepherds | Annunciation (lily) → Nativity panel | Two consecutive images help pupils order events. |
| U1.2.4 | Mary said 'Yes' to God's plan | Annunciation white lily scene | Children identify Mary's 'yes' gesture upward. |
| U1.2.6 | Angels are messengers. | Angel at Annunciation | Children point to angel figure and ask what is he telling Mary? |
| D1.2.1 | Why did shepherds see angels? | Nativity shepherds | Pupils wonder why chosen; teacher guides. |
| D1.2.3 | Explore art of the nativity | Panel 4 - Nativity scene | What did the artist include? Compare to other artwork. |
| R1.2.1 | Join in first words of Hail Mary | Annunciation panel | Class practises "Hail Mary..." next to Gabriel/Mary image. |
| Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem | | | |
| U1.3.1 | Identify some people who met Jesus | John baptising Jesus | Pupils name John and his words. |
| U1.3.3 | Connect Jesus' mission to sharing Good News today | Baptism/Jordan – Spirit descending | Teacher explains Jordan scene = start of mission; pupils link to sharing. |
| D1.3.1 | Imagine feelings of people who met Jesus | Baptism | "I wonder how John felt?" |
| R1.3.2 | Reflect on what Good News means for them | Nativity, cross, glowing tomb, or Miriam's song. | Children share how Jesus brings 'light' to their life. |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden | | | |
| Outcome Code | Abbreviated RED wording | Matching scene/theme in commentary | How it links for Year 1 pupils |
| U1.4.3 | Correctly sequence the events of Holy Week | Palm branches → Last Supper → Cross | Pupils point to each stage in order, practising sequencing. |
| U1.4.5 | Jesus suffered, died & rose again | Dark sky Cross → bright Resurrection garden | Visual contrast helps pupils grasp suffering → victory. |

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|--|--|---|--|
| D1.4.1 | 'I wonder' questions about the last week of Jesus' life | Entire Holy Week sequence | Teacher invites wonder: "I wonder how Mary and John felt under the Cross..." How did the people feel on Palm Sunday? How did the disciples feel at the last supper? |
| R1.4.3 | Reflect on what they know about Jesus incl. Holy Week & resurrection | Cross & Empty Tomb scenes | Pupils quietly draw or pray thanking Jesus for dying & rising. Visio Divina. |
| Branch 5 To the Ends of the Earth | | | |
| U1.5.1 | Retell Ascension or Pentecost story | Ascension hill (Jesus rising) & Pentecost flames above Apostles | Children point to Jesus disappearing and to the flames, then retell what happens. |
| U1.5.4 | Ascension & Pentecost are special holydays | Same scenes | Teachers name the feast days while pupils identify the pictures. |
| D1.5.1 | Imagine how Apostles felt after Resurrection | Upper room prayer & flames | "I wonder how..." reflections while viewing frightened → joyful Apostles. |
| D1.5.2 | Talk about Holy Spirit images (wind/fire) | Flames in Pentecost panel, doves in other panels. | Concrete visual language for the Spirit: fire, wind, dove. |
| R1.5.3 | How Christians share the Good News today | Birds flying out & Apostles travelling by boat/carriage | Pupils suggest ways to share Jesus' love like the Apostles. |
| Branch 6 Dialogue & Encounter | | | |
| U1.6.1 | Christian = follower of Jesus | Pilgrim path with bishop & people | Bishop leads the people walking after Jesus—simple definition of "Christian". |
| U1.6.2 | Catholics are part of a global family | Mission panels: Apostles to nations; monks crossing Channel | Shows Church spreading from Rome to Britain—global brothers & sisters. |
| U1.6.4 | Cross is Christian symbol; sign of the cross is prayer | Brilliant white cross on Golgotha | Pupils make the sign of the cross while pointing to the picture. |
| D1.6.1 | Ask local Christians about their faith | Lancaster Cathedral & bishop scene | Prompts class Q&A or visit to parish church. |



Year 2 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1: Creation & Covenant | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Outcome | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U2.1.1 | Retell Noah story & rainbow covenant | Noah's Ark on stormy sea; dove & olive branch | Children point to Ark & rainbow colours, then retell promise. |
| U2.1.3 | 'Stewardship' – caring for God's world | Same Ark panel | Discuss caring for animals/earth as Noah did. |
| U2.1.5 | The Bible is split into two parts, Old and New Testaments | Panels 1 to 7 | Where is the split? What stories are in the Old and New? |
| D2.1.1 | Responses to Creation through art/music | Panel 1 | Why did the artist paint it that way? Include this feature? |
| R2.1.1 | Choose one way to care for the world | Garden of Eden | What jobs can we do that Adam and Eve did? |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U2.2.1 | Retell Annunciation/ Birth of Jesus | White lily Annunciation; Nativity star & crib | Two clear pictures help pupils narrate both events. |
| U2.2.2 | Know about the job of prophets | Samuel crowning David. John baptising. | What messages did Samuel & John bring? |
| U2.2.5 | Mary is Mother of God who prays for us | Annunciation & Cross (Mary under Cross) | Think about the words of Jesus to John and Mary at the crucifixion "Behold your mother..." |
| D2.2.1 | Talk about Isaiah's light/dark picture language | All panels | Look for dark and light moments, what is happening in each? |
| R2.2.2 | Artistic response to light & dark in Isaiah | All panels | Use art as inspiration to draw/make/ paint their own light and dark scene about the world today or their own lives. |
| Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem | | | |
| U2.3.1 | Retell John baptising Jesus | Jordan river, dove, tree | Pupils act out John & Jesus in water. |
| U2.3.3 | Everyone is tempted; God forgives | Creation scene, cross hinted at. | Discuss turning back to God after bad choices. |
| D2.3.1 | Wonder about baptism art | Baptism panel | Children notice details, like dove, Jesus. Compare with other pictures. |
| R2.3.1 | Reflect on feeling sorry & forgiven | Baptism water or the conversion of St Paul with his sword. | Pupils write/draw a small apology prayer. Imagine what St Paul felt about persecuting Christians, after he met Jesus. |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden | | | |
| U2.4.1 | Jesus forgives from the Cross | Dark sky Cross, words of Centurion | Teacher highlights "Father, forgive them". |
| U2.4.4 | Symbols of light & water at Easter Vigil | Exodus crossing Red Sea: Brilliant white cross + sun like empty tomb. | Discuss candle/light and baptism water at Easter. |
| D2.4.1 | Recall Holy Week through art | Palm, Supper, Cross | Pupils retell using pictures as prompts. |
| R2.4.1 | Think what forgiveness means to them | Cross & Tomb | Quiet reflection/drawing. |

