



To Know You More Clearly
The Religious Education Directory
The Early Years



Religious Education at the heart of the Early Years Curriculum



Agenda

Celebration of the Word

Session 1 - Religious Education in the Early Years – the heart of the Curriculum
Creation & Covenant

Break

Session 2 – Prophecy & Promise

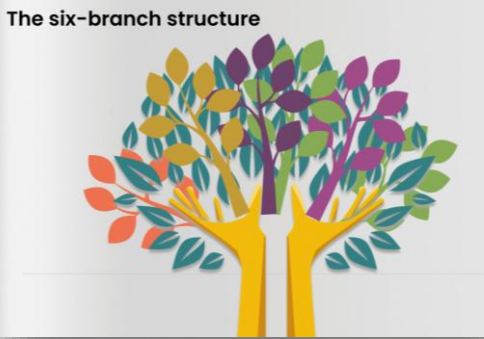
Lunch

Session 3 – Diocese of Shrewsbury EYFS Working party
The way forward with Vine and Branches



To Know You More Clearly ~ the key messages

“It works because it is a story, children can see the whole picture over time.”



We teach and children learn using the four areas...

Christians **Hear** the **Word of God** and try to ... **Understand**, **Discern** **Respond**.

Christians **Believe** because they have heard the **Word of God**... by... **Understanding**, **Discerning**, **Responding**

Christians **Celebrate** because they have heard the **Word of God** and what they believe by... **Understanding**, **Discerning**, **Responding**

Christians **Live** in ways because they have heard the **Word of God**, believed and celebrated by... **Understanding**, **Discerning**, **Responding**

- Previous Religious Education Curriculum Directory divided the study into four systematic subsections on the **four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council: Revelation** (after Dei Verbum), **Church** (after Lumen Gentium), **Celebration** (after Sacrosanctum Concilium), and **Life in Christ** (after Gaudium et Spes).
- New Religious Education Directory there are four knowledge lenses through the four parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

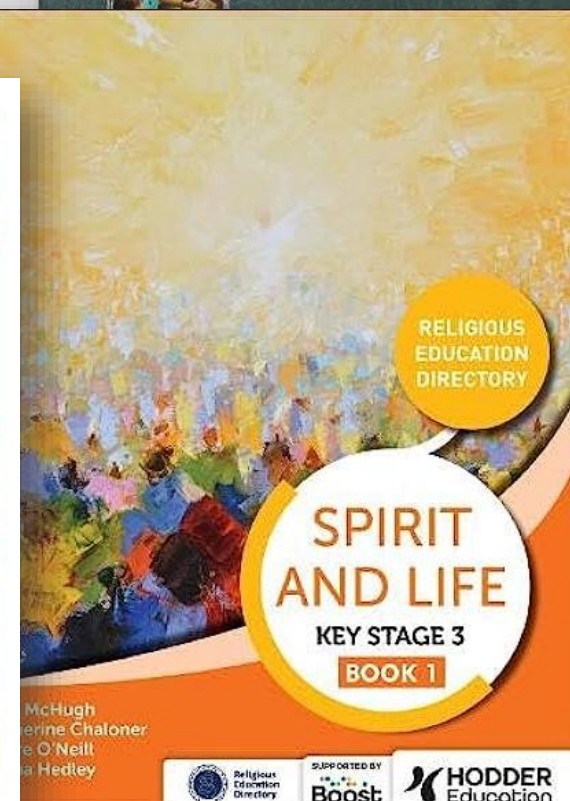
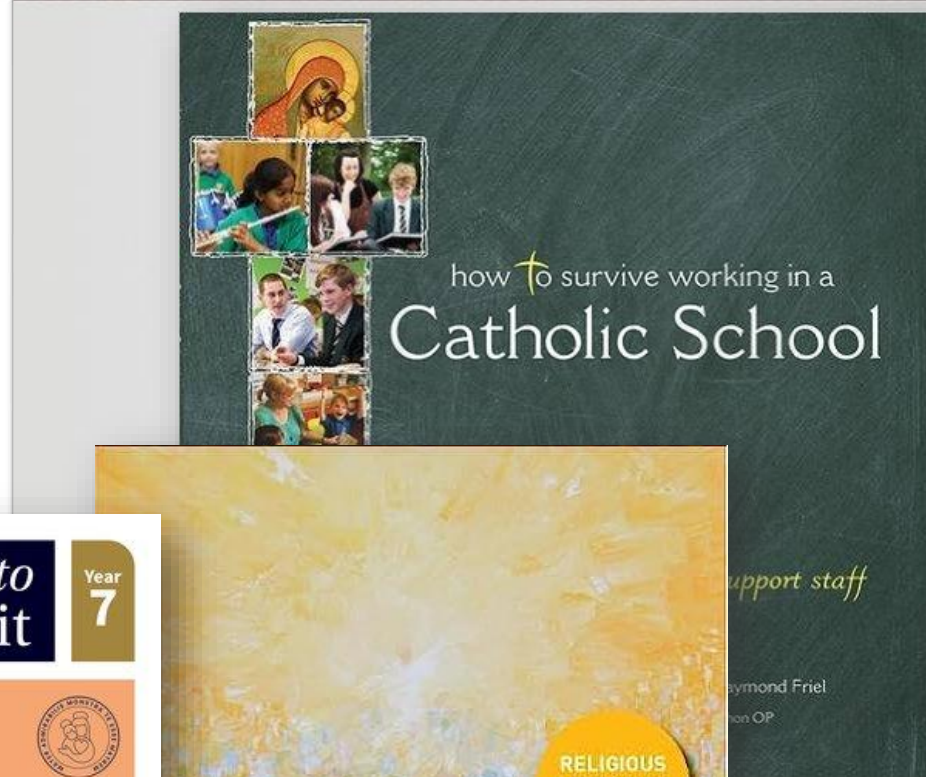
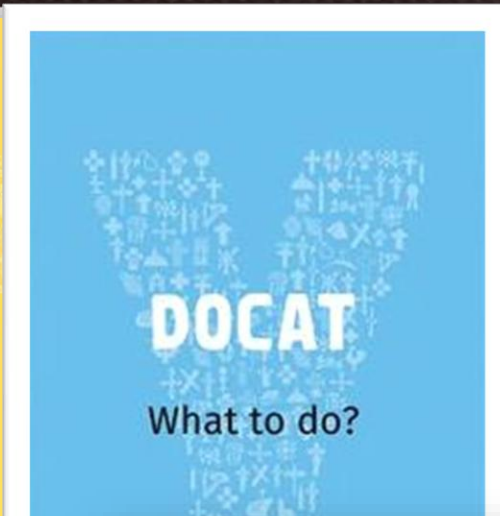
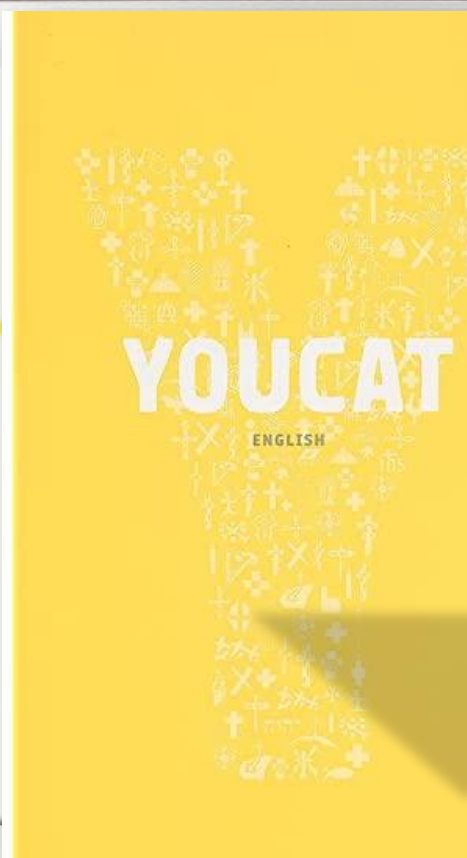
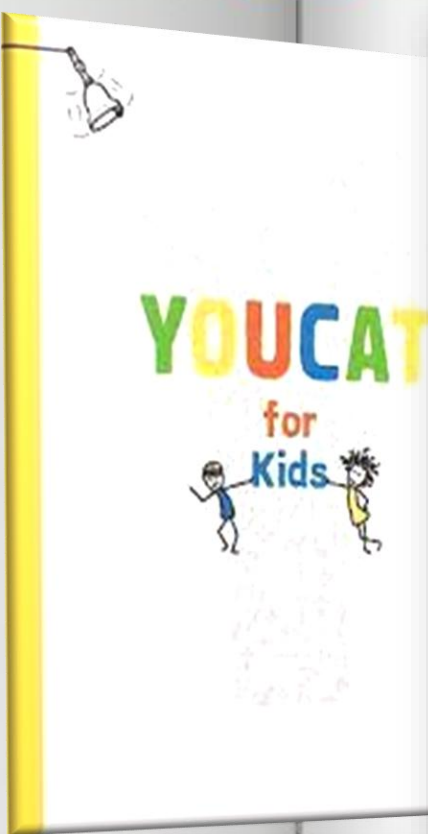
The four lenses are

Hear (Section 1 of Part 1 of the Catechism),
Believe (Section 2 of Part 1 of the Catechism),
Celebrate (Parts 2 and 4 of the Catechism),
Live (Part 3 of the Catechism).

