



The Religious Education Directory *To know You more clearly*



The Early Years

Preparing for Spring



Religious Education at the heart of the Early Years Curriculum

~preparing for Spring



Agenda

9.30 Celebration of the Word

***Session 1 – Branch 3 – Galilee to Jerusalem
Enhancing the Curriculum***

Break

***Session 2 – Branch 4 - Desert to Garden
Enhancing the Curriculum***

12.00 Lunch

1.00 Session 3 - Planning & feedback



Recent Moderation





What is the RED 'To Know you more clearly'?

This is a question that I have asked myself as I have only just started to deliver this curriculum and moving away from Come and See. But the words of Pope Francis summarise the aims succinctly:

"Education is not about knowing things or taking lessons but about being able to use three lingos: those of the head, the heart, and the hands... learning so that you can think about what you feel and do, can feel what you think and do, and can do what you feel and think. Unity within a person." – Pope Francis

For me as a teacher this program goes beyond the traditional curriculum, encouraging students to explore their faith through a lens of curiosity and introspection. Through engaging lessons, thoughtful reflections, and interactive activities, "To Know You More Clearly" creates a dynamic learning environment that encourages students to connect with their spirituality on a personal level.

This program not only imparts knowledge but also cultivates a genuine and enduring relationship with God, contributing to the overall spiritual development of the students.

Scripture is the foundation of each Branch and will develop knowledge, understanding, skills, compassion and awe and wonder across the curriculum.

At the beginning of the branch...

Who is God?

"He made fire."

"I don't know."

"Jesus."

At the end of the branch...

"He is Jesus' Dad. He made the whole world and all the homes and people...plants...rainbows...animals...sky...sun...moon. He loves us."

"He is Jesus' Father. He is in our heads and our hearts. We do nice words to Him. He made the world. He made salt in the water and the trees...leaves...frogs and hogs."

"God made water. God made love.
He made the entire everything."

*Thank you to Sinead, St.
Mary's, Leyland*

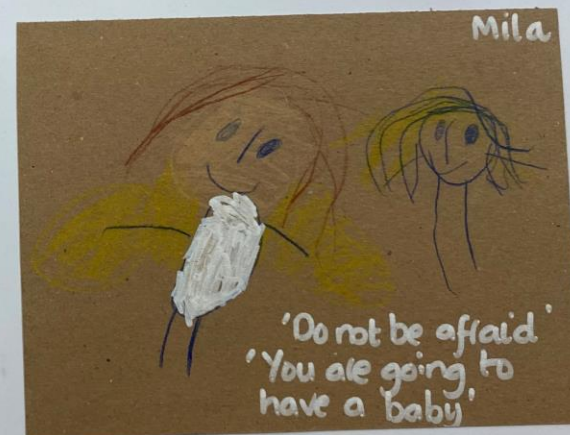
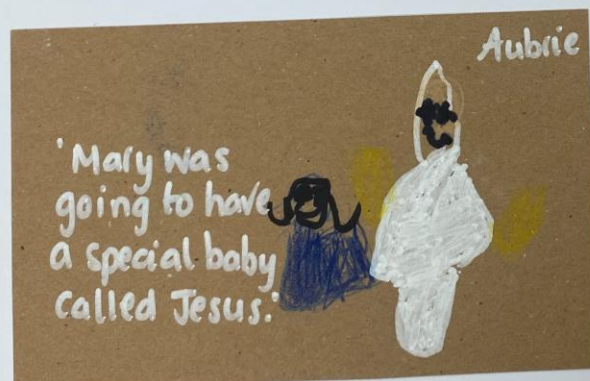


'Do not be afraid.'

'You have
been chosen
by God.'

'You are going
to have a baby.'

'His name will be Jesus'



Thank you to Steph, St. Joseph the Worker, Knowsley



We listened to
the story and
used our wooden
figures to help.

Thank you to Steph, St. Joseph the Worker, Knowsley

Reception Spring Term Branch 3 & 4

Branch 3 From Galilee to Jerusalem



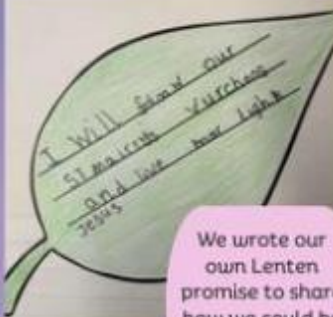
Keywords
Wise men
Jesus
welcomes
blesses
The Magi
gifts
everyone
love
Glory Be
prayer

The visit of the Magi



We talked about the visit of the Magi and the importance of their gifts.

We drew ourselves and placed them around Jesus to show that he came for everyone.



I will show our St Martin church and love our light Jesus

Branch 4 Desert to Garden



Keywords
Ash Wednesday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday
ashes
palms
crosses
Lent
growth
care
purple
died
Risen

A prayer of thanks

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to us.
Thank you for Jesus who loves us all.
Thank you for Jesus who helps us.
Thank you for Jesus who loves us equally.
Thank you for rescuing the world from the sad things that happen.
Thank you for sending Jesus to show us how to be compassionate and loving.

Amen

From the point of view of the boy



I want to listen to Jesus. There was a boy named who wanted to see Jesus. I heard Jesus talking to Philip and Andrew. They wanted some food to feed all the people. Jesus asked me if he could have my lunch. I gave Jesus my lunch and he said to pray to say thank you. Jesus used my food to feed all the people. I felt happy that I could help.

Some words from the Bible



After talking about the parable with Simon and Peter we wrote about the story Simon and Peter were saying the word 'This day I will build my church'.



We said thank you to Jesus for the sign that Simon was all of our things in a church and saying a prayer for each of us in our class.

Our Easter Gardens



We made our own Easter gardens to show the sadness and joy of the Easter story.



Match the symbol with what it represents

These represent the new life	These represent the new life	These represent the new life	These represent the new life	These represent the new life	These represent the new life	These represent the new life	These represent the new life	These represent the new life	These represent the new life

We talked about the Easter symbols and their meanings and talked about Easter being a sign of new life.

The Greatest Commandment

We talked about rules and the two commandments that Jesus wrote. We then discussed the most important rule of all.

What Jesus said of us all
"Love God with all your heart, mind, strength and power"
"Love your neighbor as yourself"

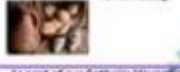
We learned the song "Lord I love you with all of my heart" and put our own actions to the song. Scan the QR code to listen to our version of the song.



We heard the story of the Feeding of the 5000 from John 6:5-14

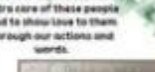


We talked about how Jesus helped those that were hungry at the gathering and further along.



As part of our Catholic Masses we talked about us needing food and water to live and that many people do not have it.

Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people and to show love to them through our actions and words.



Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me, I will give him the bread of life. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I give for the life of the world."

We wrote letters to our mums and dads and asked them to help us collect food to donate to a local food bank or we could live our lives as Jesus wanted us to by going to church.

We brought in lots of food that we could give to others



Jan from Reception Food bank came into school to talk to us about what would happen with our food and all the other things he does to help those in need just like Jesus.



After listening to the scripture Mark 10:13-16 we talked about what we do to show our love and trust in God



Love & Sin



We put the story into a song and asked our class to help us to write the story. We then wrote the story and asked our class to help us to write the story. We then wrote the story and asked our class to help us to write the story.



Our Easter Gardens



We used three small wooden crosses on a hill to show where Jesus died, a small terracotta pot to represent the empty tomb and flowers to symbolize new life.



The Easter Story



God told us to love our neighbors and Jesus showed us how to love our neighbors. We learned the song "Lord I love you with all of my heart" and put our own actions to the song. Scan the QR code to listen to our version of the song.