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|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| R2.4.1 | Bad choices harm us and others | Garden of Eden | Who did it effect when Adam & Eve ate the fruit? |
| Branch 5 To the Ends of the Earth | | | |
| U2.5.1 | Sequence Resurrection → Pentecost | Cross → Empty tomb → Ascension → Flames | Pupils order four images. |
| U2.5.3 | Retell Conversion of Saul | St Paul kneeling, sword laid down | Children dramatise light & voice “Saul, Saul...”. |
| U2.5.6 | Name fruits of the Spirit & link to saints | Twelve birds = 12 Fruits of the Spirit. | Birds = joy/peace; Paul & Peter as examples. |
| D2.5.1 | Wonder about Apostles’ feelings Ascension | Apostles gazing up hillside | “I wonder what they felt?” discussion. |
| R2.5.3 | How fruits of Spirit can change their lives | Birds flying from church | Pupils choose one fruit to practise this week. |



Year 3 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Outcome | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U3.1.1 | Retell poetic first Creation story | "Let there be light" burst; ordered animals | Children use picture to link to days of Creation. |
| U3.1.4 | Describe stewardship today | Garden of Eden | Class discuss looking after animals/ earth as modern stewardship. |
| R3.1.2 | Wonder at blessings of Creation | Full animal panorama & Eden garden | Quiet time to notice favourite creature & thank God. |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U3.2.2 | Give simple description of how Catholics celebrate Mass | Last Supper panel – Jesus raising bread | Host above Jesus' head mirrors priest at Mass; pupils label parts (table/altar, bread, cup). |
| D3.2.1 | Ask questions about their experience of liturgy | Palm Sunday crowd singing "Hosanna" | Pupils compare singing at Mass with mural procession. |
| Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem | | | |
| U3.3.1 | Retell visit of the Magi & meaning of gifts | Nativity night scene: star, camels. | Children point to camels. Why are they there? |
| D3.3.1 | Wonder about feelings of characters | Mary and Joseph, Shepherds | "How did they feel?" |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden | | | |
| U3.4.1 | Retell feeding of 5000 | Manna falling from desert cloud | Teacher links OT manna & Jesus multiplying loaves; pupils retell. |
| U3.4.2 | Link miracle of loaves to Last Supper words | Manna + Last Supper host | Show both panels side by side: same blessing & sharing gesture. |
| U3.4.3 | Describe Jesus' love at Last Supper/ First Eucharist | Last Supper panel | Pupils note Jesus serving friends → communion love. |
| D3.4.1 | Wonder about offertory prayer & Creation | Garden of Eden. | Discuss bread/wine as "fruit of earth & work of hands". What work did Adam and Eve do? |
| Branch 6 Dialogue & Encounter | | | |
| U3.6.1 | Link Exodus Passover with Last Supper | Exodus | What did they eat at the special meal at passover? How is it linked to Jesus? |
| D3.6.1 | Wonder why Jesus chose Passover for Last Supper | Same Red Sea + Supper images | Pupils discuss rescue themes; teacher prompts "lamb/sacrifice". |
| R3.6.1 | Reflect on meaning of learning for their lives | All winding paths. | What did the people on these paths learn by the end of their journeys? |



Year 4 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Outcome | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U4.1.2 | Retell the story of Abraham | Abraham & Isaac climbing green mountain | Use picture to narrate call, journey, promise. |
| U4.1.3 | Explain Abraham & Isaac episode | Same mountain scene with ram in thicket | Discuss test of faith; link to trusting God today. |
| U4.1.4 | Abraham is foundation of Judaism & Christianity | Abraham and Isaac | What links are there between this story and Jesus death on the cross? |
| U4.1.5 | Identify faith hope love in Abraham | Path winding from flood up to Abraham | Path shows perseverance → talk virtues. |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U4.2.1 | Describe what a prophet is | Crowning of David by Samuel. Baptism scene. | What are the prophets doing for God? |
| U4.2.3 | Compare John Baptist in Mk & Mt | Baptism scene: John, Jesus, dove, Jordan tree | Spot camel hair coat & river setting. |
| U4.2.4 | Link Isaiah's "Prepare the way" & Advent | Same baptism scene with desert backdrop | How did John prepare the way for Jesus What did he say? What did he do? |
| Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem | | | |
| U4.3.3 | Kingdom includes the excluded | Jesus on donkey welcomed by diverse crowd. | Who was in the crowd; discuss inclusion. Who gathered around Jesus in the temple afterwards? |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden | | | |
| U4.4.3 | Sequence Holy Week events | Palm Sunday → Last Supper → Cross | Pupils place numbered cards under scenes. |
| Branch 5 To The Ends of the Earth | | | |
| U4.5.2 | Peter "rock" & Pope successor | Peter on road with keys; St Peter's Basilica | Keys on belt = papal authority; talk modern Pope. |
| U4.5.3 | Explain "apostle/apostolic" | Paths of Peter & Paul leading outward. Also Bishop of Lancaster and St Augustine of Canterbury. | Two roads show being 'sent' to share Gospel. |
| U4.5.6 | How Church keeps Jesus' work alive | Bishop leading people toward Lancaster Cathedral | Discuss local charities/sacraments flowing out. |
| U4.5.7 | Mary's special place in communion of saints | Mary crushing serpent & at Cross | Art shows her unique role; pupils pray Hail Mary. |
| D.4.5.1 | Peter's feelings when he entered the tomb | Empty tomb | How did Peter feel when he saw the body was not there? |
| R.4.5.1 | Think about examples of apostleship today | Vatican and Lancaster Cathedral | How are the Pope and our Bishop apostles in the world today? |
| Branch 6 Dialogue & Encounter | | | |
| U4.6.1 | Key facts about St Paul | Saul knocked down: sword laid aside on road | Retell Damascus story & Paul's missions. |