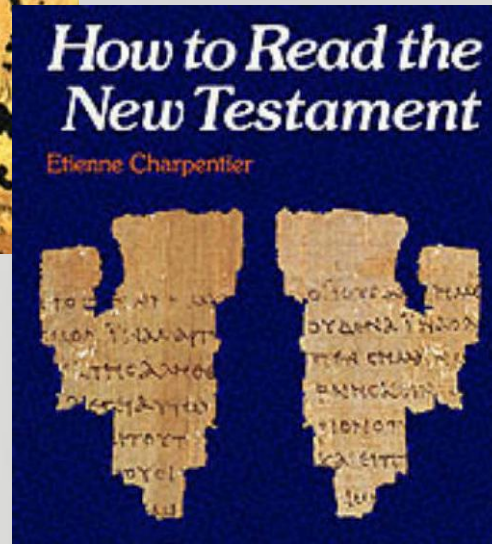
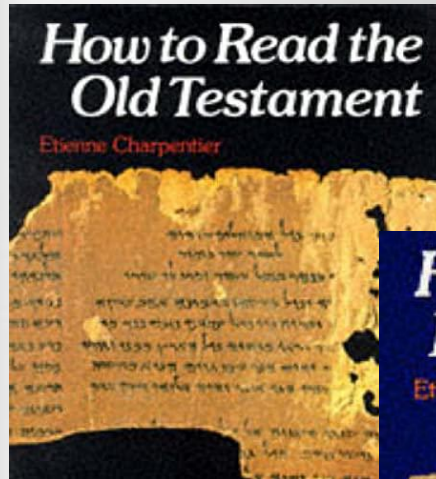
The importance of the Catechism

6

Ways of Knowing		
Understand	Discern	Respond
See	Judge	Act
What will I see and hear to help me understand?	How will I discover more?	What can I do now?
		

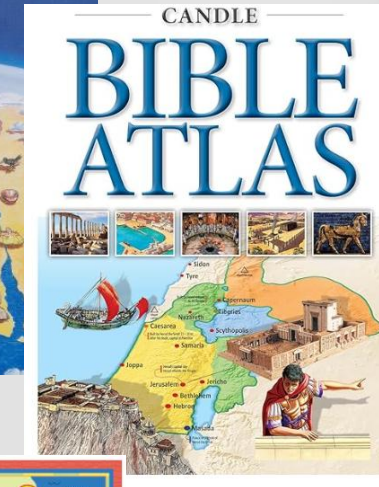
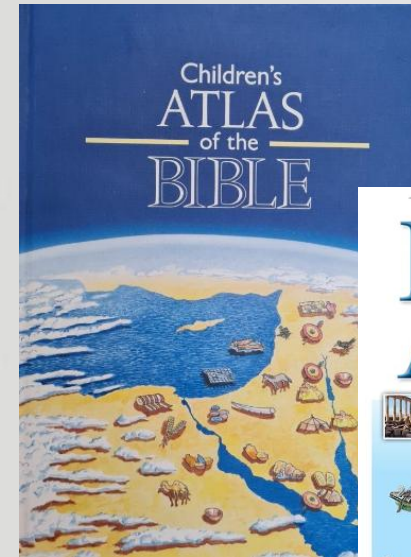


**Supporting teacher's
subject knowledge and
resources**



CCRS
*Recommended
Resources*

Resources



*Simple Maps and
Posters with
information of the
times*

Come and See

Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme



Church's Story 3

The Church's Story
Lived by the People of God



God's Story 2

told by the People of God



pp.70-71

Good News for Zacchaeus (based on Luke 19:1-10)

Talk and Think

What did Zacchaeus do? Why?

What did Jesus do?

Why do you think Jesus stopped to talk to Zacchaeus?

How do you think Zacchaeus felt?

What did some other people feel? Why?

What did Zacchaeus do? (Zacchaeus wanted to put right the wrong things he had done. We can say sorry to each other when we have done wrong. We can say sorry to God.)

Words to notice

a sinner's house (p71) - a 'sinner' was someone who did not keep to the religious laws and practices. Some Jews who kept to the letter of the law looked down on those who did not. In their eyes, a tax collector who mixed with the Romans was a sinner. Levi's story also shows Jesus welcoming 'sinners' and even sitting down to eat with them. Luke is reminding us that God does not judge as we do.

Good News for Zacchaeus

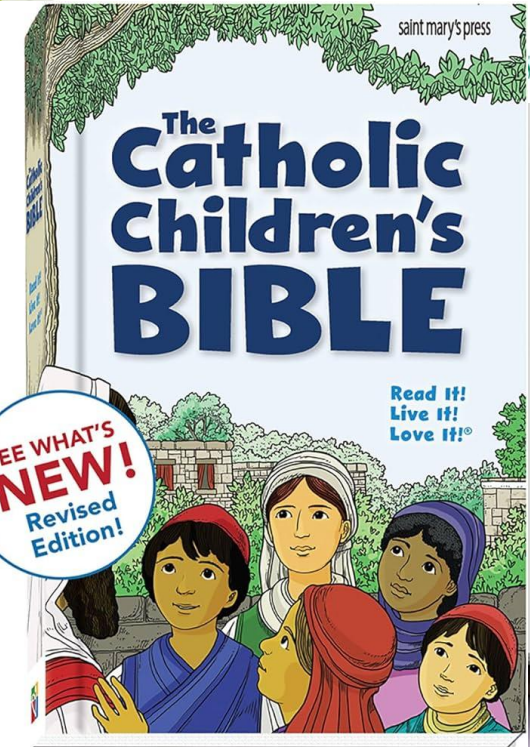
Zacchaeus was lonely, but then he never expected to be anything else.

After all, he was a chief tax collector and nobody liked tax collectors. His job was to collect the people's money for the Romans. Everyone hated him for it, and he paid them back whenever he could by taking too much money and then keeping it for himself. No wonder he was rich! But then that didn't make him any less lonely. One day, there was a crowd gathered in the streets of Jericho because Jesus was passing through. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he couldn't because he was a small man. He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up a sycamore tree. He could see Jesus quite clearly now. Jesus came near the tree, looked up at Zacchaeus and said, "Hurry down, Zacchaeus. I want to stay at your house today."

Zacchaeus couldn't get down fast enough! His heart was beating fast, he was so full of joy. He could hear some of them muttering and complaining. "He has gone to stay at a sinner's house," they said. Zacchaeus looked at Jesus. "Look, sir," he said, "I'm going to give half my belongings to the poor and if I have cheated anybody, I will pay him back four times the amount."

Jesus smiled at him and said, "I am glad, Zacchaeus. This is indeed a happy day for you because I have come to your house today specially to help you change, so that you will please my Father."

(based on Luke 19:1-10)



Early Years

Early Years

The foundation of Religious Education...



Specialism

...careful planning and adaptation

...**every opportunity shared** is a chance to learn and explore

...holistic

...teaching and learning **weave into each area of learning.**

Religious Education is the core subject in a Catholic school... well-resourced ... integrated into other curriculum areas.

