

# A PARISH-BASED PROGRAMME for children who attend schools other than Catholic schools



Senior  
Infants  

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Primary 2





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# Introduction

Welcome to the *Grow in Love* parish religious education programme. This programme is intended for the religious education and sacramental preparation of Catholic children who are not attending Catholic primary schools. The Church recognises the fundamental place of parents in their child's education in the faith and this basic understanding is reflected in the Church's documents on religious education and family life. The Catholic school supports parents in their role as their child's 'first and best teachers' in the ways of faith. Where a Catholic child does not attend a Catholic school, a parish will endeavour to provide the appropriate religious education and preparation for the sacraments for children. This is done at the request of parents and with their cooperation and support. (See *Catholic Primary Schools – A Policy for Provision into the Future*, 2.2) While working together to provide Catholic religious education for their children both parents and parish communities should remember that:

- Weekly attendance at Sunday Eucharist is the principal sign of the commitment of parents to the religious education of their child.
- It is desirable that children be enrolled in the parish religious education programme from Junior Infants continuously until such time that they complete their primary schooling.
- It is the duty of the parish priest to ensure that 'children are properly prepared for First

Confession and First Holy Communion and for the Sacrament of Confirmation, by means of catechetical formation over an appropriate period of time'. (Canon 777.2)

- Local diocesan norms regarding the religious education of Catholic children attending non-Catholic schools may exist and should be adhered to.

It is intended that the programme of work outlined in this book should be led by catechists who are qualified primary school teachers and who have completed a certified course in religious education. The appropriate safeguarding procedures should apply to these catechists. Local circumstances will dictate the length and frequency of the sessions provided for children taking part in this programme. The sessions outlined in this book presume that children attend an hour-long session once a week. Where this is not the case, the programme should be adapted. What is outlined in this book mirrors the content and pedagogical approach employed in the *Grow in Love* programmes for Catholic primary schools. It should be used in conjunction with the appropriate teacher's kit, including posters, music CDs and access to online resources. It is also vital that children use the appropriate children's book as part of this programme. This provides the link with home that is central to religious education.



# Theme 1: Our World

1: God is with us .....	p. 2
2: God Created Our World .....	p. 3
3: Thank you, God, for our world .....	p. 4
4: God asks us to care for the world .....	p. 5

## 1: GOD IS WITH US

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 1 (p. 22/23)
- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 24)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Bible
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Psalm 139, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Explain that God is with us at all times
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Summarise Psalm 139 in their own words, according to their own ability

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Appreciate the love and care of people around them, which helps them to know the love of God
  - Grow in trust that God is with them, always and everywhere
  - Develop a sense of being loved and cared for by God

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting to the children about starting a new school year as outlined in the introduction to the story 'Another New Beginning' (p. 25).
- Read the story 'Another New Beginning' (p. 25). Discuss the questions that follow the story.

### Let's Learn ...

- Show the children the Bible and ask them what they already know about it. See how many Bible stories they can name. Read from scripture 'God is Everywhere' (p. 27). Discuss the questions that follow.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 2).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: God is with us, always and everywhere. God knows us and God loves us. King David knew this. He wrote many poems called psalms to help other people to understand this.
- Lead the children in praying the *Sign of the Cross* and *Glory Be To The Father* (p. 287).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 3) for homework.

## 2: GOD CREATED OUR WORLD

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 30)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 4
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Describe their favourite things about the summertime
  - » Tell the Creation story (Gn 1:1-25) in their own words, according to their own ability
- *Understanding:*
  - » Wonder why God created human beings
  - » Identify that human beings are the high point of God's Creation

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Develop a sense of gratitude to God for the natural world
- Develop a sense of wonder and awe in the created world

### Let's Look ...

- Begin the lesson by discussing summer with the children. Use the questions based on the video (p. 31) to guide the conversation but omit showing the video.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'Creation Story' – Part I (p. 32) and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Read from scripture 'Creation Story' – Part II (p. 33) and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Recall the second part of the 'Creation Story' – God created people. Tell the children that our bodies are a gift from God. Discuss the amazing things we can do with our bodies using the questions following the poem 'My Body' (p. 34).
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 4).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: In the beginning, there was nothing: no animals, no plants and no people. God did not want things to be this way, so God made the world and everything in it. God made people to be good and generous and loving, just like God is.
- Introduce the song 'Thank You, God, for Our World' (Track 4, p. 48) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Lead the children in praying *Glory Be To The Father* (p. 287).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 5) for homework.

### 3: THANK YOU, GOD, FOR OUR WORLD

#### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 36)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 4, photocopy of template (p. 52) cut up into flashcards, Poster 1: David
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

#### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Tell the story of the early part of the life of King David in their own words, according to their own ability
  - » Identify one way in which they can care for the world
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Pray Psalm 104 together
  - » Pray the *Glory be to the Father* with appropriate gestures and actions

#### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Identify one way in which they can care for the world
- Begin to develop an awareness of their duty to care for God's Creation

#### Let's Look ...

- Begin by completing the Guessing Game activity (p. 37) using the flashcards showing pictures of things that God made.
- Lead the children in praying the *Glory Be To The Father* using the actions described on p. 37.

#### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'David Loved God's World' (p. 38).
- Show the children Poster 1: David and discuss the questions that follow the story (p. 39).
- Introduce Psalm 104, 'O God, How Great You Are!' (p. 39) to the children.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 6).

#### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Long, long ago, there lived a man called David. David loved being outdoors, and gave glory to God for all the wonderful things that God made. David wrote psalms praising God. We can read these psalms from the Bible.
- Sing the song 'Thank You, God, for Our World' (Track 4, p. 48).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 7) for homework.