Year 5 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Outcome | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U5.1.1 | Retell key Moses events: Exodus & Ten Commandments | Red Sea crossing, Sinai peak with stone tablets | Pupils spot the tablets atop Mt Sinai and recall God giving Moses the Law. Can they remember any of the plagues? Why did Miriam sing? |
| U5.1.3 | Explain what a covenant is (God people bond) | Same Sinai Law scene | Tablets = visible sign of God's covenant; children link picture to definition. |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U5.2.1 | Show understanding of David's life & kingship | Samuel anointing David/ David crowned; temple builders | The hillside coronation panel lets pupils describe shepherd king origins & role. |
| U5.2.2 | Jesus fulfils promise to David (Nativity lineage) | Nativity panel – star over Bethlehem | Star & crib in 'house of bread' city remind children that Jesus is David's heir. |
| U5.2.3 | Describe nature of David's kingship | David crowned. Failure of Kingdom, exile after his death. | Why did God choose a shepherd to be King? |
| U5.2.5 | Rosary Joyful Mysteries recall Christ's birth events | Annunciation lily, Nativity, Presentation (Temple stairs) | Pupils locate three joyful mystery scenes and link to praying the Rosary. |
| Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem (New Law) | | | |
| U5.3.1 | Beatitudes show what a blessed life looks like | Sermon on the Mount hillside: Jesus teaching crowds | Pupils read "Happy are..." while pointing to Jesus on the hill; list one Beatitude they like |
| U5.3.2 | New Law in Matthew and Look | Sermon on the Mount hillside: Jesus teaching crowds | What was new about the New Commandment? |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden (Lent & Passion) | | | |
| U5.4.7 | Rosary Sorrowful Mysteries – passion & death | Last Supper table; dark sky Cross; Garden tomb | Children match mural sequence to the five sorrowful events when praying. |
| Branch 5 To The Ends of the Earth | | | |
| U5.5.1 | OT & NT passages show Spirit outpouring → Confirmation | Pentecost flames over Apostles | Flames help pupils connect Bible Spirit stories with modern Confirmation. |
| U5.5.3 | Gifts/Fruits of Spirit help discipleship | 12 doves = 12 fruits | Discuss how courage, wisdom etc. empowered apostles in picture. How did the fruit of the Spirit help people to believe them? |
| U5.5.5 | Names & signs of Holy Spirit | Creation dove, Baptism dove, Pentecost fire | Pupils identify dove & fire symbols across panels. |
| U5.5.6 | Rosary Glorious Mysteries (Resurrection Pentecost) | Empty tomb, Ascension cloud, Pentecost flames | Locate three glorious scenes to anchor the decade prayers. |
| U5.5.6 | The structure of the Bible | Panels 1 to 7 | Which stories are in which parts of the Bible? Which end are all the New Testament stories? Which end are all the Old? |

Year 6 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Outcome | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U6.1.3 | Explain original sin & the Fall | Eden panel – Adam & Eve, tree, serpent | Spot the serpent by the tree → talk about first bad choice |
| U6.1.4 | Christian beliefs about Baptism | The Flood/The Exodus/ Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan | See water & dove — link to our baptism today |
| U6.1.6 | New covenant restored in Jesus | Bright white Cross + empty Tomb garden | From Eden's break to Cross and garden healing |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U6.2.1 | Women in the Old Testament | Miriam singing after the Exodus | Compare Miriam's song and Mary's Magnificat. Why are they so similar? |
| U6.2.3 | Mary fulfils OT promises | Annunciation lily & Nativity star | Gabriel's message → promise kept |
| U6.2.4 | Mary as Mother of God | Nativity with Mary & infant Jesus | Point to Mum & baby King |
| Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem | | | |
| U6.3.4 | Name 7 sacraments & purpose | Baptism river + Last Supper Eucharist + Peter's Keys | Three sacraments in view → start list of seven |
| U6.3.5 | Role of bishop/priests in sacraments | Bishop of Lancaster leading flock | Point to mitre & crozier – shepherds of sacraments |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden | | | |
| U6.4.4 | Jesus' love shown on Th & Fri | Last Supper Glowing Cross | Talk about washing disciples feet (not shown) and giving himself on cross. Did he choose to die? |
| U6.4.6 | Crucifixion & Stations link | Mountain top Cross panel | Use the single scene from Jerusalem up to Golgotha to imagine all 14 stations |
| Branch 5 The Ends of the Earth | | | |
| U6.5.3 | Christian belief in Resurrection | Rolled stone Empty Tomb, sunrise | "He is risen!" in picture |
| U6.5.4 | Jesus as new Adam | Resurrection garden echoing Eden | Compare first garden vs. new garden |
| U6.5.5 | Ways Christians witness today | Roads of St Peter & Paul; Lancaster Martyrs panel | Martyrs & missionaries show living witness |



Year 7 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U7.1.2 | God as Creator & origin of all being | Burst of light, six day Creation panorama | Pupils point to the opening scene to explain God as source of everything. |
| U7.1.4 | Genesis Creation accounts as symbolic stories revealing truths | Same Creation panel plus stewardship thread/Noah | Children discuss how the picture isn't a photo but teaches truths about God & humans. Did the flood really happen? What clues are there in the story? |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U7.2.2 | Show understanding of the structure of the Bible. | Whole artwork | Where do the different stories shown go in the Bible? Where are the oldest stories? Where are the newest? What dates do they cover? Which parts aren't in the Bible? |
| Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem | | | |
| U7.3.1 | Incarnation – Word became flesh | Nativity star, crib, Mary & Joseph | The birth scene lets pupils explain God becoming truly human. |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden | | | |
| U7.4.4 | Passover foreshadows Last Supper | Upper Room bread held aloft | What did the Israelites eat at Passover and why? Spot connections to last supper? |
| U7.4.6 | Names/signs of the Eucharist | Same Last Supper host & chalice | Host looks like 'bread broken' & 'Holy Communion' – pupils name them from picture. |
| Branch 5 To The Ends of the Earth | | | |
| U7.5.2 | Spirit 'at work from the beginning' & throughout scripture | Dove over creation waters, Noah's dove, Spirit dove at Baptism | Pupils track the dove symbol across scenes to see Spirit's continuity. |
| U7.5.4 | Pentecost – mission of Church begins | Upper Room flames & Apostles setting out | Flames above heads illustrate Acts 2; boats & birds show mission spreading. |
| U7.5.6 | Describe Confirmation | Upper Room flames & Apostles setting out | What is confirmation for? What's the link to Pentecost and Mission? |