...aims to be at the **heart of the curriculum** and at the core of learning

...inform schemes of work and programmes of study

... to enable ...well written, quality holistic planning and **resources for early learning.**

revealing the **Good News**

...making the **little stories of children meet the big stories** told by the disciples.

...Wonder at God's gifts

...flows into reflection and enjoyment... into prayers of praise and thanksgiving.



...story of the **life, death and resurrection** of Jesus through sacred texts, parables, sensory experiences, the symbols and gestures of the sacraments.

...**each individual gift and talents**

...**dignity, loving friendships, responsibility, care for our world and its people, and peace are values they meet in Jesus**

Effective teaching and learning expectations

...activities and experiences for children ...under each of the areas of learning.

*...**playing, exploring, active learning, creating, thinking critically**...*

and include where possible...

*...**wonder and awe** – the Holy Spirit's gift*

...engaged

...astonishing things in nature and in everyday life

...smallest of wonders



Ways of Knowing

... enriched by
... experience
... taught
... learn

... by *understanding*, *discerning* and *responding*... to **SEE**...to **JUDGE** ...to **ACT**

What will I see and hear to help me understand?

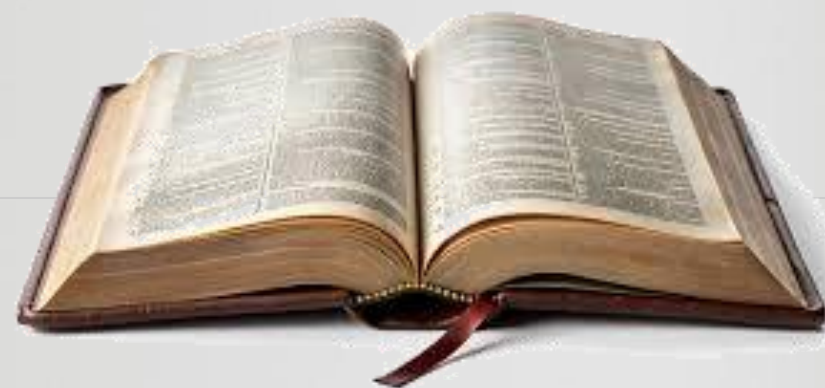
How will I discover more?

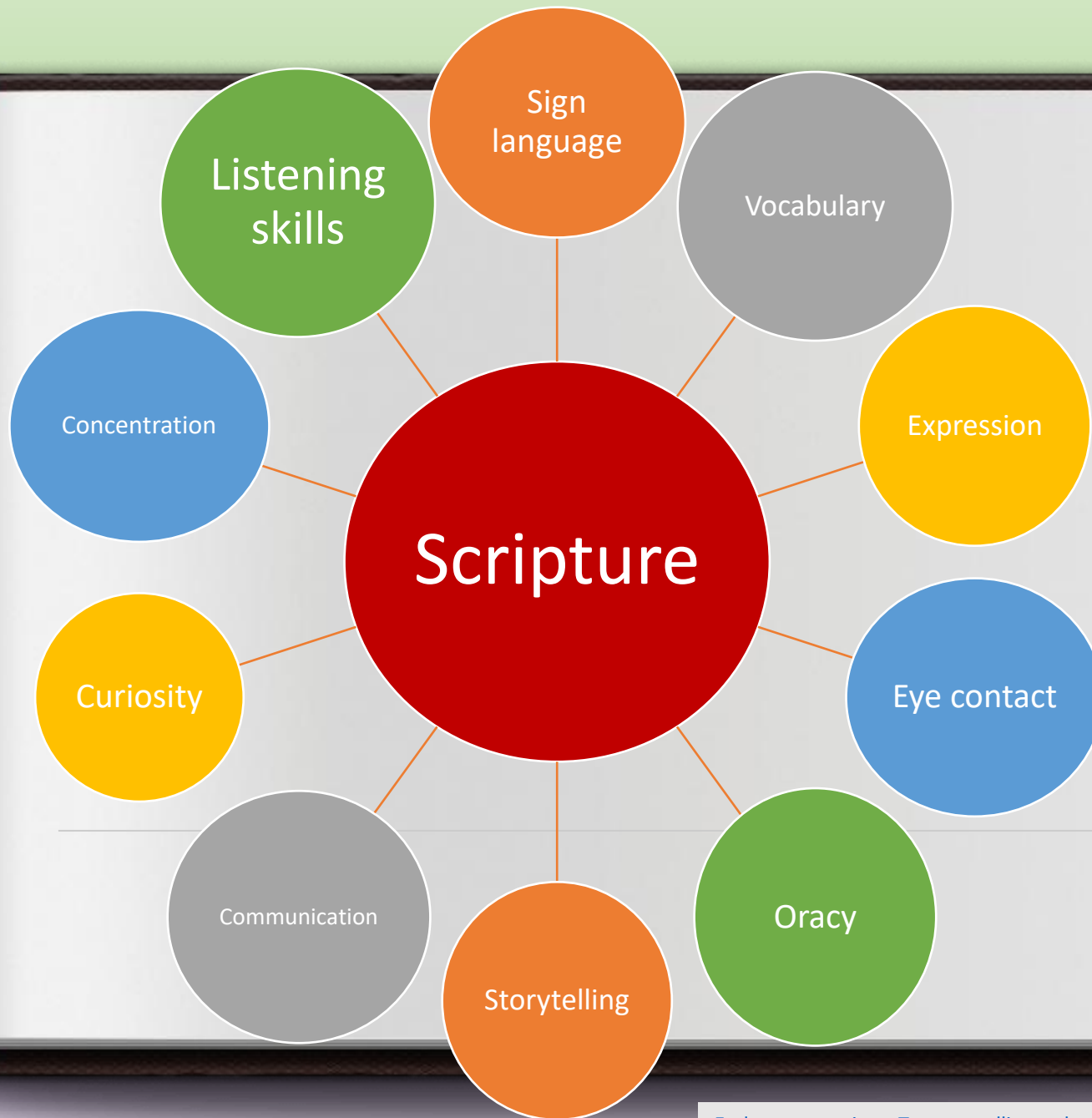
What can I do now?



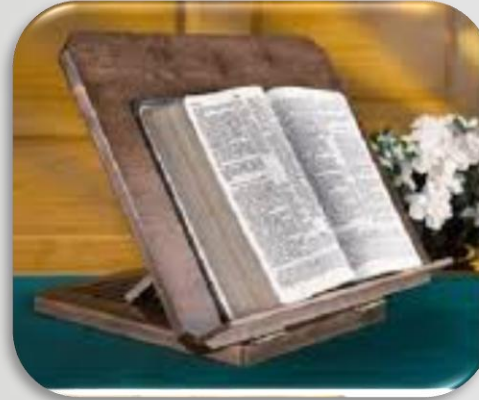


A precious gift



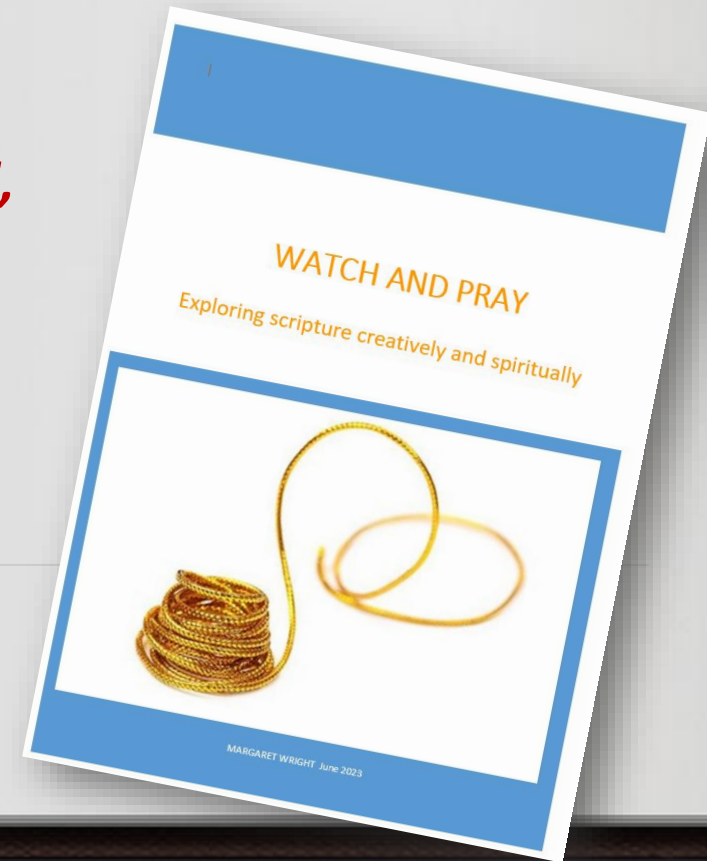
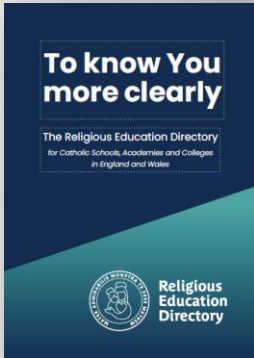