## 4: GOD ASKS US TO CARE FOR THE WORLD

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 41)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Online Resources: video 'Our Wonderful World', CD Track 5
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Explore the story of the Creation of human beings
  - » Identify one way in which they can watch over and care for the world in response to that Scripture passage
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Pray the *Morning Prayer*

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Begin to develop an awareness of their duty to care for God's Creation

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by showing the children the video 'Our Wonderful World'. Chat with the children about the video using the questions on p. 42. Alternatively, if online material is not available in your classroom, carry out the discussion without showing the video.
- Lead the children in praying the *Morning Prayer* (p. 42).

### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'Creation Story' – Part II (p. 43) and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the song 'Caring for God's World' (Track 5, p. 50) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Ask the class the following questions: Do you think it's important that we care for the world? Why or why not? What things do you do in your classroom to show that you can watch over and care for the world as God wants us to?

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: When we read the story of Creation, we learn that God created people to watch over and take care of the world. There are many ways in which we can care for the world that God made.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 8).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 9) for homework.

# Theme 2: We Belong

- 1: I belong in my family ..... p. 6
- 2: My family belongs in a community ..... p. 7
- 3: We all belong in one human family ..... p. 8
- 4: We can pray to God ..... p. 9

## 1: I BELONG IN MY FAMILY

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 2 (p. 54/55)
- Read ‘Before You Begin’ (p. 56)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, photocopy of the template on p. 82 for each child, Online Resources: video Vox Pop
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Matthew 6, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Explore God’s love for them as experienced in the love and care of their families
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Illustrate their own family tree, and name the people who belong to their family
  - » Explain that God loves and cares for every family

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Appreciate the love and care of people around them, which helps them to know the love of God
  - Begin to recognise that every family is different, and that God loves and cares for every family

### Let’s Look ...

- Begin by chatting with the children about belonging to our class. Use the questions based on the interactive activity ‘We Belong’ (p. 57) as a guide for this conversation but omit completing the interactive activity.

### Let’s Learn ...

- Read the story ‘Alanna Asks’ (p. 58). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Give each child a copy of the family tree template (p. 82). Invite the children to draw pictures of their family members. This art activity may need to be finished at home by the child with the help of their family.
- Show the children the Vox Pop video which features different families introducing themselves. Discuss the video as outlined on p. 60. Alternatively, if your class does not have access to online material, complete the activity to the best of your ability without showing the video.
- Complete activity in Children’s Book (p. 10).

## Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Children belong to many groups, both in school and outside of it. The most important group to which we belong is our family. Families do many things to show that they love and care for each other.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 11) for homework.
- Lead the children in praying *Morning Prayer* (p. 287).

## 2: MY FAMILY BELONGS IN A COMMUNITY

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 62)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 6
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Matthew 6, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Name the local parish community to which they and their family belong
  - » Explain that God wants us to live in community with others
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Explore the various ways in which people contribute their gifts and talents to the local parish community
  - » Discuss the ways in which they can use the gifts that God gave them to contribute to their local parish community

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Appreciate God's call to live in community with others
- Develop a sense of belonging to the local Catholic Church community

## Let's Look ...

- Begin by completing the chatting activity 'About Where We Live' – Part I (p. 63) in which the children have the opportunity to chat about their community.

## Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'Match Day in Mountshannon' (p. 64). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the song 'Created by God' (Track 6, p. 80). Chat about the lyrics of the song with the children.
- Discuss the role each person who came to support the Mountshannon hurling team played. Then chat about the community that the children in the class belong to by working through the chatting activity 'About Where We Live' – Part II (p. 66).
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 12).

## Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: As well as belonging to a family, we all belong to a community. God wants us to live with others in a community. Local communities are full of people who share the gifts and talents that God gave them with others. God gives us all gifts that we can share with our local communities.
- Ask the children to choose one thing that they could do to share the gifts that God gave them to make the local community to which they belong a better place.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 13) for homework.
- Lead the children in praying *Morning Prayer* (p. 287).

### 3: WE ALL BELONG IN ONE HUMAN FAMILY

#### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 68)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 6, Poster 2: Mother Teresa, Online Resources: Video 'One Family', Interactive Activity 'We Can Share Love'
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Matthew 6, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

#### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify that all the people in the world are part of the one human family, created by God
  - » Explore the ethical implications of being part of the human family
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Tell the story of Mother Teresa in their own words, according to their own ability
  - » Pray the *Night Prayer*

#### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Become enriched by the story of the life of Mother Teresa and by her faith and trust in God

#### Let's Look ...

- Begin the lesson by showing the children the video 'One Family'. Discuss the video using the questions on p. 69. If online material is not available to your class then just focus on the final bullet point in the section 'One Family' (p. 69).

#### Let's Learn ...

- Recall the song 'Created by God' (Track 6, p. 80) that was taught in last week's lesson.
- Read the story 'Mother Teresa' (p. 70). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Show the children Poster 2: Mother Teresa and invite them to retell the story of how Mother Teresa shared love with the people in Calcutta in their own words. Complete the interactive activity 'We Can Share Love' (p. 71). Alternatively, if online material is not available to your class, chat to the children about ways in which they can share love with other people.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 14).

#### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: All families in the world are part of the one human family. Just as we show love to the people in our own family, we can also share love with our wider family – the human family. Mother Teresa shared love with people who were poor and people who were sick. She showed them that God loves them.
- Lead the children in praying the *Night Prayer* (p. 287).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 15) for homework.