We talked about Holy Week and the important days that take place during Holy Week. We discussed the significance of each part of the story and the message it gives us.



We just wanted to share with you our new EYFS continuous provision we have introduced in our Nursery and Reception class.

The children are loving the new RED and responded so well to the scripture that we decided to introduce a permanent area for Godly play.

Sam Pimblett and Debra Smith

Thank you to St. Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary



Prior Learning - Introducing God



This is a very special book; do you want to feel how heavy it is?
It is different from our other story books. Why? It is bigger, it has lots of words, not many pictures ...

This book is called a Bible. Can you say Bible...

The Bible tells us all about God.

We have to keep this in a very special place

(prayer space/focus, place the book with the title Bible and the 'word' God)

Can you remember where our special book is?

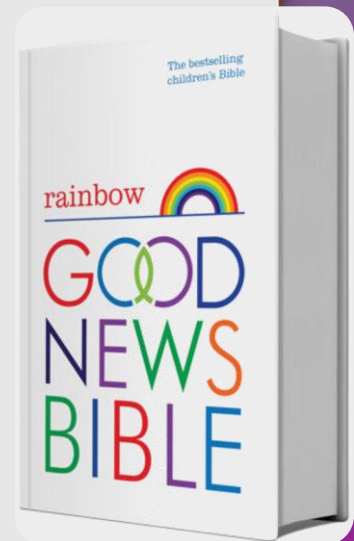
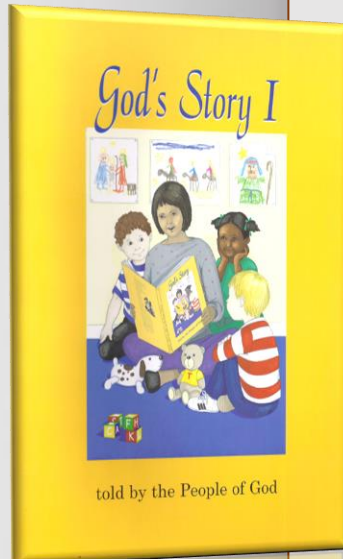
Who can remember what the book is called?

Remember this book tells us all about God.

Would you like to hear a special story about God today?



Creation story





Prior Learning - Introducing God

Before the end of the Creation branch ...through the myself, all about me areas of learning show another family ... the Holy Family...



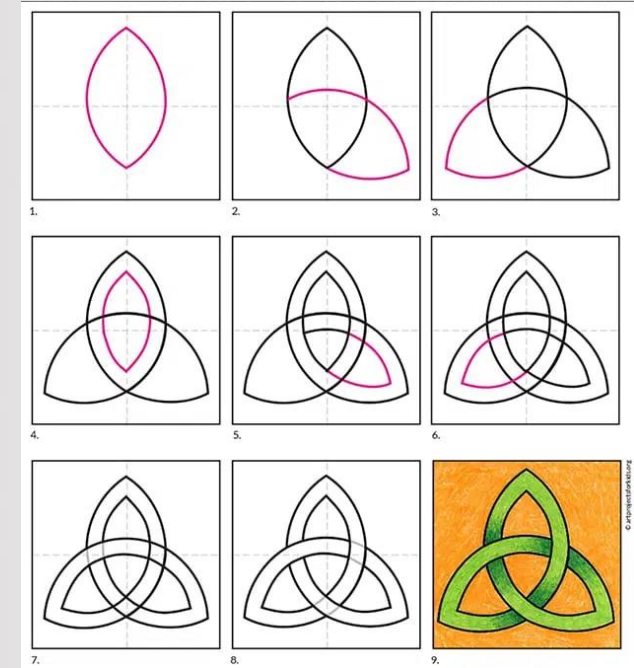
What about Jesus?



Nativity story



God, Jesus, Holy Spirit



Leading with Scripture

Finding awe..

Seasons

Music

CST – Catholic Social Teaching

Prayer & Liturgy

Art

God, Jesus, Holy Spirit

Wonder & Awe

Beauty

Timelines

Introducing God

Silence

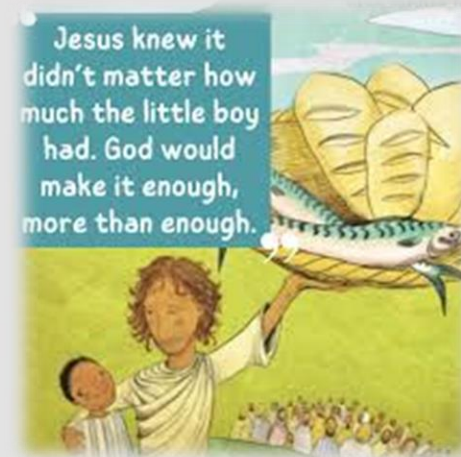
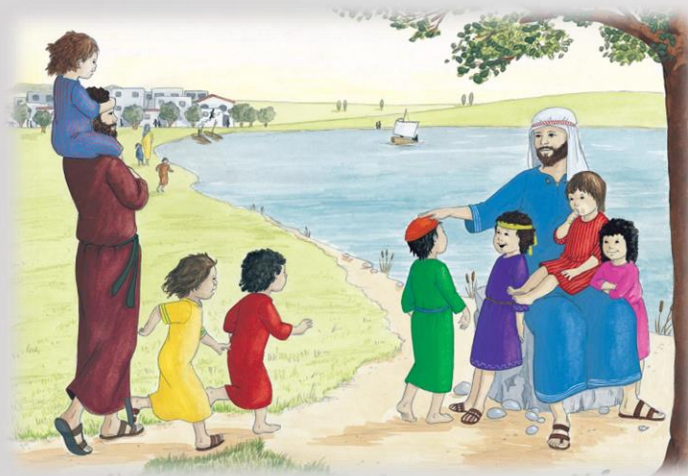
Senses

Philosophy

The Art of Storytelling

Sacramental Foundations





Galilee to Jerusalem

Galilee to Jerusalem:

***'God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known'
(Jn 1:18)***

- The ministry of Jesus, the Word of God.
- The life of Jesus
- The revelation of the Kingdom of God through ...
parables, encounters, miracles, and teachings.
- The call of the disciples
- The nature of being a follower of Jesus

Overview Year One

- Through the ***ministry of Jesus***, some of those who encountered him recognised he was the Son of God.
- The astonishing ***revelation*** of Christ that they contain is often downplayed.
- In branch one, pupils explored ***revelation*** through the Creation and in the next branch, God entered human history.
- In this branch - how will we encourage pupils to think about what the Scriptures are saying.
- ***EYFS – are building the foundations for Luke's Gospel***

- ***St Luke's*** gospel focuses on Jesus' mission to those at the ***margins of society***.
 - Following the announcement to the ***shepherds***, who were among the lowest in that society, the infant Jesus is next seen with the elderly Simeon and Anna.
 - ***St Luke*** describes Jesus' time before he began his adult ministry as his '***hidden life***'.
 - ***St Luke's*** gospel places Jesus at the heart of the Jewish world of the first century and the heart of the Roman world.
 - He shows Jesus ***caring for the poor and the oppressed***, such as Samaritans, outsiders, and women.
 - We introduce pupils to ***Jesus' character*** as he draws people to ***follow him*** and shows love and kindness to those on the ***edges of society***, especially little children.
 - Make links with the celebration of the **Feast of the Epiphany** at the beginning of term (6th January)
-
- Resources for teaching should always look to diverse representations from the Universal Catholic Church.

Themes

Creation and covenant:

'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1).

God shows his love by making a wonderful world for us all to live in.

God is love

Prophecy and promise:

'In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets' (Heb 1:1).

God shows his love by sending his son, Jesus to live with us.