***‘It was a dark
and desolate
place ...’***



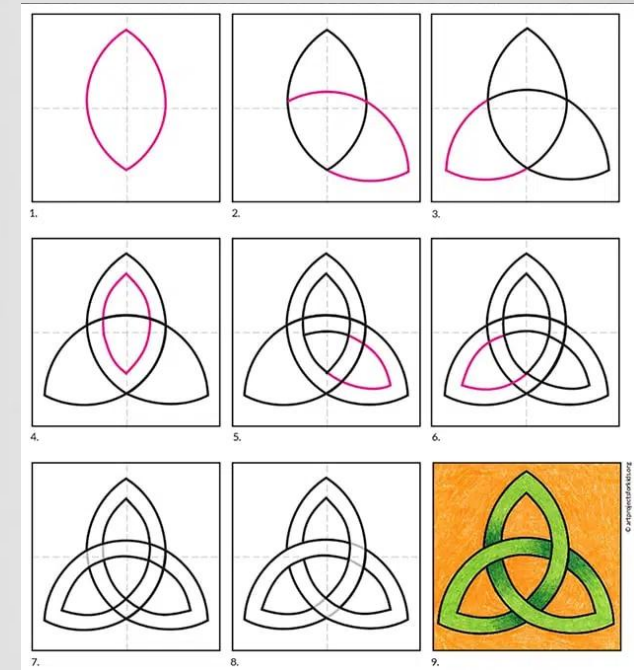
The Art of Storytelling... and the Golden Box!

- ♥ Changes to individual words, phrases, or sentences
- ♥ Turning a metaphor into a simile
- ♥ The 'telling' of passages with the use of concrete materials, such as **'Godly Play'**.
- ♥ ***creatively and spiritually retell the Scripture Story***
- ♥ ***The Golden Thread – a Golden box***
- ♥ ***HEAR – the Scripture***
- ♥ ***Then retell in as many ways – senses, small world, outdoor, role play etc...***





God, Jesus, Holy Spirit



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?

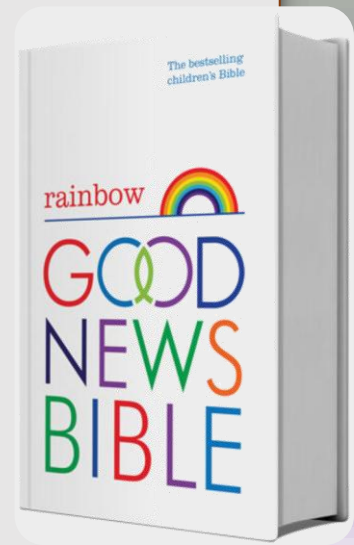
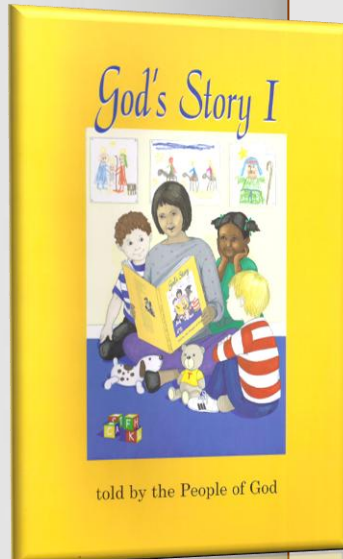
Who can remember what the book is called?

Remember this book tells us all about God.

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



Creation story





Creation

**To know You
more clearly**

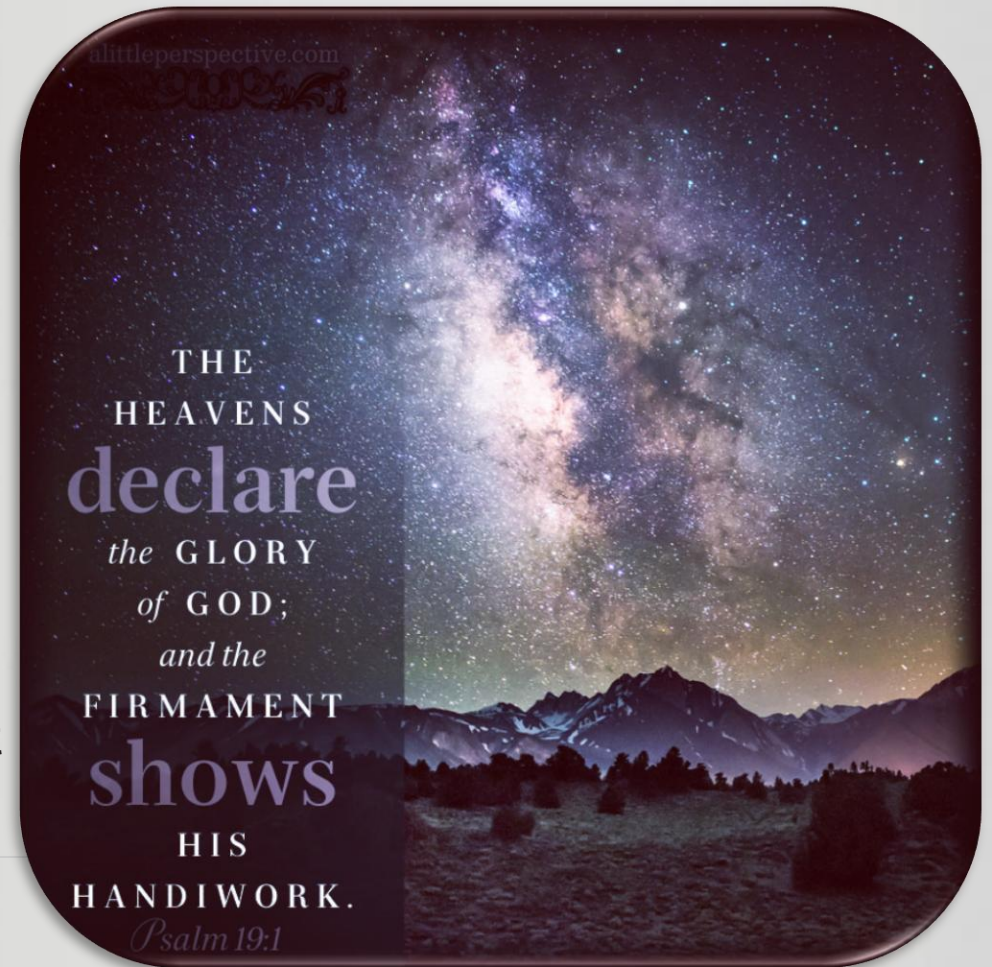
The Religious Education Directory
for Catholic Schools, Academies and Colleges
in England and Wales



Religious
Education
Directory

Creation and covenant: ‘*The heavens are telling the glory of God*’ (Ps 19:1).

In this branch, pupils will encounter the **God who creates and calls a people**. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.



For all year groups

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.

To the Ends of the Earth

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Mt 28:19).

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to love us. The Holy Spirit helps us to love one another.

God is love.

Dialogue and Encounter

'For "In him we live and move and have our being"' (Acts 17:28).

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit love us. They help us to go and talk, meet, share and love one another.

God is love.

Autumn Term

Identify, name, or label something or someone previously seen, heard or encountered.