## 4: WE CAN PRAY TO GOD

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 73)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 7, Online Resources: Chatting 'About Praying'
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Matthew 6, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify the *Our Father* as the prayer that Jesus taught and that is still prayed by the friends of Jesus today
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Offer prayers of thanksgiving or of intercession spontaneously, in their own words

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Value the importance of praying as Jesus did

### Let's Look ...

Begin by chatting about prayer as outlined on p. 74. If you do not have access to online material you may want to print out the pictures in advance or, alternatively, carry out the discussion without the use of pictures.

Lead the children in prayer (p. 74).

### Let's Learn ...

Read from scripture 'Jesus Prays' (p. 75). Discuss the questions that follow the story. Introduce the song 'Jesus Prayed to God' (Track 7, p. 81) to the children and chat about the lyrics.

Read from scripture 'Jesus Teachers His Friends to Pray' (p. 76). Discuss the questions that follow the story.

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Jesus prayed often – sometimes on his own and sometimes with other people. Jesus also taught his friends to pray. Friends of Jesus all over the world still say this prayer today. It is called the *Our Father*.
- Lead the children in praying the first part of the *Our Father* (p. 77).
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 16).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 17) for homework.

# Theme 3: Advent and Christmas

1: Advent light.....	p. 10
2: Mary says 'yes'! .....	p. 11
3: Jesus is born .....	p. 12
4: Gifts for the baby .....	p. 13

## 1: ADVENT LIGHT

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 3 (p. 86/87)
- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 88)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, candle and matches, Advent wreath (or photo of an Advent wreath), CD track 8
- Prayer Space: purple cloth (Advent), candle, cross of crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Name Advent as the time to get ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas
  - » Identify Jesus as the 'light of the world'
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Discuss the changes that take place in the natural world in winter, in the context of God's care for the world

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Develop a sense of anticipation for the birth of Jesus, through the gradual lighting of candles on the Advent wreath
  - Enter into the spirit of Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting about the weather and the seasonal changes that take place. Read the story 'A Winter Morning' (p. 89). Discuss the questions that follow the story.

### Let's Learn ...

- Complete the chatting activity (p. 91) about light and darkness. You will need the candle and matches for this activity.
- Show the class either a real Advent wreath or a photograph of one. Chat to the children about each of the elements of an Advent wreath. Explain that it can help us to count down the days until we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Use the information on p. 91 to guide you. However, omit completing the art activity.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 16).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Lots of changes happen in the natural world in winter – it gets colder, it sometimes snows, and plants and animals all seem to be asleep. However, the coming of winter also reminds us that we are getting closer to

Christmas – the day on which we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Advent wreath can help us to count down the weeks until Christmas.

- Introduce the song 'Advent Song (Light the Advent Candle)' (Track 8, p. 112) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 19) for homework.

## 2: MARY SAYS 'YES!'

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 94)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 9, Poster 4: Mary, photocopy of template (p. 114) for each child, Online Resources: Video 'Announcements'
- Prayer Space: purple cloth (Advent), Bible (open at Luke 1), candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Recall and share experiences of making and hearing announcements
  - » Explain that the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she was to be the mother of God's only Son
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Tell the story of the Annunciation ('Mary's Good News') in their own words, according to their own ability
  - » Explore and discuss why we honour Mary

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by showing the children the video 'Announcements'. Complete the discussion based on the video as outlined on p. 95. If online material is not available to your class, omit showing the video but carry out the discussion.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'The Angel's Announcement' (p. 96). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Lead the children in praying the *Hail Mary* with movement (p. 97).
- Introduce the first verse of the song 'Mary' (Track 9, p. 113) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 20).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Out of all the women in the world, God chose Mary to be the mother of his only Son, Jesus. This tells us that Mary was a very special person, who was 'blessed among women'. God sent the Angel Gabriel to Nazareth to announce this good news to Mary.
- Show the children Poster 4: Mary. Give each child a copy of the template on p. 114. Invite them to colour the picture of Mary. This activity may need to be completed as part of homework. Encourage the children to put the picture somewhere prominent in their homes so they can remember to pray the *Hail Mary* with their family.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 21) for homework.

### 3: JESUS IS BORN

#### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 100)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 9, crib figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Prayer Space: purple cloth (Advent), Bible (open at Luke 2), candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

#### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify the figures of Mary, Jesus and Joseph in the crib
  - » Explain that Jesus is God's gift to the world
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Pray the *Hail Mary* with appropriate gestures and actions

#### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Come to a deeper awareness of God's love for them
- Celebrate God's gift of Jesus

#### Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting with the children about what presents they are hoping to get on Christmas Day. Tell them that some of the best are things that we can't see, hear, smell, taste or touch. Then read the poem 'The Present' (p. 101). Discuss the questions that follow the poem.

#### Let's Learn ...

- Lead the children in praying the *Hail Mary* with movement (p. 102).
- Introduce the second verse of the song 'Mary' (Track 9, p. 113) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Read from scripture 'Jesus is Born' (p. 103). Discuss the questions that follow the story. Show the children the figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Allow the children to identify each of the figures and use them as a visual aid to retell the story of Jesus' birth.
- Chat with the children about Jesus being God's gift as outlined on p. 103.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 22).

#### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem because his parents, who were poor, had nowhere else to go. Yet he is the greatest gift that God has ever given to the world. Jesus was the gift of love given to us by God, who loves us.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 23) for homework.