Year 8 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U8.1.1 | Original sin vs personal sin (Gen 3) | Garden of Eden – Adam & Eve, snake, fruit | Point to the serpent & fruit: “This shows the first sin that wounded human nature.” |
| U8.1.2 | Human beings/ Imago Dei, freedom and responsibility | Garden of Eden – Adam & Eve, snake, fruit | Humans at the centre. Their actions affect the whole world. Why did Adam and Eve’s actions affect everything, not just themselves? What does this tell us about the special place of humans? |
| U8.1.3 | Covenant & Decalogue link | Sinai – two stone tablets of Ten Commandments | Pupils name the tablets as God’s covenant rules for freedom. Talk about how Judaism sees Sinai as a marriage. Link between marriage and covenant/ contrast contracts. |
| U8.1.5 | Rite & meaning of Baptism | Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan | The dove, water & John visualise baptism washing away sin/beginning new life. |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U8.2.3 | John Baptist mirrors prophetic pattern | John baptising Jesus (Jordan panel) | John announces, baptises, points to Jesus the fulfilment. |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden | | | |
| U8.4.1 | Passion suffering linked to Isaiah’s Servant | Dark sky & brilliant cross on Golgotha | Visualises Jesus’ suffering; teacher links to Servant prophecy. |
| Branch 5 To the Ends of the Earth | | | |
| U8.5.1 | Describe a Resurrection account | Empty tomb & rolled away stone, sunrise garden | Pupils retell the women or other disciples finding the empty tomb. |
| U8.5.3 | Importance of the empty tomb | Same garden panel | Stone rolled away shows physical resurrection evidence. |
| U8.5.4 | Resurrection → hope of eternal life | Bright sunrise like tomb & angels | Image sparks discussion on life after death & four last things. |



Year 9 - RE Directory Links

| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Branch 1 Creation & Covenant | Description | Artwork Scene/Detail | Possible Links |
| U9.1.1 | Describe Genesis 1–2 creation of humans | Opening “Let there be light” + Adam & Eve centre panel | Students analyse how Gen 1 shows humans created “male & female”, places in a garden, in the centre of the picture. |
| U9.1.4 | Explain human dignity rooted in imago Dei | Humans crowned by creation; serpent temptation | Image prompts discussion on equal dignity & moral responsibility. |
| U9.1.5 | Church teaching on marriage as sacrament | Adam & Eve under tree foreshadowing Cross | Scene lets pupils link primordial marriage to Christ & Church. |
| Branch 2 Prophecy & Promise | | | |
| U9.2.2 | Summarise Church teaching on Mary (4 dogmas) | Annunciation lily panel; Mary stepping on serpent | Visual anchors Immaculate Conception, Mother of God, Ever Virgin (blue robe), Assumption foreshadowed. |
| U9.2.3 | Describe Holy Woman of the OT | Miriam after Exodus | Themes of exultation and praise, reversal and salvation. |
| U9.2.4 | Describe Magnificat themes & link to OT women | Mary & Elizabeth embrace implied in Visitation flow | Teachers use Mary’s exaltation of lowly, seen in composition. |
| Branch 4 Desert to Garden | | | |
| U9.4.3 | New & Everlasting Covenant in Christ’s blood | Bright white Cross on dark sky. Abraham and Isaac | Image allows discussion of covenant blood & Agnus Dei. |
| U9.4.5 | Christ’s sacrifice overcomes division | Conversion of St Paul, with his sword. | Discussion of Paul’s change of heart. How did he feel about Christians and Gentiles before and after? Link to Galatians 3:28-29 |
| Branch 5 To the Ends of the Earth | | | |
| U9.5.2 | Church is communion of saints (3 states) | Saints Peter & Paul + Lancaster saints + pilgrims & cathedral | Earthly Church, saints in heaven, martyrs as purified witness. |
| U9.5.6 | Saints & angels in liturgy/devotion | Bird doves over apostles; patron saints flanking path | Scene prompts talk of heavenly liturgy & local devotions. |
| Branch 6 Dialogue & Encounter | | | |
| U9.6.2 | Elements of the common good | Bishop leading people toward cathedral path/river of life | Visual shows community, social wellbeing, peace pilgrimage. |



Exploring Key Motifs

An alternative way to use the artwork is explore key motifs. This helps pupils build up an awareness of the links between different parts of salvation history, as well as links to the life of the Church.

Use these questions to guide pupils in looking carefully and thinking theologically about seven recurring motifs in the Salvation History mural:

- Light & Dark
- Water
- Doves/The Holy Spirit
- Paths/Roads/Journeys
- Mountains/Hills
- Trees
- Buildings

Invite pupils to find all the examples of a motif—circling, tally marking or annotating a printout—before discussing the questions.

Examples questions for each motif are provided in the following pages for each Key Stage.

EYFS Motif Questions

| Motif | Possible Questions |
|-----------------|--|
| Mountains/Hills | • “Let’s count every hill or mountain we can see.” • “What is happening on each one?” |
| Paths/Roads | • “How many paths can we trace with our fingers?” • “Who is walking on each path?” |
| Light & Dark | • “Point to bright places; now point to dark places.” • “What is happening where light dark are next to each other?” |
| Water | • “Show me every spot with water—big or small.” • “What is happening in the water?” |
| Doves | • “Flap like every dove you can find. How many are there?” • “Where are they flying to?” |
| Trees | • “Touch the picture of each tree.” “Where is the tree growing?” |
| Buildings | • “Point to Noah’s ark. Can you find any buildings that look like it?” • “What do you think happens inside each building?” |