Use the skills words to complete a variety of activities.

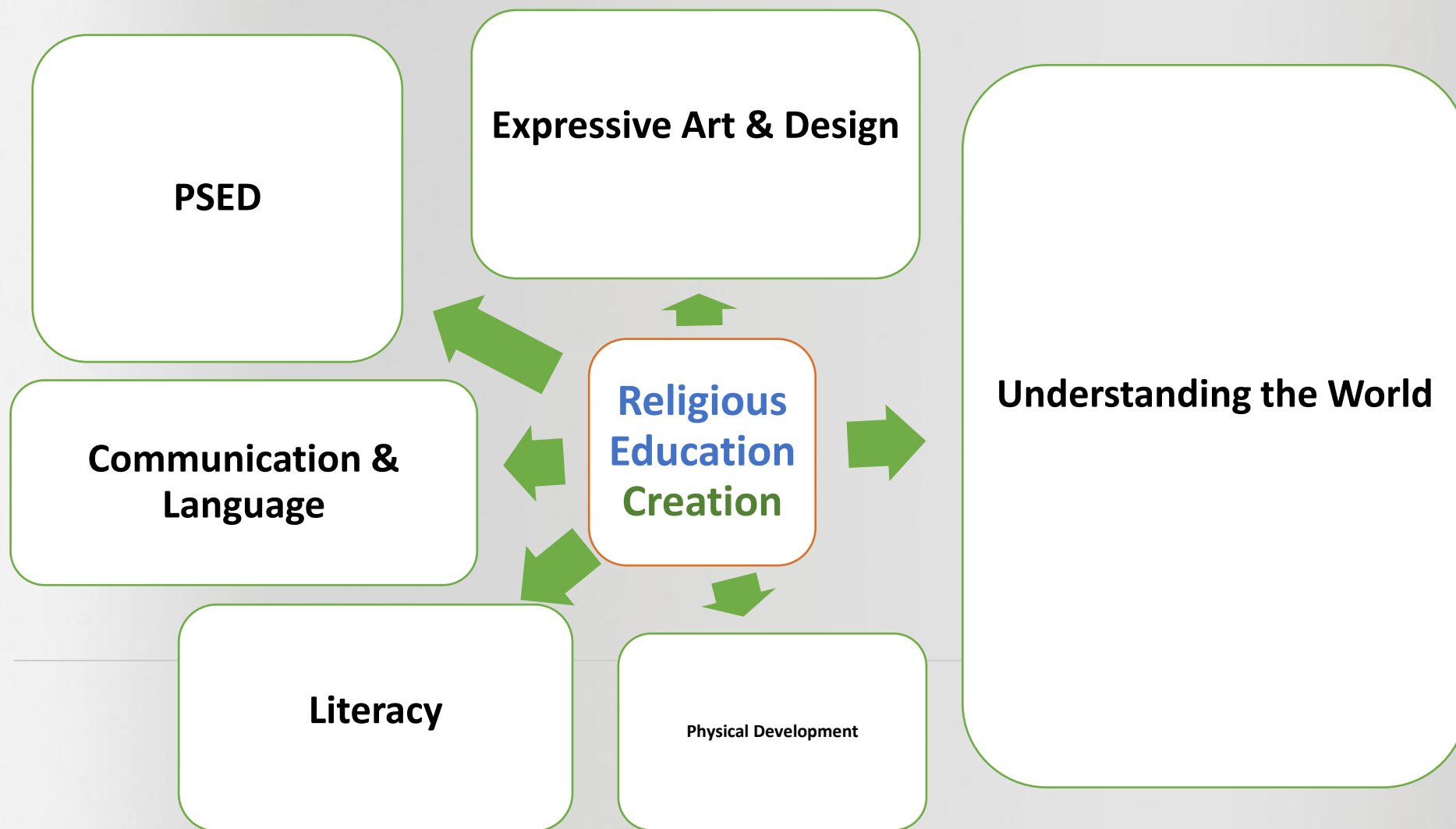
recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence, recall

	Branch 1 Creation and covenant	Branch 2 Prophecy and promise
Hear	God made our beautiful world and everything in it. God made me.	Mary was going to have a baby. His name will be Jesus (Lk 1:26-31, 38). Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Lk 2:4-7). Shepherds hurried to see Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus (Lk 2:8-20).
	The words and actions of the sign of the cross: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen'. God created the world and said, 'Indeed it is very good' (Genesis 1:31). The whole of Creation shows God love for us (Laudato Si' 84-88).	The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-31, 38). The Nativity (Lk 2: 4-7). The Shepherds visit the manger (Lk 2:8-20).
Believe	God made me. God loves me. God loves everyone. God made the wonderful world.	Mary had a baby called Jesus.
	God is love. God made each one of us. God loves each one of us as a unique person. God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. God loves us and we are part of a family. CST God made the Earth and sky. God made all the people all over the world. God made all the animals. God made all the plants. God made the air, the ground, and the water. And God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job! Stewardship	Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his Son. Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Shepherds were told by angels to visit him.

Celebrate	The words and actions of the sign of the cross: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen'. Give thanks for God's wonderful world	Advent wreath. The tradition of the crib. Nativity celebration.
	Celebrate God's beautiful world. The words and actions of the sign of the cross. We enter God's family, the Church, through baptism.	The tradition of the crib to tell the story of Jesus' birth.
Live	Look after me. Look after God's world.	Celebrate Advent, it is a time to get ready for Christmas. God sent Jesus to love us all.
	Care and love for self, family, others, and God's world. CST God made each of us, so each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too. The Dignity of the Human Person	Various cultures celebrate Jesus' birthday in different ways. CST By our work in Advent, we help others and ourselves and we show our love to God. CST All people work in some way. Everyone should be able to work safely so that it helps them because God loves them. The Dignity and Rights of Workers

What is the key message?
Scripture, belief, celebrate,
live

*What
does
your
first
half-
term
look
like?*



Religious Education ~ Creation and covenant

Autumn	Branch 1 Creation and Covenant
Hear	God made our beautiful world and everything in it. God made me. The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" God created the world and said, "Indeed it is very good" (Genesis 1:31) LS 84 – the whole of creation shows God love for us.
Believe	God made me. God loves me. God loves everyone. God made the wonderful world. <u>God is love.</u> God made each one of them. God loves each one of them as a unique person. God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. God loves us and we are part of a family. CST God made the earth and sky. God made all the people all over the world. God made all the animals. God made all the plants. God made the air, the ground and the water. And God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job! <i>Stewardship</i>
Celebrate	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" Give thanks for God's Wonderful World <u>Celebrate God's beautiful world.</u> The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross. ...We enter God's family <u>the Church through</u> Baptism
Live	Look after me. Look after God's world. Care and love for self, family, others and God's world. CST God made each of us, so each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too. <i>The Dignity of the Human Person</i>

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Being me in my world: Self-identity

Communication and Language
Listening games following instructions

Physical Development
Playdough – pinching, pushing, squeezing
Fairy tales: ball specific skills

Literacy
Stories with familiar settings & traditional tales
The Family Book by Todd Parr
Reception:
The Tiger who came to tea,
The three little pigs, Alternative version of 'The three little pigs'.

Understanding the World
Reception
My extended family and changes within my lifetime
The Local area
Diwali & Hannukah
Animals: Where do animals live & what do they need?

Expressive Art & Design
Drawing & colour: Joan Mitchell

Liturgical & other calendar events
Welcome Service
Macmillan
Coffee morning
Harvest
Environment Day (Pope Francis)

Creation and covenant

Hear	God made our beautiful world and everything in it. God made me. The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" God created the world and said, "Indeed it is very good" (Genesis 1:31) LS 84 – the whole of creation shows God love for us.	Celebrate	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" Give thanks for God's Wonderful World <u>Celebrate God's beautiful world.</u> The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross. ... We enter God's family <u>the Church through</u> Baptism
Believe	God made me. God loves me. God loves everyone. God made the wonderful world. <u>God is love.</u> God made each one of them. God loves each one of them as a unique person. God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. God loves us and we are part of a family. CST God made the earth and sky. God made all the people all over the world. God made all the animals. God made all the plants. God made the air, the ground and the water. And God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job! <i>Stewardship</i>	Live	Look after me. Look after God's world. Care and love for self, family, others and God's world. CST God made each of us, so each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too. <i>The Dignity of the Human Person</i>

Ordering?
 What comes first?