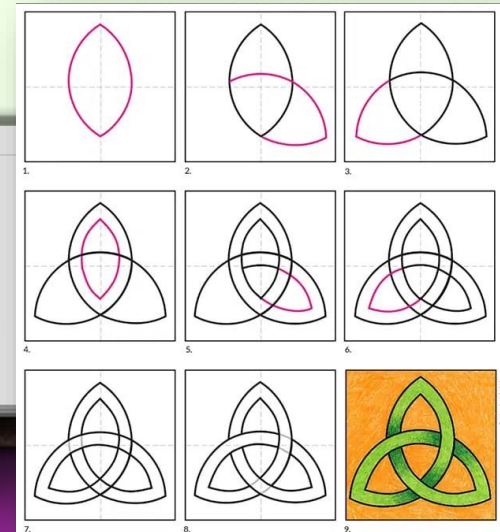
God is love.

Galilee to Jerusalem:

'God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known' (Jn 1:18).

Jesus shows God's love to everyone.

God is love





Spring	Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem	Planning	Evidence/Assessment
Hear	The Wise Men visit Jesus. Jesus welcomes the little children. <i>Mk 10: v16</i> Jesus blesses the little children (story retold)	  	
	The visit of the Magi <i>Matt 2:1-12</i> What? Jesus blesses the little children <i>Mk 10:13-16</i> How? Feeding of five thousand <i>Jn 6:1-14</i>		
Believe	Jesus was born for everyone.	  	
	The Magi visited Jesus with gifts. Jesus is God's son and came for everyone. Jesus' birth is celebrated at Christmas. Jesus came to show God's love and welcomes everyone. Jesus takes care of everyone.		
Celebrate	The Glory Be is a special prayer.	  	
	That the Church prays The Glory Be as a response to the coming of Jesus		
Live	Show love to everyone like Jesus.	  	
	We welcome and show love to everyone in our words and actions as Jesus does. We are called to help the poor and hungry. CST You need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor and a job for the grown-up who takes care of you. So does everybody else on the whole Earth. But many people do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people. An Option for the Poor and Vulnerable		

EYFS Galilee to Jerusalem – Nursery					EYFS Galilee to Jerusalem – Reception			
Sequences over 5/6 weeks	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE
First sequence of lessons	The visit of the Magi Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11 <i>Please note the edited Scripture version for Nursery.</i>	The Magi visited Jesus with gifts. Jesus is God's son and came for everyone. Jesus' birth is celebrated at Christmas.	The Church prays The Glory Be as a response to the coming of Jesus	Show love to everyone like Jesus.	Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11 <i>Please note the edited Scripture version for Reception.</i>	The Magi visited Jesus with gifts. Jesus is God's son and came for everyone. Jesus' birth is celebrated at Christmas.	The Church prays The Glory Be as a response to the coming of Jesus	We welcome and show love to everyone in our words and actions as Jesus does.
Second sequence of lessons	Jesus blesses the little children. <i>Mk 10:13-16</i>	Jesus came to show God's love and <u>welcomes</u> everyone.	The Church prays The Glory Be as a response to the coming of Jesus	Show love to everyone like Jesus.	Jesus blesses the little children. <i>Mk 10:13-16</i>	Jesus came to show God's love and <u>welcomes</u> everyone.	The Church prays The Glory Be as a response to the coming of Jesus	We welcome and show love to everyone in our words and actions as Jesus does. We are called to help the poor and hungry. CST You need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor and a job for the grown-up who takes care of you. So does everybody else on the whole Earth. But many people do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people. An Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
Third sequence of lessons	Feeding of five thousand <i>Jn 6:1-14</i>	Jesus takes care of everyone.	The Church prays The Glory Be as a response to the coming of Jesus	Show love to everyone like Jesus.	Feeding of five thousand <i>Jn 6:1-14</i>	Jesus takes care of everyone.	The Church prays The Glory Be as a response to the coming of Jesus	

Good News Translation Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him."

10 When they saw **the star**, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 11 They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

Teacher Notes – The Magi

- **Magi /Three Kings.**
- scholars/astrologers
- gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- Gold: is affiliated with Kings, and Christians believe that Jesus is the King of Kings.
- Frankincense: is used in liturgical worship in traditional Churches and represents that people would worship and praise Jesus.
- Myrrh: is a fragrance embedded on dead bodies to make them smell pleasant and represents that Jesus would endure persecution resulting in his death.
- Jesus would have been aged between one and two.
- Star they had seen in the East - stopped over the area where the child lay.

Names & Characteristics of the Three Wise Men

- Gaspar (or Caspar) wears a green cloak and a gold crown with green jewels. King of Sheba. Gaspar represents the Frankincense brought to Jesus.
- Melchior has long white hair and a white beard and wears a gold cloak. He is the King of Arabia. Melchior represents the Gold brought to Jesus.
- Balthazar has a black beard and wears a purple cloak. He is the King of Tarse and Egypt. Balthazar represents the gift of Myrrh that was brought to Jesus.

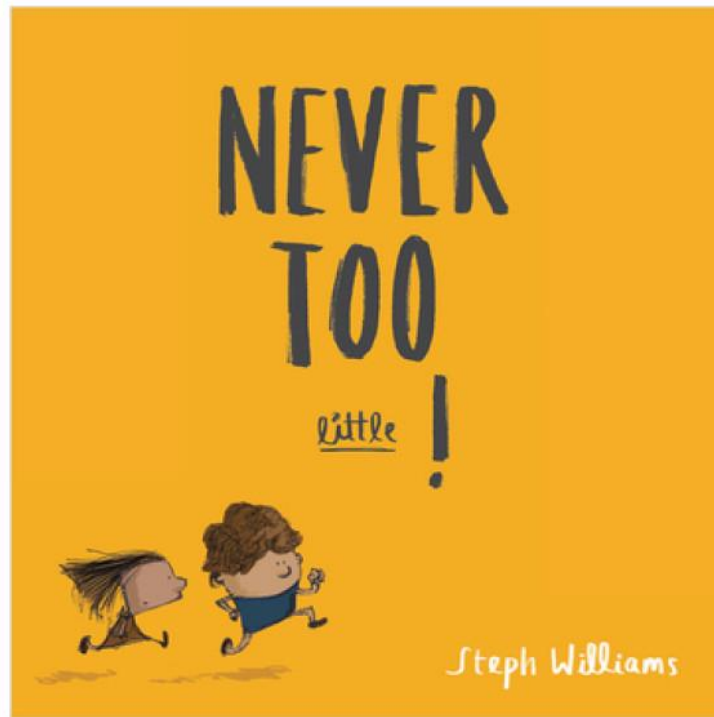


Jesus Blesses Little Children

Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. ¹When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

Teacher's Notes

- Children blessed by a Rabbi was a long-held tradition from when Jacob blessed his grandsons by laying hands on them (Gen 48:14-16).
- Children (those under the age of 12) were seen as weak and powerless and of lesser importance, hence the disciples trying to stop the children from being brought to Jesus to be blessed.
- As you begin the text, you will notice that it is written in continuous present tense, giving the impression that many people were bringing their children forward to be blessed.
- This may have annoyed the disciples who were still perhaps talking with Jesus.
- Jesus also challenges the idea of people being too self-reliant and in the gesture of embrace and blessing he highlights the need to be like a child who has complete trust in a parent to love and care for them.
- Inviting the indignant disciples challenges their view of themselves as those with status: here Jesus commends those among the most vulnerable...this would not have been an easy message for the 12 to take on.



[Never Too Little by Steph Williams | LIL' DISCIPLES READ ALOUD | A Bible Story](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9K08o1URnU)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9K08o1URnU>

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or, Lake Tiberias, as it is also called). A large crowd followed him, because they had seen his miracles of healing the sick. Jesus went up a hill and sat down with his disciples. The time for the Passover Festival was near. Jesus looked around and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, so he asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food to feed all these people?" (He said this to test Philip; actually he already knew what he would do.)