KS1 Motif Questions

| Motif | Possible Questions |
|-----------------|--|
| Mountains/Hills | • “Find every hill or mountain.” “What is happening on each of them?” “Are they happy places, sad places or both?” |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Paths/Roads | • “Follow each wiggly path with your finger. Where does it start and end? Why do people travel on paths?” |
| Light & Dark | • “Find all places where bright light meets deep shadow. What change is happening there?” |
| Water | • “Find each place where there is water. Which show danger? Which show safety?” |
| Doves | • “Count all the doves. What good news might each dove be bringing?” |
| Trees | • “How many trees can you see? Match each tree to a Bible story you know.” |
| Buildings | • “Find every building that looks like Noah’s Ark. How is each one a kind of ‘home’ or ‘safe place’?” |

KS2 Motif Questions

| Motif | Possible Questions |
|-------------------------|---|
| Mountains/Hills | “Find every hill or mountain.” “What is happening on each of them?” “Are they happy places, sad places or both?” “Can you find any links between them?” |
| Paths/Roads | “Find every place where there is a winding path. Where does it start and end? What journey is happening on each one?” |
| Light & Dark | “Find all the places where light and dark meet. What is happening under each? Why do you think it might be related to light and darkness?” |
| Water | “Look at all the places where there is water. What is happening?” “Do they have anything in common?” “Are they good or bad things?” |
| Doves | “Create a timeline of dove appearances. What covenant or promise links to each?” |
| Trees | “Where are there trees in the picture? Is there a link between them? Do you think that Jesus’ cross should count as a tree?” |
| Buildings | “Find every building that looks like Noah’s Ark. How is each one linked to “being safe” or God’s presence?” |

KS3 Motif Questions

| Motif | Possible Questions |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mountains/Hills | • “List all the mountain or hilltop scenes and what is happening. Can you find any link between any of them?” |
| Paths/Roads | • “Find all the paths in the mural. What journey are people on in each? How does their journey bring them closer to God.” |
| Light & Dark | • “What do you think is the most important place where light and dark meet in the picture?” |
| Water | • “Name three different water scenes. For each, what danger and what rescue is shown?” • “How does water act like a border between old life and new life?” |
| Doves | • “Count every dove. Next to each, write a sentence word that sums up its message (e.g., peace, hope).” • “Which dove scene best shows a new beginning?” |
| Trees | • “Match each tree to an event: Eden, Cross, Tree of Life. What changes about the tree’s shape or colour?” • “Why do you think the artist keeps bringing trees back?” |
| Buildings | • “List every building that looks like Noah’s Ark. How is each one linked to salvation and God’s presence?” “Can you identify the biblical story that goes with each one?” “How is the Church today linked to Noah’s Ark and the other buildings?” |

Visio Divina

Visio Divina is a form of prayer that uses sacred art as a focus and stimulus for prayerful meditation, which should work well when used with panels from the Salvation History artwork. Visio Divina is very accessible for pupils of all age groups and faith backgrounds. It helps children and young people to slow down, notice, wonder, and listen for God's voice through what they see. Like Lectio Divina (praying with Scripture), Visio Divina uses stages of looking, pondering, sharing, and responding in prayer. Below is a basic guide of how to do Visio Divina followed by some examples for each panel.

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Choose a quiet moment and space where children can gather comfortably and see the image clearly (on screen, print, or projected). If you can, light a candle to show that it is a special time and to symbolise the Holy Spirit enlightening their minds. Remove distractions as much as possible and let the children know that it is a time of silence. You could ring a small bell to show when the silence should begin.

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and a simple prayer that suits your group—such as an Our Father or Hail Mary, or an invitation like: “Lord, help us to see you and hear your voice as we look at this image together.”

Step 3. Present the Image

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

Step 4. Guide the Stages of Visio Divina

First Viewing: See the Whole Picture

Invite pupils to simply look, noticing colours, shapes, who or what is present, and what catches their attention. For example, “Let’s look quietly for a minute. Without speaking or putting your hand up, think to yourself what do I notice first?”

Second Viewing: Enter the Scene

Encourage children to imagine themselves inside the image, exploring what it might feel, sound, or smell like, and who or what they might meet. If you have time to prepare a narrative to help bring it to life, that will work especially well for younger children. Alternatively you can ask simple questions like, “What can you see? How do you feel?”

Third Viewing: Listen for God’s Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g “Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?”

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish,

Step 5. Conclude the Session

End with a brief prayer and the Sign of the Cross.

Helpful Tips

- Let the children’s discoveries lead the conversation; avoid giving all the answers.
- There are no right or wrong responses. Wondering, noticing, and asking questions is encouraged.
- Be comfortable with silence and give time for real observation.
- Adapt the questions and description to suit the age, abilities, and needs of your group.

Visio Divina Panel 1: Creation & Fall

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say:

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Loving God, open our eyes and hearts as we look at this picture.

The Bible tells us that when you made the world, you saw all that you had made, and it was very good.

Help us to see your light and your love in all that you have made. Amen.”



Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

“Take a deep breath and close your eyes for a moment. When you open them, imagine you have stepped right into this world. Where would you like to go first? Would you walk towards the big green dinosaur, the gentle elephant, or the stripy tiger? Maybe you want to stand quietly among the giraffes, or wander towards the edge of the sparkling sea to see the colourful fish swimming just below the surface.

In this place, all the animals are friendly. You can go right up to any one of them—they won’t run away, and they aren’t afraid of you. Or perhaps you’d like to walk into the garden, where the flowers grow tall and bright, and Adam and Eve are by the tree.

What can you hear here? Listen for the gentle flutter of wings, or the soft cooing and singing of birds flying up into the sunlight. Maybe you hear the splashing and whooshing of the waves, or the patter of rain. Is there laughter, talking, or singing in the garden? What do you imagine Adam and Eve’s voices sound like?

What can you feel? Is the sun shining warm on your face? Do you feel the cool sea breeze, or the soft grass under your feet? Does the bright light make you feel happy or safe? Or maybe you notice how the rain and sunlight mix together at the edge of the picture.

Would you sit and watch the fish, or talk to Adam or Eve? What do you think they would tell you about this world, and about God?

Take a moment to explore with your eyes and heart. What do you notice most? Is there anything hidden or surprising in the picture? Is there a part you want to go back to, or stay in for a while?”

Third Viewing: Listen for God’s Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g “Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?”