## 4: GIFTS FOR THE BABY

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 106)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 9, Poster 5: The Nativity, crib figures of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men
- Prayer Space: purple cloth (Advent), Bible (open at Matthew 2), candle, cross or crucifix

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify the shepherds and wise men as the visitors to the stable
  - » Wonder about what gift they would give the baby Jesus
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Tell the story of the visitors to the stable in their own words, according to their own ability
  - » Pray the *Hail Mary* with appropriate gestures and actions

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Share the good news of the birth of Jesus with their family

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting about what happens when babies are born as outlined on p. 107. Omit completing the interactive activity.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'The Shepherds and the Angels' (p. 108). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Sing the first and second verses of the song 'Mary' (Track 9, p. 113). Introduce the third verse which refers to the wise men's visit to the stable to the children. Chat with the children about the lyrics of the song.
- Read from scripture 'Gifts for the Baby' (p. 109). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 24).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: The first visitors to the stable were poor shepherds and wise men. Both of the groups wanted to see God's Son, Jesus. They knew Jesus was God's gift to the world – the greatest gift ever given.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 25) for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Hail Mary* with movement (p. 102).

# Theme 4: The Holy Family

- 1: Simeon and Anna meet Jesus ..... p. 14  
2: Jesus grew up in Nazareth ..... p. 15

## 1: SIMEON AND ANNA MEET JESUS

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 4 (p. 118/119)
- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 120)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 10, Poster 5: The Nativity
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Luke 2, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Name Jesus as the gift Simeon and Anna had been waiting for
  - » Consider why God sent Jesus into the world
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Pray the *Prayer to our Guardian Angel* together

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Recognise Jesus as God's greatest gift

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by finding out the children's previous knowledge of waiting. Use the recent experience of waiting for Christmas as a point of discussion; the questions under Christmas Memories (p. 121) will guide you but omit completing the art activity.
- Lead the children in praying the *Prayer to our Guardian Angel* (p. 121).

### Let's Learn ...

- Show the children Poster 5: The Nativity. Use the introduction to the story 'Simeon and Anna Meet Jesus' (p. 122) to explore the poster.
- Read from scripture 'Simeon and Anna Meet Jesus' (p. 122). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Sing the song 'When Jesus Was a Boy' (Track 10, p. 132). Chat with the children about the lyrics of the song.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 26).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: When Jesus was still a baby, Mary and Joseph brought him to the temple to thank God for him. There they met an old man called Simeon and an old woman called Anna. Simeon and Anna had waited a long time to see the greatest gift that God would ever give to the world. When they saw Jesus, they knew he was that gift.
- Chat with the children about Jesus as outlined on p. 125.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 27) for homework.

## 2: JESUS GREW UP IN NAZARETH

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 126)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 6: The Holy Family, Online Material: Chatting 'About Home', Slideshow 'The Holy Family'
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Luke 2, candle

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Name Nazareth as the place where the Holy Family lived
  - » Explain the ways and the places in which the Holy Family prayed together
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Describe some of the things that the Holy Family did together

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Recognise God's presence in their own families
- Value the importance of praying

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting about homes as outlined on p. 127. If your class does not have access to online material you may want to print out and bring with you the picture of Yi Lang and Xiao Long's home and use the poster of the Holy Family outside their home (Poster 6) for this activity. Encourage the children to draw comparisons between Jesus' home and the homes that they live in.

### Let's Learn ...

- Using the online material, display the slideshows of the Holy Family. Briefly discuss each of the pictures. Choose two pictures from each slideshow to chat about in further detail using the questions on p. 128/ 129. Alternatively, if online material is not available in your classroom, print out the pictures to show the class.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 28).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family of Nazareth. Mary and Joseph taught Jesus many things, including how to pray.
- Help the children recognise the importance of praying using the discussion points and questions as outlined under Prayer Cards (p. 130) but omit completing the art activity.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 29) for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Prayer to our Guardian Angel* (p. 121).

# Theme 5: St Brigid and the Spring

- 1: St Brigid ..... p. 16  
2: God cares for us in spring ..... p. 17

## 1: ST BRIGID

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 5 (p. 136/137)
- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 138)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 11, Poster 7: St Brigid
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Psalm 104, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Decide on one way in which they can be kind like St Brigid, and illustrate this
  - » Explore the story of St Brigid
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Tell the story of St Brigid in their own words, according to their own ability
  - » Discuss St Brigid's characteristics
  - » Sing a song in honour of St Brigid

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Desire to do acts of kindness, following the example of St Brigid

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting with the children about being kind as outlined on p. 139. Read the poem 'Kindness' using the suggested actions as appropriate.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'St Brigid' (p. 140). Discuss the questions that follow the story. Show the children Poster 7: St Brigid and invite them to retell the story in their own words.
- Introduce the song, 'We Sing a Song to Brigid' (Track 11, p. 151) to the children and chat to them about the lyrics.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 30).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: St Brigid is known throughout Ireland as a woman of kindness and generosity. She helped those who were poor and those who were sick, because she realised that God has a special love for these people.
- Ask the children what words they would use to describe St Brigid. Identify one way in which they could be kind like St Brigid.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 31) for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer (p. 142).

## 2: GOD CARES FOR US IN SPRING

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 143)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 11
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Psalm 104, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Explore the changes that occur in the natural world in springtime through story and art
  - » Recognise that the changes that occur in the natural world in springtime are signs that God continues to love and care for the world
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Pray *Morning Prayer* and *Night Prayer*

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Develop a sense of being cared for by God
- Appreciate signs of God's care and providence in spring

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by asking the children to retell the story of St Brigid from last week's lesson in their own words. Remind the children that 1 February, the Feast Day of St Brigid, was also the first day of spring. Chat with the children about spring using the questions based on the interactive activity (p. 144) but omit completing the activity.
- Lead the children in praying the *Morning Prayer* and the *Night Prayer* (p. 144).

### Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'Ruby Rook's Spring Challenge' (p. 145) and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Carry out the chatting activity 'About God's Care for the World' (p. 146).
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 32).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: In springtime, the natural world comes to life. Observing these changes can help to remind us of God's care for the world and everything in it. It can also remind us to give praise to God for all creation.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 33) for homework.
- Sing the song, 'We Sing a Song to Brigid' (Track 11, p. 151) from last week's lesson.
- Ask the children to bring a photo to next week's lesson related to a story of when they were a baby.

# Theme 6: Jesus

- 1: We listen to stories ..... p. 18
- 2: Jesus feeds the people ..... p. 19
- 3: Jesus calms the storm ..... p. 20
- 4: Jesus heals the man who was blind ..... p. 21

## 1: WE LISTEN TO STORIES

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 6 (p. 156/157)
- Read ‘Before You Begin’ (p. 158)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, last week each child was invited to bring a photo to this week’s lesson related to a story of when they were a baby, Online Resources: Slideshow
- Prayer Space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water
- 

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Share a story about themselves that has been told to them by their family
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Share the Bible stories that they have learned so far
  - » Choose their favourite Bible story and illustrate it

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Deepen their love for Bible stories by listening to and retelling them

### Let’s Look ...

- Begin by telling the children a story about when you were a child using the guidelines on p. 159. Invite the children to take out the photographs that they have brought with them. Allow the children to show their photographs to one another. Encourage the children to each have a turn at telling the rest of the class the story of what’s going on in the photograph.

### Let’s Learn ...

- Read the story ‘Grandad, Tell Us a Story’ (p. 160). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Show the children the online slideshow for this lesson. They will see pictures from various Bible stories. Complete the activity as outlined on p. 161. If online access is not available to your class, you may wish to print out the pictures from the slideshow in advance or show the children similar images from a children’s Bible.
- Complete activity in Children’s Book (p. 34).

### Let’s Live ...

- What you have taught: Stories are an important way to get to know people. Stories also help us to learn about the past. By listening to and telling stories, we can learn

things about other people and they can learn things about us. We can learn about God and about Jesus from the stories that we hear from the Bible.

- Assign Children's Book (p. 35) for homework.
- Lead the children in praying the *Morning Prayer* and the *Night Prayer* (p. 287).

## 2: JESUS FEEDS THE PEOPLE

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 164)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 8: Jesus feeds the people, CD Track 12
- Prayer Space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible open at Matthew 8, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify the Bible as a precious and holy book from which we learn about God
  - » Imagine the story 'Jesus Feeds the People' from the perspective of the child in the story
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Tell the story 'Jesus Feeds the People' in their own words, according to their own ability

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Show respect for the Bible as a sacred text

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by showing the children a Bible and chat with them using the questions on p. 165.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'Jesus Feeds the People' (p. 166). Show the children Poster 8 and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the chorus and the first part of the 'Miracle Song' (Track 12, p. 182) to the children, and chat about the lyrics.
- Read the scripture story 'The Little Boy's Story' (p. 167). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 36).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: One of the stories from the Bible tells us that Jesus once fed a huge crowd of people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. We call this a miracle. The miracles are signs of how God wants the world to be.
- Jesus relied on the generosity of the little boy in order to feed all the people. Reflect upon this with the children. Encourage the children to think of ways in which they can be generous.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 37) for homework.
- Lead the children in praying *Grace Before Meals* and *Grace After Meals* (p. 167).

### 3: JESUS CALMS THE STORM

#### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' p. 170
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 13, Poster 9: Jesus calms the storm
- Prayer Space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible open at John 6, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

#### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Reflect on who they can turn to when they are afraid
  - » Explore the story 'Jesus Calms the Storm'
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Tell the story 'Jesus Calms the Storm' in their own words, according to their own ability
  - » Discuss the actions of Jesus and of his friends during the storm

#### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Become aware that God is with them, however they feel
- Develop a sense of wonder in relation to Bible stories

#### Let's Look ...

- Begin by asking the children the question, 'Can you tell us a story about a time when you felt afraid?' Invite the children to 'think-pair-share' their answers. Discuss who might be able to help the children when they are afraid and what they should do whenever they are afraid.

#### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'Jesus Calms the Storm' (p. 172). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the chorus and the second part of 'Miracle Song' (Track 13, p. 183) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 38).

#### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: One day, a storm blew up on the Sea of Galilee, and Jesus and his friends were in serious danger. His friends called him asking him for help, and Jesus calmed the storm.
- Chat with the children about being afraid as outlined on p. 174.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 39) for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer (p. 174).



## 4: JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO WAS BLIND

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 175).
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 14
- Prayer Space: Green cloth (Ordinary Time) or purple cloth (Lent), Bible open at Mark 10, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Explore the story of Jesus' healing of Bartimaeus
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Explore why Jesus wanted to help Bartimaeus, and what the story tells us about Jesus
  - » Pray the *Our Father*

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Grow in appreciation of God's gift of sight and come to know and love Jesus Christ.

### Let's Look ...

- Begin the lesson by playing the game 'I Spy' as outlined on p. 176.
- Lead the children in praying the *Our Father* p. 176.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'Jesus Helps a Man to See' (p. 177). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the chorus and the third part of 'Miracle Song' (Track 14, p. 184) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 40).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Bartimaeus was blind. He knew that Jesus was a holy man so he asked Jesus to help him to see again. Jesus did as Bartimaeus asked. After Bartimaeus was healed, he followed Jesus.
- Ask the question, 'What are your favourite things to look at?' Invite the children to 'think-pair-share' their answers. Remind the children that our eyes are a gift from God. We use them to see all of the beautiful things around us.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 41) for homework.