Philip answered, "For everyone to have even a little, it would take more than two hundred silver coins^[a] to buy enough bread."

Another one of his disciples, Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish. But they will certainly not be enough for all these people." "Make the people sit down," Jesus told them. (There was a lot of grass there.) So all the people sat down; there were about five thousand men. Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, and distributed it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, and they all had as much as they wanted. When they were all full, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces left over; let us not waste a bit." So, they gathered them all and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten.

Seeing this miracle that Jesus had performed, the people there said, "Surely this is the Prophet^[b] who was to come into the world!"

Teacher's Subject Knowledge

Introducing a miracle story to young children

- Start with the most spectacular miracle of all ***the child's birth.***
- Tell the children what miracles are – they are special moments of wonder... ***not magic!***
- Remind children of the many ***miracles they see every day.*** The sun shining, the moon's glimmer, the green grass, the way their hands move, the power of their smiles. Take your children places where they will be deliberately exposed to miracles – outside in a playground, forest school, sand, water flowers, trees etc...
- Explain that you might not be able to explain fully why a miracle does or does not happen, yet we can still believe.
- It is God who is behind all the miracles they encounter. For example, When you stand with them and look at the sunset, you can say, "Look how amazing the sunset is," or you can say, "Look how amazing the sunset is that God created."

- Pay attention to the ***miracle of every moment.***
- Teach children how blessings are a way for us to thank God for everything around us.
- Blessings are tools that help us do two things. Some are used to ***request*** things from God while others give ***praise*** to God.
- Blessings help us to recognise the ***uniqueness of every moment***, both difficult moments and joyous moments.
- We can celebrate miracles by saying/praying the Glory Be prayer to say thank you.
- We can share the miracle of Feeding of the 5000.
- Keep it as just the story – the background notes are for adults only! ***Remember we can't answer every question a child may have – leave room for them to wonder in awe!***

Teachers Notes

- The popularity of Jesus was spreading
- No one had performed **wondrous miracles** like this man, and no one had **spoken with authority** like this teacher.
- People everywhere wanted to be in the presence of Jesus, either to reap the **physical benefits** (like healing), the **spiritual benefits** (like preaching), or the **social benefits** (it was the most popular thing to do).
- Jesus was tired, physically and emotionally. To find respite and to spend time with his closest friends, he went to the other side of the Galilee and up a mountain.
- That didn't work – the crowd followed him up the mountain! But Jesus, being the compassionate Savior that he is, didn't try to escape. He began to make arrangements for the organised chaos that was about to ensue.

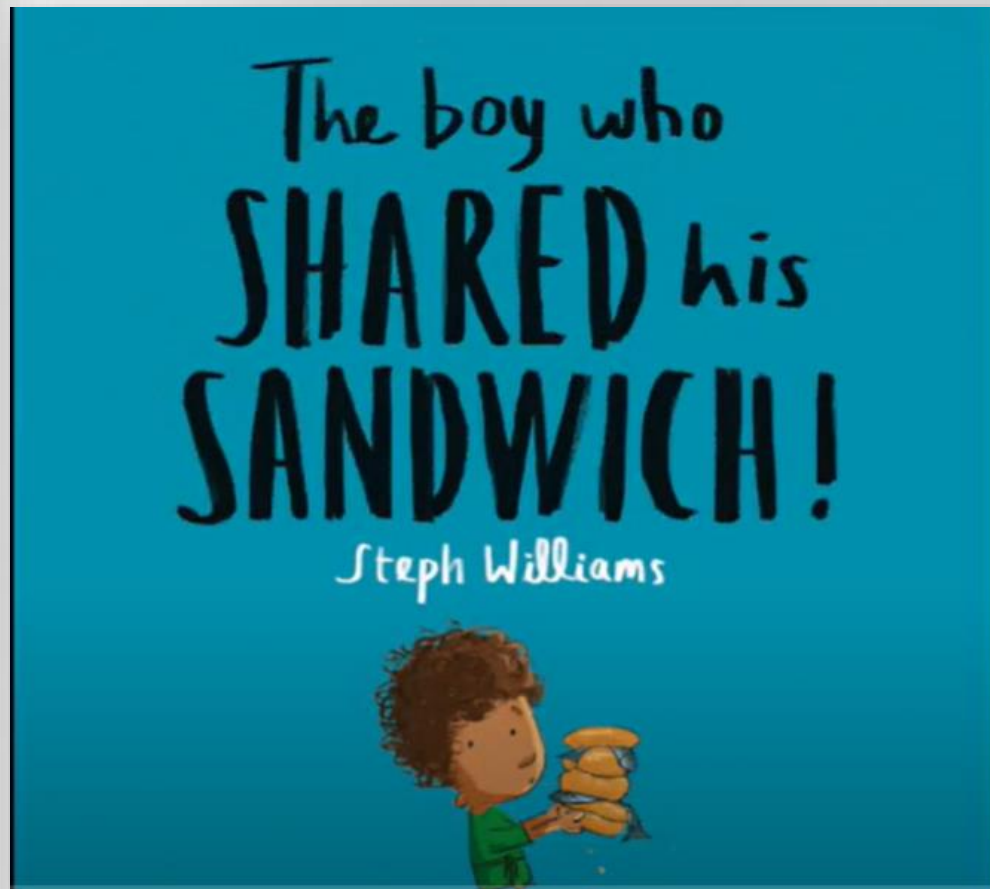
THE EYES OF CHRIST

- Jesus first saw that the crowd was hungry.
- Jesus also recognized that **these people had larger spiritual needs** than a one-off meal. Even though they didn't know it, **they were following Jesus because their hearts were empty**.
- This story is a great **reminder for us to have eyes like Christ**, always on the lookout for opportunities to care physically and spiritually for those in our path.

REMEMBER THE BOY

- Whenever we learn about the feeding of the five thousand, we typically hear about Jesus, the crowd, or the disciples, but we neglect this central character. His story teaches us so much.
- No one in the crowd would have thought that this boy mattered.
- No one would have imagined that what he was carrying in his little basket would not only be the provision of the moment, but the basis of one of the most significant sermons Jesus ever preached.
- We will never know which little person God will use, and how. That means that **we're never just lost in the crowd**. We're never without anything to offer. We never know who the Lord will claim and use in ways that we can't predict or haven't intended.

The Lord knows us all. He knows where we are, what we have, and how we can be used. He can do eternally amazing things with the little fragments of our lives that we're carrying around and that we tend to think aren't worth much.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wV80_uctBhE

[The Boy Who Shared His Sandwich by Steph Williams | LIL' DISCIPLES READ ALOUD | A Bible Story](#)

[Children | The Good Book Company](#)

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/children/>



[Pauline Books And Media](#)

<https://www.paulineuk.org/>



WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

The Magi visited Jesus with gifts.
Jesus is God's son and came for everyone.

Jesus' birth is celebrated at Christmas.
Jesus came to show God's love and
welcome everyone.

Jesus takes care of everyone.

**The Magi
Jesus blesses little
children
Feeding of the 5000**

HOW CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE

The Church prays **The Glory Be** as a
response to the coming of Jesus

HOW CHRISTIANS LIVE

Welcome and show love to everyone in our words
and actions as Jesus does.

Welcome and show love to everyone in our words
and actions as Jesus does.

Called to help the poor and hungry.

CST You need food, water, a house, your school, a
good doctor and a job for the grown-up who takes
care of you. So does everybody else on the whole
Earth. But many people do not have these things.
Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people.

An Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

CELEBRATE

The Glory Be

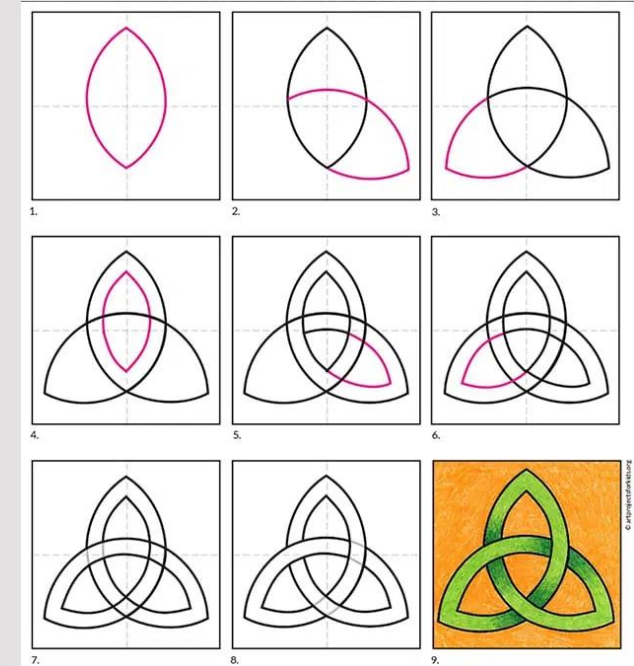
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

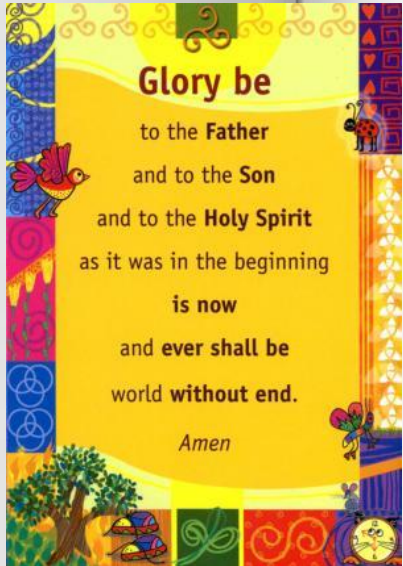
Teacher Subject Knowledge

- The **Glory Be Prayer** is a simple but powerful prayer that is widely used by Catholics around the world.
- Glorifies the Holy Trinity – God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and acknowledges their power and majesty.
- Although it is a short prayer, the Glory Be has deep meaning and significance that can help Christians deepen their faith and connection with God.
- End of each decade of the Rosary, during the Liturgy of the Hours, and during other Catholic liturgical celebrations.
- Commonly used as a way to begin and end personal prayers, to give thanks for blessings, and to ask for guidance and protection from God.
- The phrase “world without end” in the Glory Be prayer emphasizes the idea that God’s power and love will endure forever.



God, Jesus, Holy Spirit





What words could we use for the Wise Men – important, beautiful clothes, gifts, special great .

- Words we could use for Jesus blessing the children – kind, loving etc
- Words for feeding of 5000 – happy, giving, kindness, loving, caring etc...
- This is a new word that means all of these words – that tells us about Jesus the word is **GLORY! (Display)**
- We could say something is glorious etc.
- There is a prayer for GLORY – Glory be to the Father etc..
- Say the prayer to children.
- Display the prayer and word Glory – make words to surround what Glory means – happy, kind, love, caring or make signs and symbols etc for them to understand.
- Christians celebrate using the word Glory because it makes them think of Jesus and how kind, happy, loving and caring he is.

Visio Divina ~ <https://conversatio.org/introduction-to-praying-with-art/>

- doorway that leads you into your inner prayer room.
- prayerful approach to listening to God through art
- offers an invitation to be attentive
- gentle and beautiful prayer of contemplation
- stillness and gaze reflectively with the desire to see and hear God.
- open ourselves to God's loving gaze on us.
- focal point, "soul window" through which we may
- look to God and look at ourselves and life.

Visio Divina – Divine (God) Seeing

Lectio Divina–Divine (God) Reading

Divine - of, relating to, or proceeding directly from God

VISIO DIVINA

"Divine Seeing"

Visio Divina is a slow, prayerful examination of a work of art as a tool for lifting your heart and mind to God and His mysteries. Gaze at the image and use it as an inspiration to pray, following the same steps as Lectio Divina.

LECTIO:

Read the image- Slowly examine the content, look for details, notice what stands out to you. Work to understand the meaning or story told by the image.

MEDITATIO:

Meditate on the image- Connect to what you know about the background of the image. Imagine yourself present in the events. Consider expressions, colors, and symbolism.

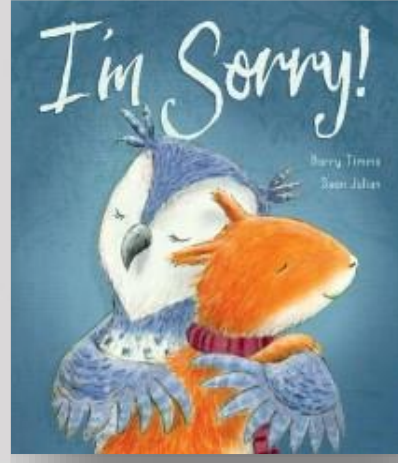
ORATIO:

Pray with the image- Dialogue with God about what you see in the image and what you think. Ask Him to reveal what He wants to understand through the art.

CONTEMPLATIO:

Contemplate the image- Quietly examine the image again. Note what God taught you through your prayer with this art.





Desert to Garden



Desert to garden:

‘Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day’ (1 Cor 15:3).

- The season of Lent and its culmination in the events of Holy Week.
- Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Catholic Church’s Liturgy and life.
- The title of this branch points both to the ***liturgical*** journey from the desert of Lent to the garden of Resurrection, ...
but also, to the ***Paschal journey*** from

***darkness to light,
barrenness to fruitfulness,
death to life***

Paschal - ancient Jewish Passover (or Pasch)

Triduum – three days

~from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday.

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Overview Year One

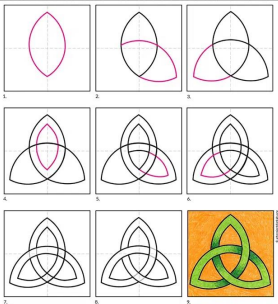
Early Years
are building
the
foundations
for this
learning to
happen

- Season of Lent ~ time to prepare for Easter
- Story of the last week of Jesus' life, his death, and resurrection.
- *The Resurrection is revisited in the next branch, so this branch concludes with the women meeting the angel by the empty tomb.*
- As in branch two, the visible **angelic presence** points to the divinity of Christ and to the message of God the Father, **Creator** of all that is seen and unseen.
- In the life of many pupils, Easter is about chocolate and is a lesser festival than Christmas.
- Introducing Lent allows them to understand how Christians prepare for Easter as the *high point of their year*.
- Experience Lent traditions as part of the school's prayer life and through the charitable activities in Lent as part of a school's Catholic life.
- ***St Luke's gospel is paused*** to tell the story of Jesus' Temptation in the wilderness to facilitate pupil's learning about Lent.
- May want to reorder this account into branch three, depending on when Lent begins.

- Holy Week for Christians, is a powerful narrative.
- Jesus goes from being hailed as the Messiah on Sunday to being crucified as a blasphemer on Friday. It is essential pupils experience reflective time to think about these stories and what they mean in the context of the previous branches.
- Jesus' life shows his humanity alongside his divinity.
- Previous learning - importance of forgiveness, how an encounter with Jesus changes some people forever, and how Jesus gives himself to others.
- ***It is a lot to take in as an adult!***
- Children are at the beginning of their learning journey, and their first points of learning are to know that Jesus' life story does not end with death but with resurrection.



Themes



Creation and covenant:

'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1).

