

Level 1

# Overview

## *Strand*

## *Strand Units*

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- Mystery of Jesus Christ
- Creation
- Mystery of the Church
- Eternal Life

## *Strand*

## *Strand Units*

Word of God

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  - ◇ God's Loving Plan of Salvation
  - ◇ Jesus' Birth and Youth
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  - ◇ Passion, Death and Resurrection

## *Strand*

## *Strand Units*

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  - ◇ Spontaneous Prayer
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- Sacraments
- Mass

## *Strand*

## *Strand Units*

Christian Morality

- Human Dignity
- Social Teaching of the Church
- RSE in a Christian Context

## Strand: Christian Faith

### Aims

Children will:

- understand central Christian beliefs and how they relate to their own lives
- understand what it means to be part of the Church community
- develop a growing awareness of the mystery and dignity of being a child in light of Christian beliefs
- explore foundational Christian concepts in their experience: belonging (community); friendship, love, care
- learn basic religious language, persons, facts and concepts
- learn that life has a meaning and purpose (Ais 17)
- become aware of, value and respect the cultural and religious identities of self and others (cf. Ais 8).

### Skills

The child should be enabled to:

#### Understanding:

- investigate Christian beliefs, symbols and images through creative process, play, visual arts, poetry, rhyme, dance, drama, music, language and using information and communication technologies.

#### Communicating:

- discuss Christian beliefs using a range of religious words
- express personal responses to the revelation, presence and activity of God in his/her life and in all creation through language and the expressive arts.

#### Developing Spiritual Literacy:

- explore, describe and record spiritual feelings, questions, experiences and concepts using words, poetry, pictures, music, sign language, braille, symbol, rhythm, number, movement, gesture, drama, art, and information and communications technologies.

## Strand Units

Children at this level should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

### Mystery of God

- Names of the three Divine persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. Respect for these names in our speech and the use of these names in prayer (CCC 198-202, 222-27, 232-40, 253, 258-60, 261, 316, 320, 422-23, 731, 733-37).
- Christians are baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (CCC 232).
- Christians bless themselves in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God is our loving Father and Creator (Gn 1:26-7).
- God is good (Ps 116:1).
- God knows us and loves us (Ps 139).
- God is my friend.
- God loves us like a mother loves her child (CCC 239; Is 66:13; Ps 131:2).
- God cares for us, especially when we are sick sad, lonely, angry or disappointed.
- God is always with us (Ps 63:8).
- God gave us the gift of Jesus (Gal 4:4-5; Lk 1:55, 68; CCC 422).
- God loves and cares for every family.
- God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus (Lk 1:26-38).
- God created us to share life with him in heaven, our true home (CCC 355-84; 1691-98).

### Mystery of Jesus Christ

- Jesus is called 'Christ' (CCC 436, 453).
- Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 1:1; Mt 16:16-17; 27-54; Jn 20:31; CCC 422, 441-46, 454).
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd (Ps 23:1).
- Jesus is our friend (Jn 15:14).
- Jesus loves us.
- Jesus tells us about God his Father.
- Jesus is the Light of the World (Jn 8:12).
- Jesus was born on Christmas day.
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth (Lk 2:4; 2:39-40; CCC 422, 531).
- Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family (CCC 525).
- Jesus loves and welcomes little children (Mk 10:13-16).
- Jesus helped the sick (Lk 17:11-19).
- Jesus loved and cared for the poor (Jn 6:1-13).
- Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples on Holy Thursday (Lk 22:14-23; Mk 14:17-25).
- Jesus died on the cross for us on Good Friday (Mk 15:37; Lk 23:46; CCC 624).
- Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday (Mk 16:6; Lk 24:5; CCC 638).
- Jesus appeared to his disciples after he had risen from the dead (Jn 21:1-14).
- Jesus ascended into heaven (Mk 16:19; Lk 24:51; CCC 659-64, 670, 673, 665-67).

### Creation

- God created everything there is: the earth, people, stars, animals, birds, plants and trees (Gn 1; LG 2; CCC 212, 290, 325; CSRE 1b).

- God created man and woman as the crown of his creation (CCC 343).
- God has given each person a guardian angel to watch over and protect him/her (CCC 328-36, 350-52)
- God cares for all creation (Wis 8:1; CCC 303).
- God's creation is good (Gn 1:31; CCC 299, 339; CSRE 1b).