# Theme 7: Holy Week and Easter

- 1: The Last Supper ..... p. 22
- 2: Jesus dies on the cross ..... p. 23
- 3: Jesus is alive! ..... p. 24

## 1: THE LAST SUPPER

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 7 (p. 188/189)
- Read ‘Before You Begin’ (p. 190)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, CD Track 18, Online Resources: Looking and Responding
- Prayer Space: red cloth (Easter Triduum) Bible open at Luke 22, candle, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Explore the story of The Last Supper
  - » Discern one way in which they can remember Jesus, as he asked his friends to at The Last Supper
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Look at and respond to a piece of art depicting The Last Supper

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Recognise and respond to Jesus’ invitation to ‘do this in memory of me’

### Let’s Look ...

- Begin this week’s lesson by chatting with the children about a birthday party and other special celebrations. Use the questions after the interactive activity ‘A Special Meal’ (p. 191) to guide your conversation but omit completing the online activity.

### Let’s Learn ...

- Explain the festival of Passover to the children using the introduction to the story ‘The Last Supper’ (p. 192).
- Read from scripture ‘The Last Supper’ (p. 192). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the song ‘The Last Supper’ (Track 18, p. 209) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Engage the children in the Looking and Responding art activity as outlined on (p. 193). If online material is not available to your class you may want to print a picture of the painting The Last Supper in advance.
- Complete activity in Children’s Book (p. 42).

### Let’s Live ...

- What you have taught: Jesus knew that there were some people who didn’t like the things he was saying and doing. They didn’t want to live as he had asked them to.

He knew that these people were planning to kill him. On the night before he died Jesus gathered his friends together and they shared a special meal. We call this meal The Last Supper because Jesus knew that it would be the last time that all his friends would eat together. Jesus asked his friends to remember him when they gathered like this again.

- Ask the children the question, 'How can we remember Jesus?' Invite the children to share their ideas with the class.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 43) for homework.

## 2: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 195)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Online Resources: Slideshow 'Jesus'
- Prayer Space: red cloth (Easter Triduum) Bible open at Mark 15, candle, holy water, a cross or crucifix
- 

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Recognise that Jesus showed his love for all people by dying on the cross
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Tell the story 'Jesus Dies on the Cross' in their own words, according to their own ability

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Come to know Jesus' love for them

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by recalling some of the things that Jesus did when he was alive using the online illustrations in the slideshow 'Jesus' as outlined on p. 198. If online material is not available to your class you may want to print out the pictures from the slideshow in advance or show the class similar pictures from a children's Bible.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'Jesus Dies on the Cross' (p. 198). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Chat with the children about their 'lenten tasks' using (p. 199) as a guide.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 44).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Some people did not like Jesus. They didn't want to love everyone as he asked them to. They wanted to get rid of him. So they handed Jesus over to Pilate, who said that Jesus should be put to death on a cross. Jesus' mother and some of his friends were there when he died. It was a very sad day for them.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 45) for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer (p. 201).

### 3: JESUS IS ALIVE!

#### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 202)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 19, cross or crucifix, Poster 10: Jesus is Alive!
- Prayer Space: white cloth (Easter Season) Bible open at John 21, candle, cross or crucifix

#### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Sequence the events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday
  - » Explain that the Risen Jesus appeared to his friends after his death
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Explore and retell the story 'Jesus is Alive' in their own words and according to their own ability

#### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Experience joy that the risen Jesus is still with us

#### Let's Look ...

- Begin by asking the children to help in retelling the events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday in their own words. Tell them that a surprise happens next. Ask the children to predict what this surprise might be.

#### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'Jesus is Alive' (p. 204). Show the children Poster 10 and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the song 'Alleluia' (Track 19, p. 210) to the class. Chat about the lyrics using the information provided on p. 205.

#### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: A few days after Jesus died, his friends went fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Although they fished all night, they caught nothing. The next morning, a man appeared on the shores of the lake and told them to throw their nets to the other side of the boat. When they did this, the nets began to fill up with fish. At that moment, Jesus' friends realised that he was not dead anymore. He had been raised to new life. Jesus continued to appear to his friends for forty days after his Resurrection, before he finally went home to his Father in heaven.
- Chat with the class about Jesus' Resurrection (p. 206).
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 46).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 47) for homework.

# Theme 8: The Church

- 1: A place to gather ..... p. 25  
2: A place of prayer ..... p. 26

## 1: A PLACE TO GATHER

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher’s Notes for Theme 8 (p. 214/215)
- Read ‘Before You Begin’ (p. 216)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher’s Manual, CD Track 20
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time) or white cloth (Easter season), Bible open at 1 Kings 5, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify and name their local parish church
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Discuss the purpose of the church
  - » Tell the story ‘A House of Prayer’ in their own words, according to their own ability

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Show respect for the church as a place of prayer and celebration
- Develop a sense of belonging to the local Catholic Church community

### Let’s Look ...

- Begin the lesson by asking the children to list the buildings that might be found in a town. Use the questions following the ‘Building a Parish’ interactive activity to guide a discussion on the need for each of the buildings the children listed and to discuss the buildings in a town where people gather. Omit completing the interactive activity.