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray. You can use the following prayer if you wish:

“Holy Spirit, thank you for being with us as we looked at this picture. Thank you for helping us see God’s love in creation and in each other. We are grateful for the chance to wonder about your mysteries.

Keep our eyes and hearts open to you, today and always. Amen.

Make the Sign of the Cross to end the prayer time and say,

“In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Visio Divina Panel 2: The Birth of Israel

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say:

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Loving God, You led your people through the waters and up the mountain. As we look at this picture, help us to see your love guiding us today. Open our hearts to hear your voice and follow your ways. Amen."

Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

"Take a deep breath and close your eyes for a moment. When you open them, imagine you are stepping right into this world. Where would you go first? Would you like to walk alongside Abraham and his son Isaac on the winding path towards the small green mountain? Is Isaac's bundle of sticks heavy? How old do you think he is?

Perhaps you would stand between the pyramids, look up and see how big they are. How many people made them? How long did it take? How did they feel working in the desert and the hot sun every day?

Or would you rather stand with the crowd by the swirling, blue waters? What do you notice all around you? Is there a sound of rushing water as the waves curl and part, the roaring of the wind holding back the water? Can you hear people singing or talking as they walk along the sandy road? Are they happy or sad? Are there footsteps echoing up the mountainside?

You could stand by Miriam, the woman who is singing. What type of song is it? Does her voice sound like? Or, maybe you want to walk near the top of the mountain and look at the special tablets with writing on them, or listen as someone calls out, 'Hear, O Israel!'

If you could ask anyone in the picture a question, what would you want to know? Is there a story they would tell you? Take a moment to explore with your eyes and heart. What part of this journey feels exciting or mysterious? Is there a place you want to return to, or something hidden you want to look for?"

Third Viewing: Listen for God's Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g "Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?"

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray. You can use the following prayer if you wish:

"Thank you, Lord, for showing us your faithfulness and care. Help us to remember that you walk with us on every path. May we listen for your voice and share your love with others. Amen."



Visio Divina Panel 3: The Kingdom of Israel

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say:

“Loving God, Thank you for the chance to look at this beautiful picture together.

Help us to open our eyes and our hearts, so that we can see your love and your promises in what we find.

Send us your Holy Spirit, to guide our thoughts as we explore. Amen.

Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

“Take a deep breath and imagine you are stepping into this picture. Look around—where do you want to go first? Would you like to stand by the river as it splashes and winds down the hill, or would you like to follow the bees as they buzz from flower to flower? Maybe you’d like to dip your fingers into the water or explore the meadow filled with wildflowers. What would it be like to come here after living in the desert for a long time?

Do you notice the honey pots and the golden beehive? Perhaps you’d like to taste the honey or watch the bees at work. Look up the hill—do you want to join the people building the temple? You can climb up and see how everyone is working together, each person with a special job. Or perhaps you’re curious about the person in golden robes, Samuel, speaking to King David sitting on his throne. What do you think they are talking about?

What sounds can you hear here? Maybe the gentle splash of water, the hum and buzz of the bees, the voices of builders or the sound of their saws and hammers. How does it feel to be in this place? Does the sunlight make you feel warm and welcome? Do you feel excitement in the busy building and or peace by the river and flowers? Is there a part of the picture you want to stay in a little longer? Is there something hidden or surprising you notice? If you could talk to anyone here, who would it be? What questions would you ask? What do you think they might tell you about this world, or about God’s promises?”

Third Viewing: Listen for God’s Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g “Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?”

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray. You can use the following prayer if you wish:

“Heavenly Father, Thank you for showing us your goodness in this picture.

Help us to remember your promises and to trust them in the way we live, especially in how we treat those we meet today.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.”



Visio Divina Panel 4: From Exile to Annunciation

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say: *"In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen Loving God, Thank you for this time to look, to wonder, and to listen. Open our eyes to your love and your presence in every part of this story. Send your Holy Spirit to help us see what you want to show us, And speak to our hearts as we pray and imagine together. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen."*

Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

"Take a deep breath and let your eyes rest on the whole picture. When you're ready, imagine you are stepping into this world—a world full of stories, journeys, and surprises. Where would you like to go first? Would you follow the winding path up the hill, where people are walking together, some with bundles and some with animals? Maybe you are curious about the city with tall, bright buildings and red roofs at the top of the hill. What would you see and hear there? There are three white doves flying over the city, what do they make you think of?

Or perhaps you notice the broken building, the ruins where stones have fallen and the sky is dark. How do you feel standing there? What do you think happened? Can you find anyone who is sad,?

Now look at the angel, glowing with gentle golden light, holding a white lily. If you were standing close, what would you hear the angel say? Who is the angel speaking to? Look for Mary in her blue robe, notice her hands. What do you think Mary feels at this moment? Would you want to ask her a question, or simply watch and listen with her? Look up at the sky: above the green hill is a bright star shining in the night. Beneath the star, there's a little stable with Mary and Joseph kneeling beside a tiny baby in a manger. Shepherds and their sheep have gathered to see him, camels are making their way up the hill to join them. What sounds might you hear in the night—soft singing, animals rustling, the gentle voice of Mary, or the peaceful hush as people come close to the baby?

What would you want to do if you could be anywhere in this picture—would you sit quietly, talk to someone, or just look around and wonder? As you take in every detail, is there a place or a part of the picture you feel drawn to? Is there something hidden, surprising, or hopeful that you notice?"

Third Viewing: Listen for God's Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g "Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?"

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray. You can use the following prayer if you wish: *"Heavenly Father, Thank you for all we have seen and shared as we explored this image. Help us to remember the hope and light you bring, And to trust that you are with us all the time. May we carry your love and peace into our day, and always be open to hearing your voice. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen."*



Visio Divina Panel 5: The Life of Jesus

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say:

“Loving God, As we look at this picture, open our eyes and our hearts to see your love at work. Help us to listen for your voice, just as the people in the picture listen to Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and help us notice the good things you want to show us. ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’ (1 Samuel 3:10) Amen.”



Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

“Take a deep breath, close your eyes, and imagine you are stepping into this scene. Where do you want to go first? You could go and sit under the tree by the river Jordan where John is baptising Jesus. What might they be saying or feeling? Does the water feel cool and fresh on your feet if you step in?