### **Mystery of the Church**

- God is in every home and family (GDC 133).
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family of Nazareth (CCC 437, 532-34, 564, 583, 1655).
- The Catholic Church as the family of God (CCC 747, 759, 777-78, 959, 1655, 2233).
- Mary is the Mother of Jesus, God's Mother and Our Mother (Lk 1:26-38; Gal 4:26-8; Jn 19:26-7; CCC 495, 508-10, 723, 744, 963, 967-71, 973-75; LG 53).
- The Saints: God's special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven (CCC 828, 956-57, 960-62, 1195, 2013, 2030, 2683, 2692). St Patrick, St Brigid, St Columba (Colum cille).
- The way of life of the parish involves caring, sharing, and praying together (CCC 2179; CSRE 2a).
- The Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.
- Our family helps us become friends of Jesus.
- The priest/teacher helps us to become friends of Jesus (LG 10).

### **Eternal Life**

- God wants all people to be happy with him forever in heaven (1 Jn 3:2; 1 Cor 13:12; CCC 1023).
- When we die we go home to God (CCC 1020).

## Strand: Word of God

### Aims

Children will:

- listen to, explore and reflect upon a variety of Sacred Scripture texts
- develop an understanding of the key characters, events and settings of Sacred Scripture texts
- bring the meaning of Sacred Scripture texts into dialogue with their own life story (CSRE 1)
- understand that Jesus is the most important person in the Bible, God's own Son
- develop reverence and respect for the Bible as the Word of God.

### Skills

The child should be enabled to:

#### Understanding:

- listen to, discuss, narrate, view and dramatise a range of Sacred Scripture texts
- recognise people, places, actions and things depicted in Sacred Scripture texts
- describe the behaviour, intentions and feelings of characters in Sacred Scripture texts.

#### Communicating:

- represent ideas, feelings, and questions about Sacred Scripture texts through oral language, socio-dramatic play, improvising, moving, writing, story-telling, music, ritual, poetry, process drama, art, and digital media.

## Strand Units

Children at this level should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

### Bible

- The Bible is the holy book of the family of the Church (CCC 103-108, 131-133, 135, 136-139).
- The Bible is the book in which we read about God and creation (CCC 279, 315-317, 319).
- The Bible is used in church on Sunday by the parish family (CSRE 1a).
- The Bible teaches how to love God and to live the way God wants people to.
- Jesus listened to Scripture when he was a child (Lk 2:46; CSRE 1a).
- We learn about Jesus from the Bible (CCC 65).
- Jesus is the most important person in the Bible, God's own Son.
- The Bible is a precious book because it is the Word of God.

### Sacred Scripture

#### *God's Loving Plan of Salvation*

- Gn 1-2:3. Creation story.
- Gn 1:26-7. Made in God's image.
- Gn 2:4-9; 15-17; 3:1-14. Story of the first sin.
- Gn 6:1-8:22. Noah and the ark.
- 1 Sm 17:1-50. David and Goliath.
- Ps 8:1, 3, 7-9. Psalm of praise.
- Ps 63:8. God is always with me
- Ps 66:5. Creation is wonderful.
- Ps 104. Praise of God the creator.
- Ps 139:7-14. Praise and thanksgiving.
- Ps 137:14. I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
- Ps 150. Praise the Lord.
- Is 43:1-4. 'I have called you by your name, you are mine.'
- Is 49:15. 'I will not forget you.'
- Jer 31:3. 'I have loved you with an everlasting love.'
- Dn 6:16-23. Daniel in the lion's den.

#### *Jesus' Birth and Youth*

- Mk 1:1. Jesus the Son of God.
- Jn 8:12. Jesus, the light of the world.
- Lk 1:26-38. The Annunciation.
- Lk 2:1-20; Mt 1:18-25. Jesus' birth.
- Mt 2:1-3, 7-12. The three wise men.
- Lk 2:22-40. Jesus is presented in the temple.
- Lk 2:41-50. Jesus is found in the temple.

### *Jesus' Public Life*

- Lk 3:2-3; 15-18. John the Baptist.
- Lk 11:1-4; Mt 6:9-13. Our Father
- Lk 17:11-19. The ten lepers.
- Mt 22:34-40; Mk 12:28-34; Lk 10:25-8. The greatest commandment.
- Mk 4:35-41/Mt 8:23-7. Calming of storm.
- Mk 10:13-16; Mt 19:13-15; Lk 18:15-17. Jesus and the children.
- Jn 6:1-13. Feeding the five thousand.
- Jn 10:2-5, 11-16. The Good Shepherd.
- Jn 13:34. Love one another

### *Passion, Death and Resurrection*

- Mt 26:26-29. Last supper.
- Lk 24:1-12. The empty tomb.
- Mk 14:12-17, 22-4. Last supper.
- Mk 15: 25-37, 15: 42-47. Jesus' death and burial.
- Lk 22:7-19. Last supper.
- Jn 19:18, 25, 30. Crucifixion.
- Jn 21:1-14. Jesus' appearance (Tiberias).