EYFS Creation and Covenant – Nursery

5/6 weeks	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	WAYS OF KNOWING
	- God made our world. - God made our <i>beautiful</i> world. - God made our <i>wonderful</i> world.	God made the wonderful world.	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen” 	Give thanks for God’s wonderful world.	Look after God’s world.	What will I see and hear to help me understand? How will I discover more? What can I do now?
	God made our beautiful world and everything in it.	God made the wonderful world.		Give thanks for God’s wonderful world.	Look after God’s world.	What will I see and hear to help me understand? How will I discover more? What can I do now?
	God made me.	God made me. God loves me. God loves everyone.		Give thanks to God for making me.	Look after me.	What will I see and hear to help me understand? How will I discover more? What can I do now?

EYFS Creation and Covenant – Reception

	HEAR	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	WAYS OF KNOWING
	God created the world and said, “Indeed it is very good.” (Genesis 1:31)	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the	God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. CST Stewardship God made the earth and sky. God made all of the animals. God made all of the plants. God made the air, the ground and the water. And God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job!	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross. Thanking God for our wonderful world.	Caring for God’s world.	What will I see and hear to help me understand? How will I discover more? What can I do now?
	God created the world and said, “Indeed it is very good.” (Genesis 1:31)	the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”	God made a wonderful world. What God creates is good.	Thanking God for our wonderful world. Celebrate God’s beautiful world.	Caring for God’s world.	What will I see and hear to help me understand? How will I discover more? What can I do now?
	God created the world and said, “Indeed it is very good.” (Genesis 1:31)		God made me. I am special. I am unique. God made my family. God made my friends. God made each one of them. God loves each one of them as a unique person.	Thank God for me. Thank God for my family. Thank God for my friends.	Care and love for self, family, others and God’s world.	What will I see and hear to help me understand? How will I discover more? What can I do now?
4.	The Church/Parish family.		God loves all of our Church/Parish family. God loves each one of them as a unique person.	Thank God for our Church/Parish family. We enter God’s family - the Church through Foundations of Sacrament		What will I see and hear to help me understand? How will I discover more? What can I do now?

The Story of Creation

¹ In the beginning, when God created the universe,^[a] ² the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God^[b] was moving over the water. ³ Then God commanded, “Let there be light”—and light appeared. ⁴ God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness,⁵ and he named the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

⁸ He named the dome “Sky.” Evening passed and morning came—that was the second day.

¹² So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. ¹³ Evening passed and morning came—that was the third day.

¹⁷ He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. ¹⁹ Evening passed and morning came—that was the fourth day.

²² He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. ²³ Evening passed and morning came—that was the fifth day.

²⁷ So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, ²⁸ blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. ²⁹ I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; ³⁰ but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food”—and it was done. ³¹ **God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.** Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

Genesis 2

Good News Translation

2 And so the whole universe was completed. **2** By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. **3** He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation^[a] and stopped working. **4** And that is how the universe was created.

7 Then the LORD God took some soil from the ground and formed a man^[c] out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live. **8** Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. **9** He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.^[d]

21 Then the LORD God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. **22** He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. **23** Then the man said, "At last, here is one of my own kind— Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh. 'Woman' is her name because she was taken out of man."^[g] **24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one.

Genesis 1 is a structured and poetic account, where the creation unfolds over six days, culminating in the Sabbath rest on the seventh day. This poetic structure emphasises order and the deliberate **actions of God as the creator**.

In contrast, Genesis 2 presents a more narrative-driven account, focusing on the intimate creation of humanity and the Garden of Eden.

Genesis was *not intended as a scientific or historical account* but as a theological narrative conveying spiritual truths.

The poetic nature of Genesis 1, with its rhythmic repetition and symbolic "days," invites readers to look beyond literal interpretations and consider the broader message of God's purposeful creation.



- ♥ Catholics teach that God is the creator of all things visible and invisible.
- ♥ Everything that exists has its ultimate source and origin in God.
- ♥ Catholic schools are not “creationist” - someone who believes in the first books of Genesis are a literal scientific and historic descriptions of the beginnings of the world.
- ♥ Some creationists insist that the earth is only approximately 6000 years old.

This is not the position of the Catholic Church which rejects the creationist interpretation of Genesis.

- ♥ Catholic schools do not teach that God’s creation of the world implies anything about how this creation occurred.
- ♥ The Catholic Church is clear that evolution is currently the best explanation of the origin and diversity of life on earth and that the earth is as old as current scientific orthodoxy suggests (approximately 4.54 billion years old).
- ♥ The doctrine of creation expresses a theological truth –

*that all existence derives from and depends upon God,
whilst evolution expresses scientific truths about the history of the physical universe.*

Catholic schools - creation and evolution??

EYFS Creation and Covenant – Reception

HEAR	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	WAYS OF KNOWING
God created the world and said, “Indeed it is very good.” (Genesis 1:31)	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”	God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. CST Stewardship God made the earth and sky. God made all of the animals. God made all of the plants. God made the air, the ground and the water. And God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job!	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross. Thanking God for our wonderful world.	Caring for God’s world.	What will I see and hear to help me understand? How will I discover more? What can I do now?

Progression

Genesis 1:31

New Revised
Standard Version
Catholic Edition

³¹ God saw everything
that he had made,
and indeed, it was
very good. **God is
Love**

Age 5-6 (Year One) The overarching theme of this year is revelation, how do people know about God?

Genesis 1:1-4

New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition

Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

¹ In the beginning when God created^[a] the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^[b] swept over the face of the waters. ³ **Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.** ⁴ **And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.**

Genesis 1:24-26

New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth **living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth** of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "**Let us make humankind^[a] in our image, according to our likeness;** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^[b] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." **God is Love AND is our Father. All comes from God.**

Age 6-7 (Year Two)

The overarching theme of this year is baptism.

- The story of Noah, focusing on God's covenant (promise) with Noah and all living beings in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:7-17).¹⁴⁵

Age 7-8 (Year Three)

The overarching theme of this year is celebrating the Eucharist.

- That the Creation stories in Genesis use symbolism to explain the relationship between God, human beings, and the world.
- That in the first account of the Creation one day is 'made holy' (Gen 2:3).
- The first account of the Creation, Genesis 1:1-2:4.

Year 6

- The second account of Creation (Genesis 2:5-10, 15-23, 3:1-7, 9-13, 17-19)

HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	WAYS OF KNOWING
*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 storybooks. Why? It is bigger, it has lots of words, but not many pictures ...This book is called the 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)	Introduce... The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen"	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? Leading to the	UNDERSTAND What will I see and hear to help me understand? • Introduction of the Bible to children. Please use the italics as you see fit in class over time and please adapt to suit the needs of the children • Begin to see, hear about the Sign of the Cross • Begin to see and hear about the Bible
				DISCERN How will I discover more?
				RESPOND What can I do now?

Scripture (HEAR) Good News Transla

HEAR

Teacher notes

Suggested Resources

- Golden box
- Good News Bible
- Cloth
- Bible stand



Suggested Resources

<https://youtu.be/QwFausSrBuc>

- School prayers
- Sing Sign of the Cross – John Burland

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_gGERoqhW0

- Sign of the Cross around the World

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

- You tube clip – Making the sign of the cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yq36oI-OuvQ>

- This is called a bible – Can you say Bible? My turn, Bible Our Turn, Bible Your turn, Bible

Good News Translation – Genesis 1:32

³¹ God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.’ *Instead of ‘Indeed it is very good.’*

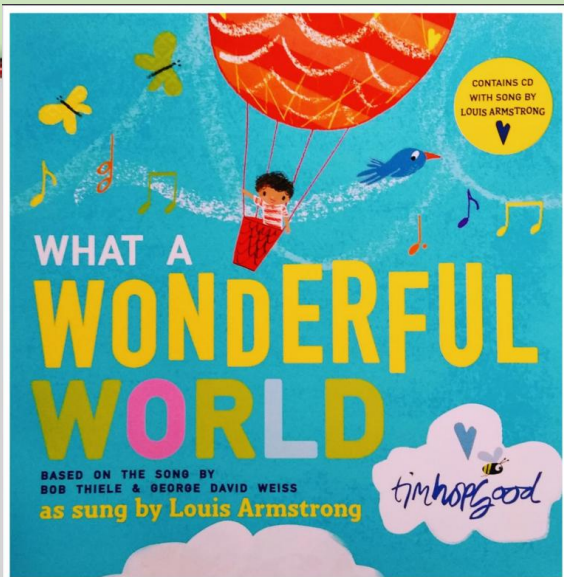
In the Good News version, it says – *he was very pleased* – the version used for the RED is sometimes different. So instead, please change the words by holding the Bible and say –

‘The Bible’s first story is all about the world. God made so many things. After everything he made, he said ***‘Indeed it was very good.’***’

Teacher notes

*Remind children of the special place where we keep the Bible in class. Remember there are lots of words but you will help them to know and understand more about the stories that are in the Bible.