### Let’s Learn ...

- Read from scripture ‘A House of Prayer’ (p. 218). Invite the children to retell the story in their own words. Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Introduce the song ‘The Church’ (Track 20, p. 226) to the children. Chat about the lyrics of the song using the information provided on p. 219.
- Chat with the children about Our Parish as outlined on p. 119.
- Complete activity in Children’s Book (p. 48).

### Let’s Live ...

- What you have taught: Each day, and especially on Sundays, the family of God gathers together in the church. The church is a holy place. Long ago, King Solomon built a house of prayer so that all the people in that area could come together to pray to God.
- Assign Children’s Book (p. 49) for homework.
- Lead the children in prayer (p. 220).

## 2: A PLACE OF PRAYER

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 221)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 20, Poster 11: The Church, Online Resources: video clips 'The Church: Part I', 'The Church: Part II', 'The Church: Part III'. This week's lesson requires the use of material available online. If it is not possible for you to show the videos in class to the children you may wish to view the videos in advance, take notes of the information in them and share this information with the children.
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time) or white cloth (Easter season), Bible open at 1 Kings 5, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Name some ways of showing respect for the church building
  - » Be able to genuflect
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Discuss the ways in which the paschal candle is different to other candles

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Develop an attitude of reverence for the church building

### Let's Look ...

- Begin the lesson by showing the video 'The Church: Part I' (Church Building). Chat about the video using the questions on p. 222.
- Lead the children in prayer (p. 222). Invite the children to bless themselves with holy water as part of this prayer time.

### Let's Learn ...

- Show the children Poster 11: The Church. Together with the children identify each of the following in the poster and discuss: stained glass windows, altar, crucifix, seats, and baptismal font.
- Play the video clips 'The Church: Part II' (Genuflection) and 'The Church: Part III' (Paschal Candle). Chat after each video using the questions on p. 223.

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: The church building is full of objects that remind us of God, of Jesus and of Mary and the saints. The objects can help us pray to God, and help us to remember that God is always with us.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 50).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 51) for homework.
- Sing the song 'The Church' (Track 20, p. 226) from last week's lesson.
- Ask the children to bring a photograph of their Baptism with them to class next week.

# Theme 9: Baptism

- 1: A baby's Baptism ..... p. 27  
2: John baptises the people..... p. 28

## 1: A BABY'S BAPTISM

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 9 (p. 228/229)
- Read 'Before You Begin' p. 230
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 21, Poster 12: Baptism, a photograph of your own Baptism, Online Resources: Video 'Baptism'
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Luke 3, candle, cross or crucifix
- The children were asked at the last lesson to bring a photograph of their Baptism with them to this week's lesson

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Explain what happens at a Baptism
  - » Name the baptismal font and the paschal candle as two objects in the church that remind us of Baptism
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Talk about their own Baptism using a photograph as a visual aid

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Begin to appreciate that they belong to God's family through Baptism
- Respect the church as a place of prayer and celebration

### Let's Look ...

- Lead the children in praying *Morning Prayer* (p. 287).

### Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'The Baby is Baptised' (p. 232) and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Begin by showing Poster 12: Baptism to the class. Then show the children the video 'Baptism' in which a baby is baptised. If online material is not available in your classroom you may need to watch the video in advance, take notes of the information in the video, and then share this information with your class using the poster.
- Introduce the 'Baptism Song' (Track 21, p. 242) to the children and chat about the words.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 52).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: As part of the ceremony of Baptism, holy water is poured over the baby's head, and they are anointed with chrism. After being wrapped in

a white garment, a candle is lit from the paschal candle for the baby. This reminds everyone that they are a friend of Jesus.

- Show the children a photograph from your own Baptism. Ask the children to take out the photographs of their Baptism that they brought with them. Complete the chatting activity (p. 234) using these photographs.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 53) for homework.

## 2: JOHN BAPTISES THE PEOPLE

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 235)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 21, Online Resources: Interactive Activity 'We Can Show Our Love for God', Feely Bag: holy water, white garment, baptismal (or similar) candle
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Luke 3, candle, cross or crucifix

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Explore the differences between Baptism in the time of John the Baptist and Baptism today
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Tell the story of John the Baptist baptising the people in their own words, according to their own ability
  - » Discuss the things John told the people to do to show their love for God

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Be inspired to love God and to live the way God wants them to

### Let's Look ...

- Begin this lesson with the 'Feely Bag' activity using the holy water, white garment, candle and random object as outlined on p. 236.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read from scripture 'John the Baptist' (p. 237) and discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Complete the interactive activity 'We Can Show Our Love for God' (p. 237). Alternatively, if online material is not available to your class, together with the children make a list of the ways that we can show our love for God.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 54).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: John the Baptist told the people to be baptised. He told them to be good and kind and honest, and to share whatever they had with each other.
- Sing 'Baptism Song' (Track 21, p. 242) from last week's lesson.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 55) for homework.
- Lead the children in praying *Night Prayer* (p. 287).



# Theme 10: Grow in Love

- 1: We can grow in love ..... p. 29  
2: We continue to grow in love ..... p. 30

## 1: WE CAN GROW IN LOVE

### Teacher Preparation

- Read Introduction, Teacher Reflection and Teacher's Notes for Theme 10 (p. 246/247)
- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 248)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Poster 13: Choices
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Matthew 22, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify times when they have had difficult choices to make
  - » Relate the teaching of Jesus to moral dilemmas
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Discuss the possible outcomes of the story, 'Stephen and Sandra', depending on the decision the character makes
  - » Engage in moral discussions about making choices based on Jesus' teaching

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Develop a passion for fairness and justice following Jesus' example

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by reading the story 'Sandra and Stephen' – Part I (p. 249) to the children and discuss the questions that follow the story.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'Sandra and Stephen' Part – II (p. 250). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Read from scripture 'Jesus Teaches Us' (p. 250). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Carry out the 'Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down' activity as outlined on p. 251. Show the children Poster 13 and identify people making good and bad choices.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 56).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: We can all make good choices and bad choices. Jesus taught us to love God and to love other people. When we live as Jesus taught us, we make good choices.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 57) for homework.
- Lead the children in praying *Our Father* (p. 287).