God shows his love by making a wonderful world for us all to live in.

God is love

Prophecy and promise:

'In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets' (Heb 1:1).

God shows his love by sending his son, Jesus to live with us.

God is love.

Galilee to Jerusalem:

'God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known' (Jn 1:18).

Jesus shows God's love to everyone.

God is love

Desert to Garden

'In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets' (Heb 1:1).

Jesus shares how much God loves us by dying and rising again.

God is love.

Spring	Branch 4 Desert to Garden	Planning	Evidence/Assessment
Hear	Lent is a time to care for others. Jesus died on a cross. It is a sad time. Jesus was given new life by God his Father. Jesus rose and everyone celebrates. Love God and love everyone (Great commandment) ...	  	
	A simplified version of key events of Holy Week especially Good Friday and Easter Sunday (to enable pupils to recognize key events) The Great Commandment. Lk10:25-28		
Believe	Caring for others in Lent. Jesus died on a cross. Jesus rose and we celebrate.	  	
	Listen to and talk about the seasons of Lent and Easter Jesus died on Good Friday and rose again on Easter Sunday Easter is a celebration that Jesus is with us still. Easter celebrates new life. Simple Religious symbols in Lent and Easter		
Celebrate	Simple signs of Lent – colour purple, seeds, growing. Simple signs of Easter – colour white, growth, Easter Garden	  	
	The Church uses Purple and Ashes as signs of Lent and being sorry. Representations of Holy Week and Easter: Palms, The cross- Easter Gardens, and symbols of New life		
Live	Care for others. Celebrate with signs and symbols – Hot Cross Buns, garden growth, Easter eggs	  	
	Various cultures celebrate Lent and Easter in different ways: For example, Pancakes, Hot Cross Buns, Easter eggs Trying to help others by what we do in Lent. Could include Rasa Parade (Kerela) and other Lent customs around the world. CST Every single person on earth needs these things: food, water, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor. Some people have what they need, but many people don't. Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others. Jesus wants us to take care of this. Rights and Responsibilities		

EYFS Desert to Garden– Nursery					EYFS Desert to Garden– Reception				
Sequences	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	
<u>First</u> sequence of lessons	Love God and love everyone (Taken from Great Commandment reading) ... Lent is a time to care for others.	Caring for others in Lent.	Simple signs of Lent – colour purple, seeds, growing.	Care for others.	The Great Commandment. Lk10:25-28 <u>A commandment!</u> Jesus tells the story of loving one another. Loving your neighbour as you love yourself.	Listen to and talk about the season of Lent. Simple Religious symbols in Lent	The Church uses Purple and Ashes as signs of Lent. We learn the importance of saying sorry and being sorry.	Trying to help others by what we do in Lent.	CST Rights and Responsibilities Every single person on earth needs these things: food, water, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor.
<u>Second</u> sequence of lessons	Jesus died on a cross. It is a sad time.	Jesus died on a cross.	Simple signs of Lent – colour purple, hot cross buns, seeds, growing.	Christians share signs and symbols – Hot Cross Buns, palms.	A simplified version of key events of Holy Week especially Good Friday (to enable pupils to recognize these key events)	Listen to and talk about the season of Lent. Jesus died on Good Friday. Simple Religious symbols in Lent	The Church uses Purple and Ashes as signs of Lent and being sorry. Representations of Holy Week ... Palms, Cross	Various cultures celebrate Lent in different ways. Lenten customs around the world.	Some people have what they need, but many people don't. Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others.
<u>Third</u> sequence of lessons	Jesus was given new life by God his Father. Jesus rose and everyone celebrates.	Jesus rose and we celebrate.	Simple signs of Easter – colour white, growth, Easter Garden	Christians share signs and symbols - garden growth, Easter eggs, new life.	A simplified version of the key event of Easter Sunday (to enable pupils to recognize <u>this key events</u>)	Jesus rose again on Easter Sunday Simple Religious symbols in Easter. Listen to and talk about the season of Easter. Easter is a celebration that Jesus is with us still. Easter celebrates new life.	Representations of Easter: Easter Gardens, and symbols of New life	Various cultures celebrate Easter in different ways: For example, Easter eggs	Jesus wants us to take care of this.

CELEBRATE

The Church uses Purple and Ashes as signs of **Lent** and **being sorry**.

~Learn the importance of saying sorry and being sorry.

*~Representations of Holy Week ...
Palms, Cross*

~Representations of Easter: Easter Gardens, and symbols of New life

The Great Commandment. Luke 10:25-28 **A commandment!**

Jesus tells the story of loving one another. Loving your neighbour as you love yourself.

A simplified version of key events of **Holy Week** especially Good Friday (to enable pupils to recognize this key events)

A simplified version of the key event of **Easter Sunday**

BELIEVE

Listen to and talk about the season of **Lent**. Simple Religious **symbols in Lent**. Listen to and talk about the season of Lent.

Jesus died on **Good Friday**.

Jesus rose again on **Easter Sunday**.

Simple Religious **symbols in Easter**. Listen to and talk about the season of Easter. Easter is a celebration that Jesus is with us still. **Easter celebrates new life**.

LIVE

Trying to help others by what **Christians do in Lent**.

Various **cultures celebrate Lent** in different ways.

Lenten customs around the world.

Various **cultures celebrate Easter** in different ways: For example, Easter eggs

CST Rights and Responsibilities Every single person on earth needs these things: food, water, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor.

Some people have what they need, but many people don't.

Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others.

Jesus wants us to take care of this.

Luke 10:25-28 Good News Translation

A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?"

The man answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'" "You are right," Jesus replied; "do this and you will live."

Teacher's Subject Knowledge

We are not to love because we are neighbours in any geographical sense, but we become neighbours to the man farthest from us when we love and help him.

If we prove ourselves neighbours to any man by exercising love to him, then the relation intended by the word is as wide as humanity.

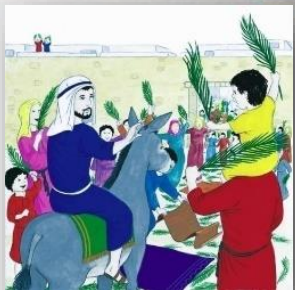
After Jesus says these words he tells the story of ***The Good Samaritan, which is not for EYFS*** but this is how Jesus demonstrates what loving a neighbour can mean. Every detail is beautifully adapted to bring out the lesson that the obligation of neighbourly affection has nothing to do with nearness either of race or religion but is as wide as humanity. This reading is known as a ***commandment*** – a rule from Jesus.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/whats-the-big-idea-love>

Hugo asks, are there different kinds of love?

Love - CBeebies





Matthew 11:8.9 *Good News Translation*

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches in the field and spread them on the road. The people who were in front and those who followed behind began to shout, "Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! ***Some people shouted "Hosanna!"***



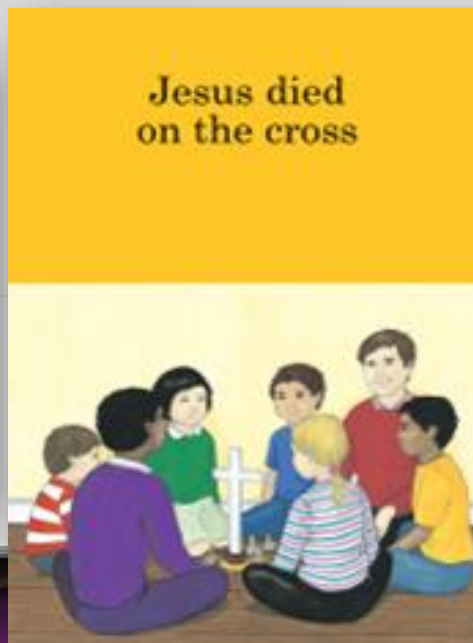
Luke 22:19-20 *Good News Translation*

Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you."