- It is very tempting to read all about God’s creation story in full. However, in Reception we are to stick to the **understanding and celebration that God made a wonderful world and it was very good.** Going beyond this will require other learning and takes away from the overall theme of – ***God who creates and calls people.***
- The children will experience how an adult cares for and reads from the sacred Scriptures (the stories within the Bible)
- Please follow the advice for the first reading from the Good News Bible (see above)



We have a very important job – introduce role play for a Rangers Station – Learners can role play taking care of woodlands by planting new trees, removing dead plant life, building log piles for bugs to thrive and keeping a look out for and protecting deer, foxes, hedgehogs, badgers and birdlife. Other ideas for environmental play through

<https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Role%20Play%20Guide.pdf>



Role Play Ideas and Green Careers

The National Education Nature Park encourages learners to think creatively about a greener future, communicate innovative ideas and work together to increase the biodiversity of their setting. An outdoor role play area encourages imagination and creativity. Learners grow socially and emotionally by putting themselves in someone else's shoes whilst improving their speech and problem-solving skills. By setting up an outdoor role play, learners can role play different green careers and solve imaginary environmental problems. Who knows, your settings next green intervention could be dreamt up in your role play corner! Once designed, the space can be played in repeatedly with little adult input. An area of trees could be a perfect setting for a role play area, but there is always the possibility to bring nature into your indoor setting for learners to interact with.

Below are some roleplay area ideas.

Occupational Role play

Rangers Station – Learners can role play taking care of woodlands by planting new trees, axing down dead plant life, building log piles for bugs to thrive and keeping a look out for and protecting deer, foxes, hedgehogs, badgers and birdlife.

Arctic Explorer – Learners can practise walking across the 'snow' pulling their sledges with food, tool and look out equipment. Make a 'fire' to stay warm and stay on guard to look out and protect polar bears or practise sawing a whole in the ice to fish for survival.

Landscape Architect or Gardener – Learners can practise designing a new wildlife area for their setting, plotting which green intervention to put where and practise using gardening tools either in the earth or in a soil filled tuff spot.

Archaeologist – Learners can use old toothbrushes, tiny trowels and play hammers to dig for historical artifacts.



Inventor – This lab could work well both indoors and out. Learners can enter the lab in their safety goggles and white coats to invent the next biodegradable plastic made from plants, seaweed or soil. They can put their materials through tough testing including melting point, time it takes to turn back into soil, how much weight it can hold and whether its waterproof.

Fictional Role Play

Many books in your book corner will be set in a woodland or natural environment. Setting up a role play in your outdoor area can encourage learners to explore the narrative further whilst also connecting to nature.

Real Life Role Play

This can be based in your construction, loose parts zone or with a pile



BELIEVE

God made me. I am special. I am unique.

God made my family.

God made my friends.

God made each one of them.

God loves each one of them as a unique person.

LIVE

Teachers Notes

- Care and love for self, family, others and God's world.
- **CST** God made each of us, so each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too. The Dignity of the Human Person
- The whole of Creation shows God love for us (Laudato Si' 84–88)

“Chapter Two: The Gospel of Creation” draws on the Bible as a source of insight. The Genesis creation stories are interpreted as enjoining responsible cultivation and protection of nature. Past attempts to justify the absolute human domination of other species are “not a correct interpretation of the Bible” (LS 67). The natural world is further portrayed as a **gift, a message, and a common inheritance of all people.**

Why did God make human beings?

Catholics believe that human beings have the highest dignity of all the created world. BUT humanity is charged with taking care of the rest of creation. Being the highest of creation obliges us to guard and protect, not abuse and destroy. We can therefore use animals for food or clothing or research if it is ordered toward the good of humanity, provided we treat them with their due dignity.

***It is enough for children to understand that we can see the world as a gift, a message from God. Laudato Si – is a letter written by Pope Francis – and will be explored further into the year and in Year 1 Creation in more detail.**



The Promise Tree





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...

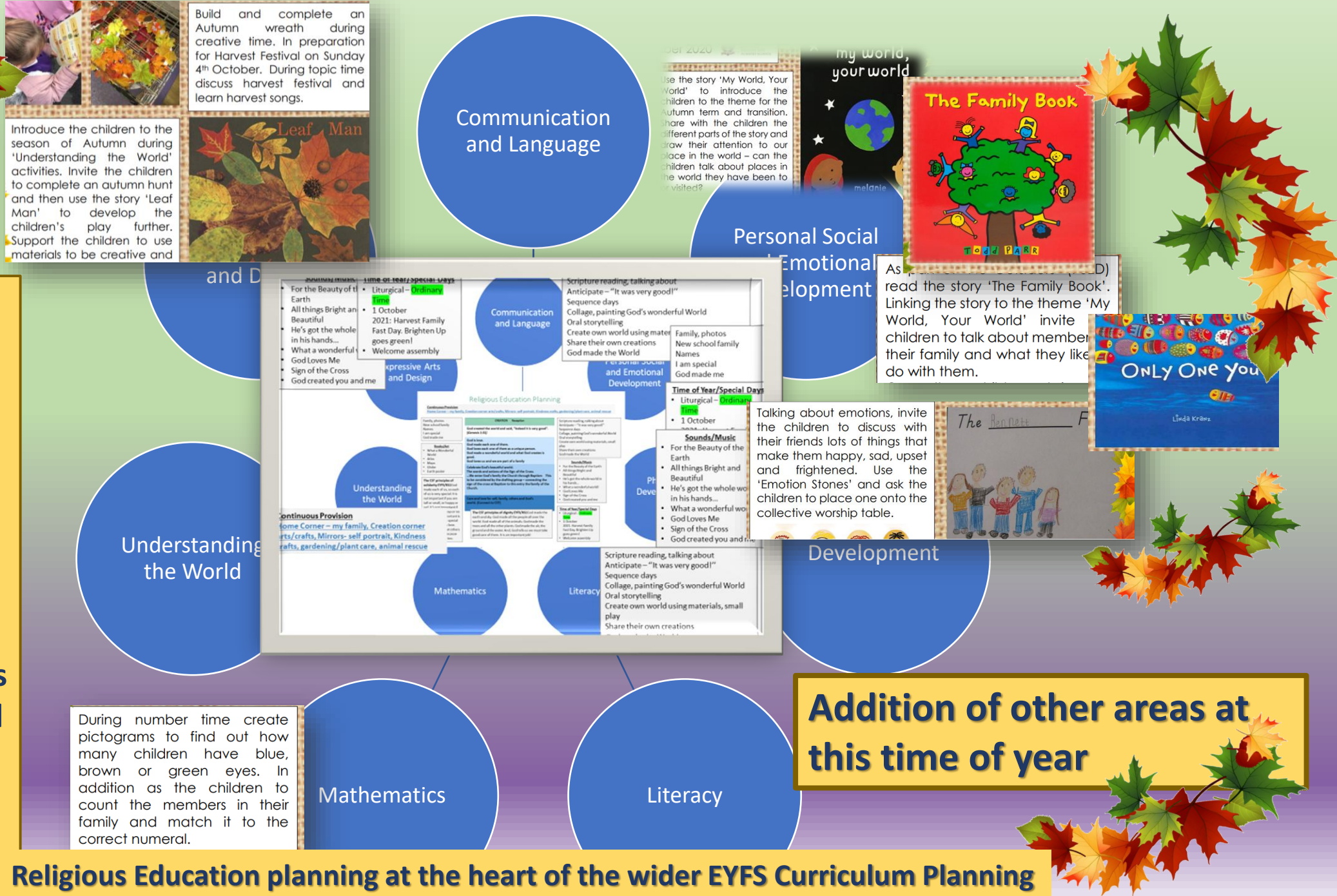


What about Jesus?