## 2: WE CONTINUE TO GROW IN LOVE

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 253)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 17, Poster 11: At Mass, we give thanks
- Prayer Space: white cloth (Easter season) or green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible open at Genesis 1, candle, cross/crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Recall some Bible stories they read during the year
  - » Identify their favourite story from the Bible
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Discuss their favourite way to pray based on their experience of prayer this year
  - » Participate in a prayer service to mark the end of the school year

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Recognise God's presence and action in their lives and give thanks

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by inviting the children to partake in a Circle Time activity as outlined on p. 254 where the children share their favourite things about being in this class this year and say something kind about the person sitting beside them in the circle.

### Let's Learn ...

- Allow the children to think-pair-share on the topic of their favourite Bible story.
- Complete the About Prayer chatting activity (p. 255). Omit the Memory Book activity and the topic of the children's highlights from the school year.

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: This year we have learned a lot. We have grown in love for others and we have grown in love for God. The Bible stories we heard and the prayers we have said and learned have helped us to do that.
- Lead the children in a prayer service to mark the end of the school year (p. 257). Replace the poem in the prayer service 'God is With Me' with the prayer *Our Father*.

# Theme: Seasonal Lessons

1: We remember (November) ..... p. 31  
2: Lent (Ash Wednesday)..... p. 32  
3: Mary..... p. 33

## 1: WE REMEMBER (NOVEMBER)

This one-week lesson should be undertaken early in the month of November.

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 262)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 22
- Prayer Space: green cloth (Ordinary Time), Bible, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify November as the month in which we remember in a special way those who have died
  - » Explain that those who die go home to God in heaven
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Share with others the names of those they know who have died
  - » Pray for those who have died

### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Remember to pray for those belonging to them who have died

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by chatting with the children about the changes that take place during each of the seasons. Use the information and questions after the video 'Seasons Change' (p. 263) but omit showing the video.
- Lead the children in prayer (p. 263).

### Let's Learn ...

- Introduce the song 'Remember Them' (Track 22, p. 268) to the children and chat about the lyrics.
- Read the story 'Remembering Uncle Tom' (p. 264). Discuss the questions that follow the story.

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: During the month of November we remember in a special way those who have died, and we pray for them.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 58).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 59) for homework.

## 2: LENT (ASH WEDNESDAY)

This one-week lesson should be undertaken during the week in which Ash Wednesday is celebrated.

### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 270)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, CD Track 6
- Prayer Space: purple cloth (Lent), Bible, candle, cross or crucifix, holy water

### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Name Lent as a time to say sorry
  - » Identify a time when they hurt another person, and recognise the need to say sorry
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Identify a time when they needed to say sorry

### Faith Formation Goals

- That the children would also:
- Enter into the spirit of Lent as a time to try in a particular way to live as Jesus wants us to

### Let's Look ...

- Begin by singing the song, 'Created by God' (Track 6, p. 80). After singing the song chat with the children using the questions on p. 271.
- Read the story 'Angela's Bad Day' (p. 271) and discuss the questions that follow the story.

### Let's Learn ...

- Read the story 'Angela's Bad Day' – Ending One (p. 273). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Read the story 'Angela's Bad Day' – Ending Two (p. 273). Discuss the questions that follow the story.
- Ask the children to share with the class a time that they needed to say sorry. Chat with the children about saying sorry to God as outlined on p. 274.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 60).

### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: There are times when we don't do or say what we should. We can hurt other people when we say or do the wrong thing. Lent is a time when we can be especially conscious of saying sorry to the people whom we have hurt. We can also say sorry to God, because we have not loved others as God wants us to.
- Assign Children's Book (p. 61) for homework.

### 3: MARY

This one-week lesson should be undertaken during the first week in May.

#### Teacher Preparation

- Read 'Before You Begin' (p. 279)
- Resources for lesson: Teacher's Manual, Online Resources: slideshow
- Prayer Space: blue cloth, Bible, candle, image or statue of Mary

#### Learning Outcomes

- *Understanding:*
  - » Identify May as a special month in which to remember Mary, and suggest a variety of ways to do this
- *Communicating and Participating:*
  - » Pray *Hail Mary* with actions

#### Faith Formation Goals

That the children would also:

- Honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Our Mother too

#### Let's Look ...

- Begin by showing the children the slideshow about Mary and using the questions on p. 280 to discuss each image. Alternatively, if your class does not have access to online material, you can either print the pictures in advance or show similar images from a children's Bible.
- Lead the children in praying *Hail Mary* using the accompanying actions as explained on p. 281.

#### Let's Learn ...

- Sing the song, 'When Creation Was Begun' (Track 23, p. 285) and chat about the lyrics.
- Chat with the children about Mary as outlined on p. 282.
- Read the Bible story 'Mary, Jesus and Joseph Meet Anna and Simeon' (p. 284).

#### Let's Live ...

- What you have taught: Mary was a very special person because God chose her, above all other women, to be the mother of his Son, Jesus. May is the month when we remember Mary in a special way.
- Complete activity in Children's Book (p. 62).
- Assign Children's Book (p. 63) for homework.