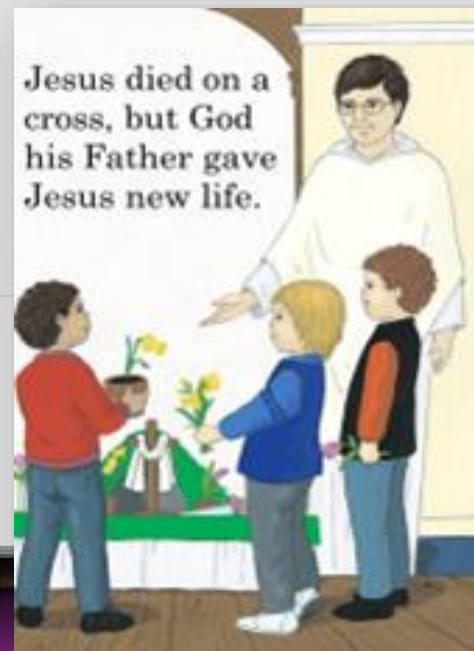
Jesus died on
Good Friday because
he loves all of us.



Jesus died
on the cross



Jesus died on a
cross, but God
his Father gave
Jesus new life.



But this was not the end of the story!

God's Story 1 Notes

- It is enough for young children to know that Good Friday celebrates the day on which Jesus died.
- By **placing a cross in a place of honour**, with growing plants or flowers and lights, we may begin to lead young children to recognise the cross as special, to be honoured with love and respect.
- They will begin to have a sense of death and life and 'life through death'. The focus here is on how younger children ***can participate in the celebration of Good Friday and Easter Sunday***. The Easter Garden(p.35) is a symbol for them of the Easter events.
- Good Friday is a special day. It is a **sad day** because people remember that Jesus died on the cross.
- It is a **good day** because people remember how much Jesus loved us all.
- The ***cross is special because it helps us to remember Jesus' great love***.
- Easter Sunday is a happy day. The priest wears white vestments. White is the special Easter colour. Some churches have an Easter garden to help people remember that Jesus died and was buried, but God his Father gave him new life.
- Spring flowers are a symbol of new life. Easter is the Church's celebration of new life for Jesus and for everyone.

Hot Cross Buns!



- In Ireland, the UK and as far abroad as New Zealand, Australia, Canada and India, Hot Cross Buns are eaten every Good Friday in Christian communities.
- They are symbolic of this significant day in the Christian faith when Jesus was crucified.
- Each bun is decorated with a cross made from flour paste, which represents the cross on which Christ died.
- The spices in hot cross buns are said to represent the spices that were used to embalm Christ after his death.

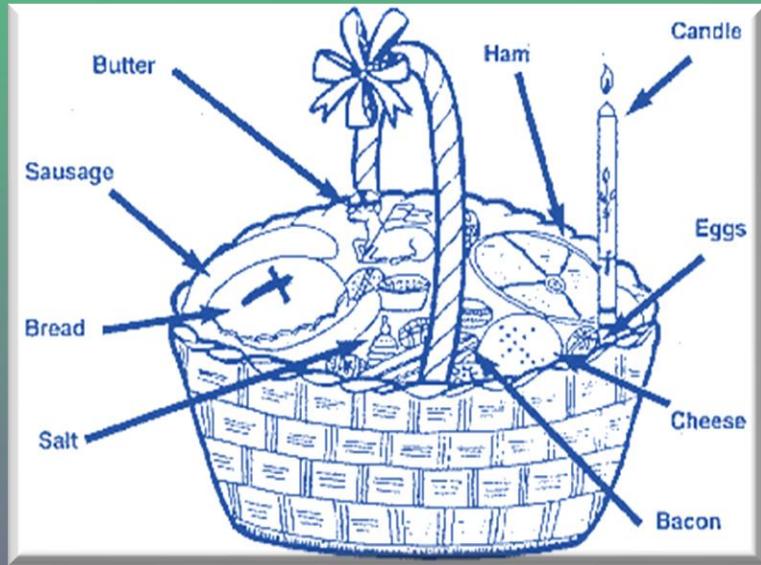
Flour for the bread at Our Lord's Last Meal,

Sultana's for the wine,

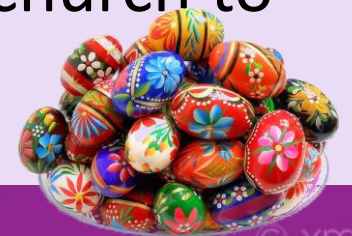
A Cross to tell of his Holy Death,

Spices prepared for His tomb.

Blessing of the baskets



- Holy Saturday: The Polish community bring in the food they are going to eat on Easter Sunday for a blessing of the baskets.
- The day before Easter Sunday – the Saturday activity is the preparation of Easter baskets.
- Lined with a white linen or lace napkin and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (bukzpan), the baskets contain a sampling of Easter foods: pisanki, a piece of sausage or ham, salt and pepper, bread, a piece of cake and an Easter Lamb made of sugar or even plastic. They are brought to church to be blessed.