Perhaps you see Jesus standing on the hill, arms open wide, surrounded by people listening to his words. You might walk up the green hillside, finding a space among the crowd, hearing Jesus’ voice as he shares something new and full of love: “I give you a new commandment.” All around, people are greeting one another, smiling, and shaking hands. You can join them if you like—what does it feel like to welcome someone, or to be welcomed by them? Are they happy, excited, questioning, or something else?

As you stand in the middle of the scene, what do you notice most? Is there something surprising or joyful that catches your eye? What do you think Jesus wants to say to you, or to the people gathered around him today?

Take a moment to wander in your imagination. Where do you feel most drawn to stay? What part of the picture would you like to explore more deeply?”

Third Viewing: Listen for God’s Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g “Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?”

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray.

You can use the following prayer if you wish:

“Lord Jesus, Thank you for being with us as we looked and listened today.

Help us to remember your words—‘Love one another as I have loved you’—and to share that love with everyone we meet.

*May the Holy Spirit stay with us, opening our eyes to your presence every day.
Amen.”*

Visio Divina Panel 6: Holy Week & Easter

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say: *“In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen Holy Spirit, open our eyes and hearts as we pause to look, listen, and wonder.*

Help us to see with new eyes, to listen with quiet hearts, and to notice your presence as we reflect together. Amen.”

Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

“Take a deep breath and close your eyes for a moment. Now open your eyes and imagine you have just stepped into this picture. All around you, there is a sense of something important happening. Where would you go first? Would you follow the crowd waving green palm branches and shouting “Hosanna!” as Jesus rides past on a donkey? Can you hear their voices and see their smiles as they welcome him like a king?

Maybe you want to slip quietly into the tall building and peek inside the upper room, where Jesus and his friends are gathered for a special meal. What do you think they are talking about? Can you imagine the sounds of voices, laughter, are they loud or quiet? Are they happy or sad? Is it light or dark in there?

Look up to the hill in the distance. The sky is dark above, and at the very top stands a white cross. Two figures are there—Mary, the mother of Jesus in blue, and John, the Apostle. How were they feeling? What does the darkness make you think of? Who else might have been there watching when Jesus died?

Near the bottom corner, the darkness brightens. Bright flowers are blooming, and warm sunlight is beginning to shine through. Do you notice the big stone beside the flowers? It is the tomb of Jesus in a garden. What would it feel to walk there in the morning, while it is not quite light. How would it feel to look inside and see that Jesus’ body wasn’t there any more?

If you could walk through this scene, where would you want to pause? Would you join the crowd, sit among the flowers, or stand quietly near the cross? What do you see, hear, and feel? What do you want to ask Jesus if you could speak to him right now?

Is there anything hidden or surprising? Is there a part you want to stay in, or go back to again?

Third Viewing: Listen for God’s Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g “Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?”

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray. You can use the following prayer if you wish: *“Thank you, Lord, for this time of seeing and listening. May your Spirit help us remember the light and hope you show us when we pay attention. Stay with us as we go, and keep our hearts open to your beauty. Amen.”*



Visio Divina Panel 7: Ascension, Pentecost & Mission

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say: *"In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
"Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds. Help us to see with new eyes and to listen with open hearts. May we discover your presence and your calling as we look, wonder, and pray together. Amen."*

Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

Take a slow, deep breath and let your eyes rest on the whole picture. Imagine you are standing in a part of this busy, colourful scene. Where would you like to go first? Would you stand with the friends of Jesus as they look up into the sky, watching him rise into the bright clouds? Can you feel the sun warming your face, or perhaps the cool breeze blowing as the clouds begin to gather? What do the faces of the disciples look like as Jesus disappears?

In the upper room, with all the disciples, listen for the whoosh of the wind as the Holy Spirit comes down—the room filled with surprise and wonder.

Outside, can you hear the flapping of wings as the twelve birds take flight, or the rumble of wheels and the clip-clop of horses as the disciples set off on their journeys? Perhaps you hear the splash of oars in the water, or the quiet creak of a wooden boat. Can you imagine the smell of any of the places? Rain in the air? A beach? Wildflowers in valleys as you travel? The smell of woodsmoke as you come to a new village or city? Is there anyone you would want to talk to or listen to? What question would you ask the disciples, if you could walk alongside them? Take another quiet moment to look again. Is there anything surprising or hidden in the picture—something small that you didn't notice at first? Is there a place you'd like to stay a bit longer, to pray or to listen?

Third Viewing: Listen for God's Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g. "Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?"

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray.

You can use the following prayer if you wish:

"Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of seeing and listening with our hearts today.

As we go from here, fill us with your courage, peace, and joy,

So that we may share your love with others.

Help us remember that you are always with us on every path we walk. Amen."



Visio Divina Panel 8: Rome & Church Mission

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say: *“In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen Holy Spirit, open our eyes and hearts as we pause to look, listen, and wonder.*

Help us to see with new eyes, to listen with quiet hearts, and to notice your presence as we reflect together. Amen.”

Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

“Take a deep breath, close your eyes for a moment, and imagine you have stepped straight into this scene. Where will you begin your journey? Two winding paths curl up the green hills. On one ridge St Peter, with a small set of keys at his belt walks bravely toward a great wooden cross. What does his face look like? Can you feel the steady breeze on that high road, and hear his sandals on the dusty path? How is he feeling?

Just below him St Paul kneels, laying down a shining sword. He has just met Jesus for the first time. Perhaps you can almost hear the gentle clink of metal on stone and sense his heartbeat slowing as he talks quietly to God. Look farther up the hilltop: a vast, beautiful church glows in the morning sun. It is St Peter’s Basilica, in the Vatican. Its tall dome stretches into the sky. What would it feel like to walk around it, or go inside it?

Now see the water next to the hills. The English channel sparkles in the sunlight. If you stood on the beach the spray might cool your cheeks. Coming down to the sea, St Augustine is headed for England with two other monks in dark habits. Do you hear their low voices singing psalms as they pray? Can you smell the damp wood of the oars and the salty air of the open sea ahead? Across the water a new land waits: three men walk up the hill in Lancaster. They have been sentenced to death for being Catholic. What would people think as they saw them?