Nativity story

Here Religious Education as central theme and its planning. Moves to linking to other areas of learning. Then wider into typical Autumn 1st term activities and how this will feed into one another



Branch 1: Creation and Covenant



We gathered in a circle and we discovered a special treasure chest. Inside there was something that was very special. We listened to quiet music and we passed the treasure chest around the circle. The children had a look inside and discovered that the precious thing was them! I encouraged the children to recognise that we are all special, different and unique.



We listened to the scripture that said "You made me, God. You were there at my very beginning." We talked about how we are all special and unique, and God made us that way.

"You made me, God."



We talked about how we all look different, we have different skills and talents, and different likes and interests. We started to recognise that God made us that way and we are all precious and special to him.



Autumn	Branch 1 Creation and Covenant
Hear	God made our beautiful world and everything in it. God made me.
	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" God created the world and said, "Indeed it is very good" (Genesis 1:31) <u>LS 84 – the whole of creation shows God love for us.</u>
	God made me. God loves me. God loves everyone.
	God made the wonderful world. <u>God is love.</u> God made each one of them. God loves each one of them as a unique person. God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. God loves us and we are part of a family. CST God made the earth and sky. God made all the people all over the world. God made all the animals. God made all the plants. God made the air, the ground and the water. And God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job! Stewardship
Celebrate	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen" Give thanks for God's Wonderful World <u>Celebrate God's beautiful world.</u>
	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross. <u>...We enter God's family the Church through Baptism</u>
Live	Look after me. Look after God's world.
	Care and love for self, family, others and God's world. CST God made each of us, so each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too. The Dignity of the Human Person

The children listened to the scripture from Isaiah 43: 1-2...

**“God says you are precious to me. I love you.
I know you. I know your name.”**





My name is Bobby. God loves me!

We talked about how we are all precious to God. He loves us and he knows our names.

We sat in a circle and we talked about how we all have a special name and everyone's name is important.

The children held their self-registration tags with their names on and we placed the scripture in the middle of the circle. The children placed their names around the scripture as we said “My name is _____. God loves me!”



We talked about how God loves everyone. He loves us, our friends, our families, our teachers and we are all special to him. We made a banner saying ‘God loves everyone!’ and the children were invited to draw somebody that God loves. This helped us to recognise that God loves everyone!



I'm drawing my mummy! Style-Hae

It's my sister Darla! Maggie

The children all drew somebody on the banner and each time we talked about how God loves that person and God loves everyone! We added the banner to our display in class.






Autumn	Branch 1 Creation and Covenant
Hear	God made our beautiful world and everything in it. God made me.
	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen” God created the world and said, “Indeed it is very good” (Genesis 1:31) <u>LS 84 – the whole of creation shows God love for us.</u>
Believe	God made me. God loves me. God loves everyone. God made the wonderful world. <u>God is love.</u>
	God made each one of them. God loves each one of them as a unique person. God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. God loves us and we are part of a family. CST God made the earth and sky. God made all the people all over the world. God made all the animals. God made all the plants. God made the air, the ground and the water. And God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job! Stewardship
Celebrate	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen” Give thanks for God’s Wonderful World <u>Celebrate God’s beautiful world.</u>
	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross. <u>...We enter God’s family the Church through Baptism</u>
Live	Look after me. Look after God’s world.
	Care and love for self, family, others and God’s world. CST God made each of us, so each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too. The Dignity of the Human Person

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*

Welcome everyone.

Come in and see
our wonderful work.



Prophecy and Promise

Prophecy and promise:

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

The prophets speak of God reaching to his people, calling them back into a relationship with him. In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ. They will explore the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ. Pupils will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.



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.

To the Ends of the Earth

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Mt 28:19).

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to love us. The Holy Spirit helps us to love one another.

God is love.

Dialogue and Encounter

'For "In him we live and move and have our being"' (Acts 17:28).

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit love us. They help us to go and talk, meet, share and love one another.

God is love.

Prophecy and Promise	Mary was going to have a baby. His name will be Jesus (Lk 1:26-31, 38). Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Lk 2:4-7). Shepherds hurried to see Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus (Lk 2:8-20) The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-31, 38). The Nativity (Lk 2: 4-7). The Shepherds visit the manger (Lk 2:8-20)	The Annunciation (Lk 1: 26-38, focusing on 1:26-32, 38) The Visitation (Lk 1:39-45) • The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:4-8) The Visit of the Shepherds (Lk 2:8-20)	The Annunciation of John the Baptist (Lk 1:5-20) The Annunciation of Jesus (Lk 1:26-38) The Visitation (Lk 1:39-50, 53) The birth of John the Baptist (Lk 1:57-58) Zechariah's voice is restored (The circumcision of John the Baptist) (Lk 1:59-66, 67,76) The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-8) Including, for the season of Advent: Is 7:14, 9:1-2, 5-7 (Extracts from the book of Immanuel)
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Progression

Luke 1: 26-31, 38

The Annunciation

God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. ²⁷ He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

²⁹ Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. ³¹ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. He will be a special King. ~~The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, ³³ and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"~~

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." Mary said, 'Yes,' I will have a baby and call him Jesus. And the angel left her.

Teacher notes

Please see the adapted reading above – At this age the children won't need to hear about the descendants of Jacob – this learning will happen in later years.

****Retelling the story** Please be very careful when choosing any other resources from for e.g. from YouTube cartoons as the images and words may lead children to think of the story as magic! The story is known as a 'mystery' to Catholics and should be told as it is in the Bible.

Beauty in the Word

Stratford Caldecott.

The 'Catholicism' in a Catholic School cannot simply be added to an existing curriculum or atmosphere. Precisely because a religious faith affects everything, even changing the way we view the cosmos, it cannot be compartmentalised.

Revelation subtly alters the way every subject is taught as well as the relationships between them. What is revealed connects them severally and together to our own destiny, to the desire of our hearts for union with infinite truth. At that point, everything becomes interesting. There are no boring subjects – nothing can be ugly or pointless unless we make it so, turning our backs on the Giver of Being.

- **Introducing Mary to the children.**

“We are going to hear a story from the Bible about a very special lady called Mary. Mary was very good when she was a little girl. She always did as she was told and was kind and loving to everyone. When she grew up she was going to get married to a man named Joseph. ”

Reenact this with play figures and introduce Mary and Joseph – display them on the prayer table/focus so children start to identify them. Explore how they always try to be good for their mums or people who look after them.







Jesus was not laid in a manger by accident. It is a major spiritual symbol. Animals go to the manger for physical food, but with Jesus lying on the hay, we can go to the manger for spiritual food.

Jesus has an infinite storehouse of nourishment available, and we can approach him any time and never go hungry. Jesus feeds us with his love.

Please Note

***The Nursery activity is built around using a large crib – for class prayer and worship and end-of-topic reflection, the
* Reception activity is an individual small crib which can then be used for individual prayer and shared at home – this will progress prayer and understanding that Jesus' love is for everyone and as a personal response. If you do not have a Nursery setting please choose either a larger class crib or individual – or maybe both!**

Preparing the manger/crib

is the practice of preparing a soft bedding in the manger for Jesus by using little wisps of straw as tokens of prayers and good works through the season of Advent. This is originally a French custom that quickly spread to other countries. Every night the child is allowed to put in the crib one straw for each act of devotion, good work or sacrifice performed. "Thus the Christ Child, coming on Christmas Day, finds an ample supply of tender straw to keep Him warm and to soften the hardness of the manger's boards" (Francis Weiser, Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs, 1958).

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, ¹⁰ but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. ¹¹ This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! ¹² And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. ¹⁹ Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. ²⁰ The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.







Baby Jesus' Bed



Based on the book, The Last Straw by Paula Palangi McDonald



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