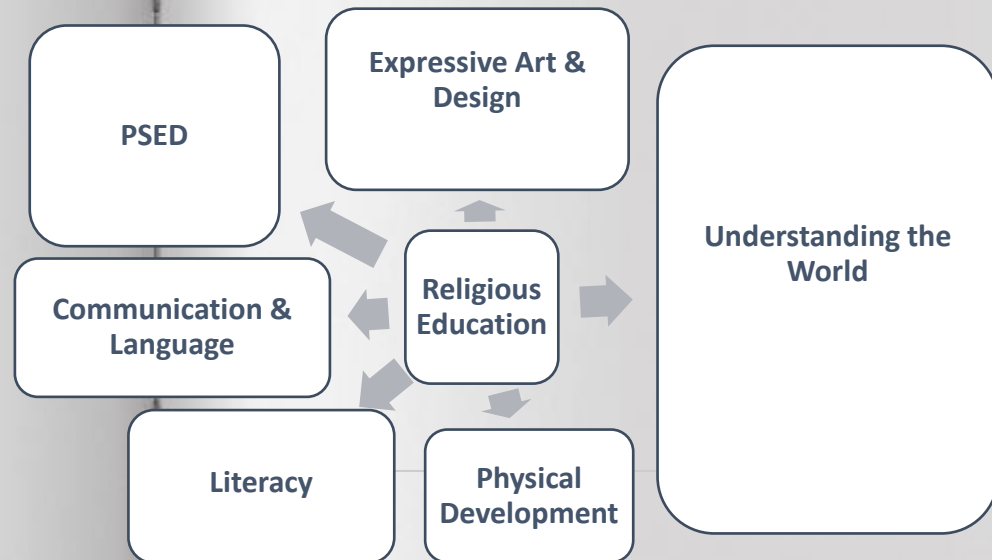


Planning



Organising each half-term

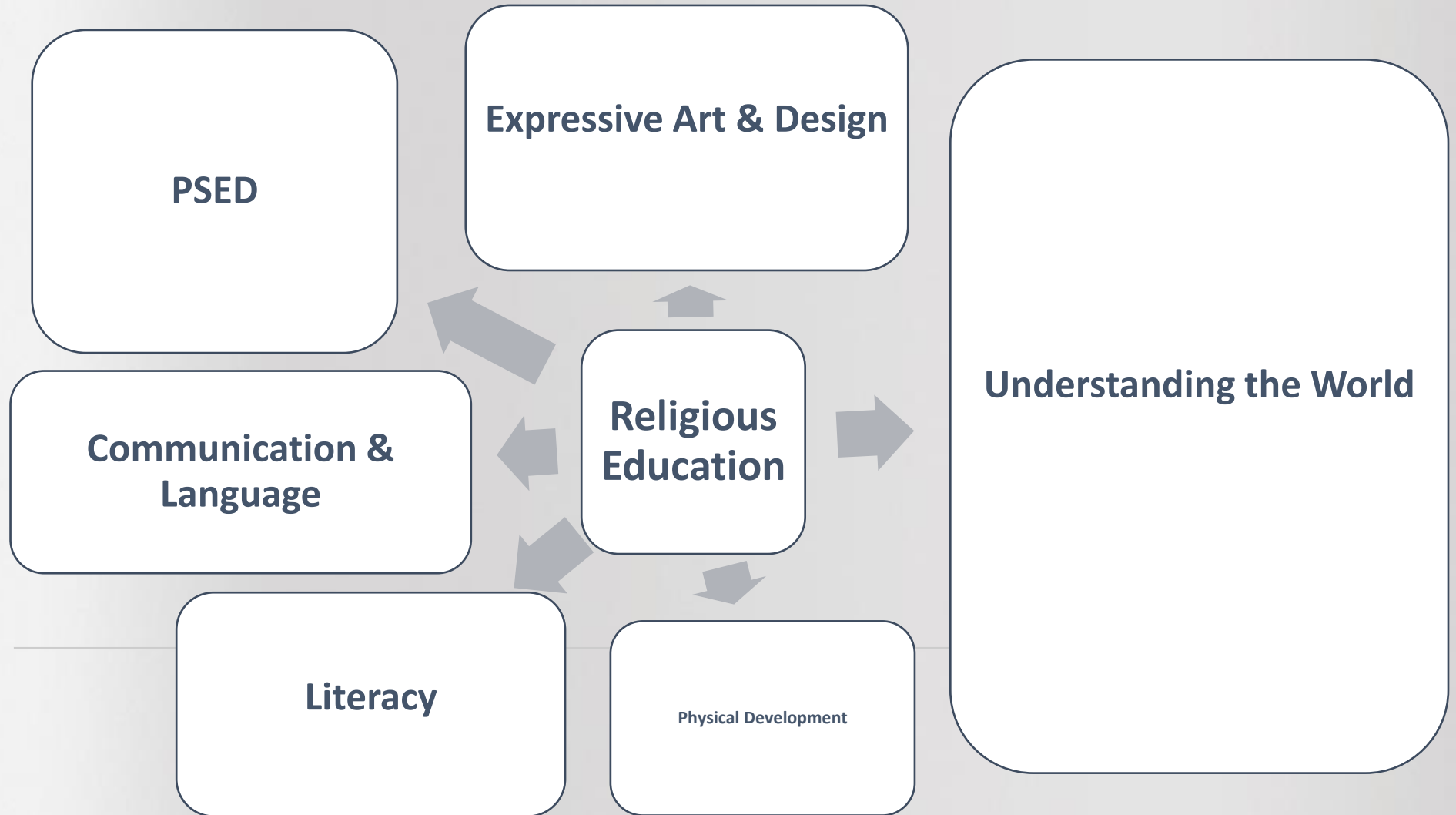
Religious Education	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Communication and Language	Physical Development	Literacy	Understanding the World Nursery	Expressive Art & Design	Liturgical & other calendar events
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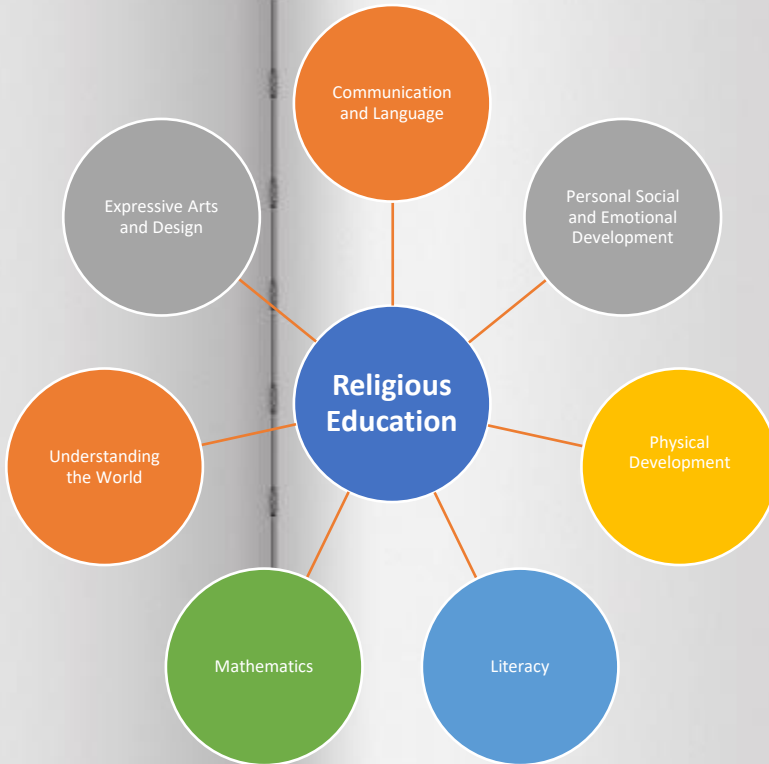


Religious Education

Hear	Believe
Celebrate	Live

What
does
your
half
term
look
like?





- characters, settings, events, problems to be overcome, dialogue, movement, and action. Characters should be identified accurately. Sometimes this will mean that they are named...
- they may be known by their occupation, social position, or role, for example: shepherd, fisherman, widow, Pharisee.
- Place names, settings (houses, synagogues, the Temple, Lake Galilee, etc)
- Cultural and religious practices should not be omitted.
- Such descriptions invite pupils to learn about the land and society they read about and thus increase biblical literacy; they should be seen as opportunities for learning not impediments to be avoided.

- Previous Knowledge
- Key Vocabulary
- Timeline
- Equality
- Drama/Role Play
- Golden Box
- Poetry
- Catholic Social Teaching
- RSHE
- Parents/ Carers
- Home/school/parish
- Parish Priest
- Parish Deacon
- Parish Catechists

- Governors
- Liturgy
- Sacramental Foundations
- Storytelling
- Liturgical Colour Boxes
- Philosophy
- Inclusion
- Culture
- AWE & WONDER
- Seasons/The Natural World
- Beauty
- Senses
- Music
- Art
- Dance

Enhancing Scripture

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Enhancing Scripture



Anyone who has ever visited an Orthodox Church will sense the importance of icons (or religious art) in the worship of Eastern Orthodox Christians. For the Orthodox Church, icons are not simply something nice to have, but they are “essential” because icons are a doorway to the divine, helping the worshiper to draw closer to God.

The word “icon” comes from the Greek word *eikon*, meaning “image.”

- paint from dark to light
- only natural earth pigments
- fast and confess before painting an icon, every time
- Only celibate people can paint ‘real’ icons (!)
- special prayers you have to say while painting (!)
- It’s not painting, it’s writing (!)





May The Light Of Your Soul Guide You, by John O'Donohue

May the light of your soul guide you.
May the light of your soul bless the work
You do with the secret love and warmth of your heart.

May you see in what you do the beauty of your own soul.
May the sacredness of your work bring healing, light and renewal to those
Who work with you and to those who see and receive your work.

May your work never weary you.
May it release within you wellsprings of refreshment, inspiration and excitement.
May you be present in what you do.
May you never become lost in the bland absences.

May the day never burden you.
May dawn find you awake and alert, approaching your new day with dreams,
Possibilities and promises.
May evening find you gracious and fulfilled.

May you go into the night blessed, sheltered and protected.
May your soul calm, console and renew you.

*thank
you*

Thank you—

*God bless you
abundantly!*