If you could speak to anyone in this picture—a martyr, a monk, or anyone else—what would you ask? What story might they tell you about trusting God on difficult roads? Where in this scene would you like to stay and pray a little longer?

Third Viewing: Listen for God’s Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g “Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?”

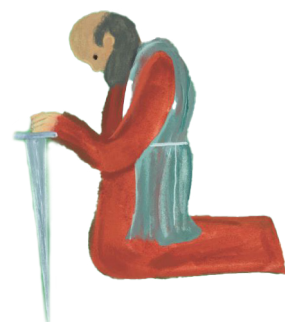
Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray. You can use the following prayer if you wish:

“Thank you, Lord, for this time of seeing and listening. May your Spirit help us remember the light and hope you show us when we pay attention. Stay with us as we go, and keep our hearts open to your beauty. Amen.”



Visio Divina Panel 9: The Diocese Today

Step 1. Prepare the Environment

Step 2. Open in Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross and say: *"In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
"Holy Spirit, open our eyes as we gaze, open our hearts as we look at this picture. May we know your gentle guidance and feel the joy of walking together with you. Amen."*

Steps 3 & 4. Present and Guide

Show the chosen image to your pupils where everyone can see it. Allow some silence for everyone to take in the picture before you start guiding the process.

First Viewing

Take a slow look at the whole picture. Notice the colours, shapes, and lines. Let your eyes wander. What do you notice first? Is there anything that makes you smile? Is there anything that surprises you?

Second Viewing

Read the following narrative:

Take in a slow, deep breath. Close your eyes, and when you open them imagine you have stepped onto the green hill in the picture.

A golden evening sky glows above. Its soft colours paint everything with warmth. Feel the last rays of sunlight rest on your face and the cool grass beneath your feet. Ahead winds a welcoming path leading upward toward a beautiful cathedral. The stone shines with the evening colours, its tall spire pointing toward heaven. Can you hear its bells chiming, or the voices singing inside?

Along the path families and friends travel together. Some walk hand-in-hand, others carry small children, and every few steps someone pauses to greet a neighbour. These are people from the Churches all around. What are they talking about, do you think? Would you like to ask them any questions?

Near the front walks a figure in white clothes and a tall hat called a mitre, guiding the pilgrims. This is the Bishop of Lancaster. Have you met him before? What feelings might you have as you follow behind—trust, curiosity, a sense of being part of something large and good?

Turn slowly and look back down the hill: the winding path curves toward the horizon, inviting many more travellers to join. How does it feel to be somewhere in that long procession—near the front, the middle, or perhaps encouraging those still at the bottom to come along? If you wanted to pray inside the Cathedral, what would you like to say to God there?

Third Viewing: Listen for God's Voice

Allow for silent reflection. Encourage pupils to wonder what God might be saying through the image, or if any part feels especially important to them, e.g "Is there a part of the picture that speaks to you, or makes you feel something about God?"

Share and Respond

Invite pupils to share their thoughts with the group if they wish.

Step 5. Conclude the Session

Finish the session by inviting the children to pray.

You can use the following prayer if you wish:

*"Loving God, we thank you for this time of looking and listening. Send us out with renewed hope, ready to be guided, to welcome fellow travellers, and to share all that we have received from you. May we follow you more closely with every step we take.
Amen."*



Celebrations of The Word

The Salvation History Artwork could also be used helpfully for Prayer and Celebrations of the Word throughout the liturgical year. Below are some suggested links, starting at the beginning of the school year.

| Liturgical Season/Date | Panel/Artwork Detail | Link to the Artwork |
|---|---|---|
| Season of Creation (1 Sep – 4 Oct) | Panel 1 – Creation & Eden | Celebrates God as Creator, the goodness of creation and humanity's role. |
| 14 Sep – Exaltation of the Holy Cross | Panel 6 – Calvary Cross | The glowing white Cross on the hill is the focal sign of redemption honoured on this feast. |
| 1 Nov – All Saints | Whole Artwork | Looking at all the characters pictured in Salvation History. |
| Last Sunday in Ordinary Time – Christ the King (late Nov) | Panel 3 – King David & the Temple | David's throne and promise of an everlasting kingdom point to Christ the Universal King. |
| Christmas | Panel 4 – Nativity | The star-lit stable, Mary, Joseph and shepherds visualise the birth of Christ. |
| 6 Jan – Epiphany | Panel 4 - Nativity | Three Magi kneel by the nativity, showing salvation coming to the nations |
| Sunday after 6 Jan – Baptism of the Lord | Panel 5 – Jordan River & Dove | Jesus in the water with John and the Spirit descending embodies this feast. |
| 25 March - Feast of the Annunciation | Panel 4 - Angel & Mary | The Annunciation is pictured clearly here. |
| Palm Sunday/Holy Week | Panel 6 – Triumphal Entry | Jesus rides the donkey while children wave palms and shout "Hosanna". |
| Holy Week/Maundy Thursday | Panel 6 - The Last Supper | Jesus is pictured with the disciples in the upper room. |
| Holy Week/Good Friday | Panel 6 – Crucifixion on Golgotha | The darkened sky and white Cross express the mystery of the Lord's Passion. |
| Resurrection of the Lord | Panel 6 – Garden Tomb in Bloom | Rolled away stone and sunrise colours proclaim the Resurrection. |
| 40 days after Easter – Ascension | Panel 7 – Jesus rising into the cloud | Disciples look up as Christ disappears into glory. |
| 50 days after Easter – Pentecost (Whit Sunday) | Panel 7 – Upper Room with Tongues of Fire | Flames over the heads of the Twelve mark the birthday of the Church. |
| 4 May – Feast of the English Martyrs | Panel 8/9 – Lancaster Martyrs | The three Lancaster Martyrs pictured climbing the hill in Lancaster. |
| 27 May – St Augustine of Canterbury | Panel 8 – Missionary Monks crossing the Channel | Augustine and companions bring the Gospel from Rome to England. |
| 29 Jun – St Peter & St Paul, Apostles | Panel 8 – Peter (keys) and Paul (sword) on the twin roads | Their journeys converge at Rome, beneath the dome of St Peter's. |