## Strand: Liturgy and Prayer

### Aims

Children will:

- learn how to pray using a variety of prayers and prayer forms of the Catholic tradition
- explore some signs, symbols, seasons, celebrations, sacred places and rituals of the Catholic tradition
- develop a vocabulary of ritual and prayer
- develop their knowledge and understanding of the attitudes, human values and life concepts embedded in the sacraments (DCM, n.9; GCD, 25)
- connect to the local Church community/ies through prayer rituals, involving priest, parents/guardians, grandparents etc (SGN 97)
- develop a familiarity with prayers (formal and informal), rituals, songs, and expressions of Christian spirituality (Ais 22).

### Skills

The child should be enabled to:

#### Understanding:

- explore symbols, feelings, words, gestures and actions in prayer, liturgy and sacraments
- explore the symbols and spirit of Church seasons and feasts
- memorise formal prayers and prayers used in rituals.

#### Communicating and Participating:

- pray simple formal and informal prayers
- memorise formal prayers
- listen to music and singing as a form of prayer
- make non-verbal gestures used in prayer
- engage in meditative prayer.

## Strand Units

Children at this level will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

### Prayer

- When people pray they talk and listen to God, and get to know and love God better (GDC 139, CCC 2653).
- God calls us to prayer and we respond (GS 18, CCC 2567).
- God always hears our prayers.
- The church is God's house, where his family comes together (CCC 1180; LG 6; 1 Tm 3:15).
- God's family gathers in the parish church to pray and celebrate (CCC 1069-71, 2179).
- The church is a holy place where people go to pray and talk to God (CCC 1181).
- Objects in the church: altar, tabernacle, crucifix, holy water, holy water font, Paschal candle, baptismal font, pictures and statues, seats, kneelers.
- Prayers of praise, blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, (CCC 2626, 2629, 2637, 2639).
- Blessings (including Celtic blessings) (CCC 1671).

### Prayer Gestures

Sign of the cross, genuflecting, sitting, kneeling, standing. Prayer with movement.

### Formal Prayer

- Sign of the Cross
- Prayer to God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Glory be to the Father
- Hail Mary (CCC 2676)
- Our Father (CCC 2759)
- Morning prayer
- Night prayer
- Grace before and after meals
- Angel guardian prayer
- Responses at Mass: e.g. Amen. Peace be with you. Thanks be to God. Greeting the gospel: Alleluia.

### Additional Prayers

- Psalm 8:1, 3, 7-9. Psalm of praise.
- Psalm 23:1. The Lord is my Shepherd.
- Psalm 66:5. Creation is wonderful.
- Psalm 104. Praise of God the creator.
- Psalm 139:7-14. Praise and thanksgiving.
- Prayer for the dead/for those who are sick and dying
- Prayer for parents and families
- Prayer to Jesus
- Prayer to the Holy Family
- Prayer to Mary

### *Spontaneous Prayer*

- E.g. Prayer to God who loves and protects us, prayer for parents and families, prayerful reflection on the day.

### **Liturgical Year (CCC 1168-73, 1194-95)**

- Advent is a time to get ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas. Advent wreath.
- Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- Christmas is a time to say thanks to God for sending Jesus to us.
- Christmas is a time when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
- Lent is a time to turn back to God and to look forward to Easter.
- Ash Wednesday is a time when ashes are placed in the form of a cross on our foreheads.
- Jesus died on the cross for us on Good Friday (CCC 624).
- Easter is a time to remember that Jesus rose from the dead.
- The Paschal candle reminds us that Jesus is alive.
- Sunday is a day of rest for the Church family (CCC 2184-87).
- May is the month to remember Mary in a special way. May Altar.
- Although we worship only God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we can also pray to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, and to the other Saints, asking them to pray for us (LG 53; CCC 2679).

### **Sacraments**

- Baptism: When people are baptised they become members of the Church family. (CCC 1213, 1226, 1239-41, 1243, 1257, 1267, 1272, 1278-80, 1282).
- Water is poured on the person's head while the priest says: 'Name ... I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (CCC 1278).
- Jesus told us to use this sign (Mt 28:19; CCC 1131).
- The baptismal font and the Paschal candle remind us of Baptism.
- Blessing ourselves with holy water can remind us of Baptism.
- Symbols of Baptism: Anointing with Chrism, water, light, white garment (CCC 1238, 1241, 1243).

### **Mass**

- The parish family gathers to celebrate with Jesus and with one another at Mass.
- We gather together to listen to stories about Jesus.
- Special times and places the Church family gathers to pray and celebrate Mass (e.g. Christmas day).
- On Sunday Catholics gather together to celebrate the Mass (CCC 1167, 1343).
- The Eucharist: The priest says the words of Jesus at Mass. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We see people going to Communion to receive Jesus Christ. We will receive Jesus Christ in our First Communion.

## Strand: Christian Morality

### Aims

Children will:

- understand their dignity and worth as created in God's image
- explore God's love as reflected in self, relationships and creation
- develop their conscience in light of the Word of God, the teachings of the Church and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1783-1789)
- develop a positive awareness of the value of self, of their gender, of their bodies, and of the importance of their own well-being (GE 1; CCC 1004; Ais 16ff, 26)
- understand and appreciate difference and diversity and value and respect people with particular abilities and needs
- develop their concern for others, for animals and for the natural environment (moral awareness, ecological awareness; mission and social justice orientation)
- develop empathy, a sense of justice, fairness, friendship, healthy attitudes to diversity and peace-making skills (GS 82; Ais 8, 23)
- reflect on their emotions, decisions and actions and on those of characters in stories (moral agency, critical moral orientation, emotional development: empathy; moral sensitivity)
- develop an understanding of rules and of right and wrong behaviour
- follow rules and respect legitimate authority, make choices, and develop autonomy.

### Skills

The child should be enabled to:

#### Understanding:

- engage with Sacred Scripture and Church Teachings to identify Christian moral values and teachings
- show respect towards self and others
- respect and respond to difference and diversity among peers
- identify, debate, resolve and evaluate moral dilemmas in life, in story and other texts (moral sensitivity, moral reasoning)
- examine the effects of words and actions and their reciprocal implications
- engage in rule-making and decision-making
- apply Christian moral teachings to their own lives (moral judgement and imagination)
- explore and respect the environment.

#### Communicating:

- engage in moral discussion and debate using arguments (conversational virtues).

## Strand Units

Children at this level will be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the following ideas and concepts:

### Human Dignity

- God loves each one of us (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:10-11; CSRE 3a).
- I am unique/special because God created me (CCC 1004; Gn 1:26-7; Ps 137:14).
- I am called to love God and to love others (Mt 22:36-40).
- Every person is special in the eyes of God (CCC 225, 356-61, 369, 1604, 1700-01, 1944-46, 2319, 2334; CSRE 3a).
- God knows my name (Is 43:1-4; Is 49:15).
- God gave me people (e.g. families) who take care of me and show me how to love.
- Jesus shows me how to love and care about others (CCC 478, 544, 2443-46).
- Jesus helps me to do the right thing.
- I can love, share, express thanks, and care for myself and for others (CCC 224).
- Love the Lord your God alone, with all your heart (First Commandment).
- Respect the Lord's name (Second Commandment).

### Social Teaching of the Church

- I can use my gifts to help others.
- I can be fair and just (CCC 1944-45, 2255, 2319).
- I can be honest, truthful and kind (CSRE 3b).
- I can respect the property of others.
- I can include and accept others.
- I can respect and care for all creation (RH 15; CCC 373).
- I can say 'sorry' when I hurt other people.
- I can help people who are poor and people who are hungry.

### RSE in a Christian Context

- Life is a gift from God (CCC 2260).
- God gave me feelings.
- God made me a boy/girl.
- My body is a gift from God (Ps 137:14).
- Importance of care for my body created by God (CCC 1004; CSRE 3a).
- Jesus grew in his mother's womb. I grew in my mother's womb.
- Jesus was part of a family. God gave me my family.
- Honour your parents/godparents/guardians (fourth commandment).
- Include: Stories that encourage an awareness of others and respect for diversity and difference.
- Stories which help children distinguish right from wrong and help children to make moral judgements about situations.
- Stories of saints, of good versus evil, of right and wrong actions, stories that convey Christian moral values such as sharing, caring, love, forgiveness, friendship, welcoming the stranger, importance of family, care of the earth.