

Level 2



## Strand: Christian Faith

### Aims

Children will:

- develop their experience, knowledge and understanding of God and of the person of Jesus, his life, his historical context, his redemptive mission, his teachings (in word and deed), his identity as the Second Divine Person of the Most Holy Trinity
- reflect on how Jesus' person, words and actions influence their own lives and the lives of Christians past and present
- explore how through the community of the Catholic Church, people can experience God's love and care
- learn about roles and responsibilities within the Catholic Church community
- learn that care for the marginalised is a central part of belonging to the Catholic Church community
- develop a growing awareness of diversity in beliefs.

### Skills

The child should be enabled to:

#### **Understanding:**

- identify and explain Christian beliefs
- apply Jesus' actions and teaching to their own lives.

#### **Communicating:**

- express feelings, questions, ideas and understandings about Christian beliefs
- memorise faith summaries, expressing Christian beliefs.

#### **Developing Spiritual Literacy:**

- explore awareness of the presence of God in self, others and world.

#### **Developing Inter-religious Literacy:**

- identify his/her own religious identity and religious and/or cultural identity of others
- identify Christian and other faith communities in his/her locality
- listen to and discuss stories about children in a Christian or other faith community (Jewish/Muslim) in Ireland.

## Strand Units

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

### Mystery of God

- God is love (1 Jn 4:8).
- God invites us to respond in love (Jn 13:34-5; 1 Jn 4:11-12).
- God is loving and forgiving (merciful) (Ps 86:15; Ps 103:8).
- God our Father sent his son, Jesus, to tell us the 'Good News' (CCC 422).
- God sent Jesus to show us how much he loves us and to teach us how to love others (LG 3; RDEC, 80; Jn 17:21).
- God our Father gives us friends to love us.
- There is only one true God.
- God is eternal – he always was, he is and he always will be.

### Mystery of Jesus Christ

- Jesus is the Father's greatest gift to us (CCC 426).
- Jesus is called 'Christ' (Mt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13; CCC 436, 453).
- 'Son of God', 'Redeemer' and 'Saviour' (CCC 429, 455).
- Jesus reveals the 'Good News' of God his Father (GDC 102; Mk 1:14-15; Jn 5:36-37).
- Jesus showed us God's love (1 Jn 4:9).
- Jesus came to do the will of God who sent him (LG 4; CCC 534, 606; Jn 17:4).
- Jesus had a special love for God his Father (CCC 473: uniqueness of Jesus; Mk 14:32-6; Lk 10:21-2).
- Jesus showed his love for God his Father by praying to God, by his actions and by his preaching of the 'Good News' (CCC 2599; Mk 6:46; Lk 6:12; Mt 14:23).
- Jesus spent forty days and forty nights in the wilderness praying to God his Father (Mt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13; CCC 538).
- Jesus worked as a carpenter (Mk 6:3; LG 41, GS 32, 43, CCC 2427).
- Jesus had many friends (Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Peter, Joanna, Susanna, Salome etc) (Jn 11:5).
- Jesus loved to celebrate and share with his friends (Lk 10:38-42).
- Jesus called disciples (men and women) to share his life and mission (Mk 15:40-1; Lk 8:2-3).
- The disciples responded to the call of Jesus to follow him (Mk 1:18; CCC 765).
- Jesus invites us to spread the 'Good News' of God's love and to become his disciples (CCC 520, 544).
- We can be Jesus' disciples when we trust in God and follow Jesus (Jn 15:14).
- Jesus called twelve apostles to be with him and work with him (LG 19; CCC 551, 858).
- Jesus made Peter the leader of the apostles (LG 19; Mt 16:18).
- Jesus came to call sinners (RP 7; CCC 588-89).
- Jesus brought healing and forgiveness to sinners (CCC 545).
- Jesus healed many people and we call the healing actions of Jesus miracles.
- Jesus welcomed and healed those who were excluded (Lk 19:1-10).
- Jesus was a teacher (Mk 2:13; Mt 5:2).
- Jesus taught his disciples to trust in God (Mt 6:25-34; CCC 227).
- Jesus taught his disciples how to pray (Mt 6:9-13; Lk 11:1-4).
- Jesus taught his followers through stories and we call these stories parables (Mk 4:2).

- Jesus taught that God Our Father loves us and wants us to be his children.
- Jesus taught us to live in love: love of God, love of others (Mt 22:36-40; CCC 458-59, 1709).
- Jesus shared 'The Last Supper' with his friends on Holy Thursday and it was the first Eucharist (1 Cor 11:23-26).
- Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show them how to serve others (Jn 13:4-14).
- Jesus died on the cross out of love for God his Father and for us on Good Friday (CCC 616).
- On Easter Sunday, God his Father raised him from the dead (CCC 638).
- Jesus ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty (CCC 659-64).
- The Lord Jesus is still with us for he said, 'I am with you always' (Mt 28:20).
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us become holy and to help us pray (Jn 14:16-17; CCC 733, 741).

### Mystery of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is our friend.
- The Holy Spirit can help us to live like Jesus and to remember the words of Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit came to empower the disciples at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13; MD 27; CCC 731).

### Creation

- God our Father is our creator, who loves us as his children (Gn 1:26-27; Gn 2:5-7).
- God created us with a body and soul (CCC 362-67).
- The gift of creation is a sign of God's love for us.
- Angels are spirits who have been created by God. They are sent as his messengers on important occasions. They act as our guardians. They serve God and they serve us (Lk 1:26-38; Lk 2:8-20; Mt 1:18-25; Mt 2:13-14; Mt 28:1-8; CCC 328-36).
- Adam and Eve were created good and without sin. They were happy because they were friends with God in paradise. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan to choose a self-centred life and to sin (Gn 2-3; CCC 355-84, 397, 415). They disobeyed God and lost their original holiness (CCC 399). This event is called 'The Fall' and the first sin is called 'Original Sin' (CCC 355-86, 389, 417).
- God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ to redeem the human race from sin through his sacrifice on the cross (CCC 55-8, 385-90, 399, 409-10, 412).

### Mystery of the Church

(family: domestic Church, community: local Church)

- The Church was established by Jesus Christ (LG 5; CCC 763).
- The Church is a community of people gathered together to hear God's Word and live out his gospel commands (CCC 749-52).
- God's family includes people of every age, race, culture and ability (CCC 775).
- The Church is a community that proclaims the 'Good News' of Jesus (mission).
- The Church is a community where Mary, as mother of Jesus, has a special place (LG 63).
- Catholics come together to worship as a community in the parish (CCC 1069, 1071, 2179).
- We do not live our faith alone, but in the community of the Church.
- Within the context of an introduction to the Mass, present the priest and explain his role within the local parish church/es (CCC 1547-53, 1562-68, 1577-79, 1581, 1592, 1595, 1597-98).
- Introduce the Pope as the visible head of the Church on earth (CCC 880-82; 936-37).

- Introduce people who carry out work in the local church/es e.g. sacristan, lectors.
- Discuss families as part of the local Church community/ies. Christian presence in the family.
- Explore the Catholic school as part of the Church community. What happens in our Catholic school. Patron Saint of the School.
- Missionaries are men and women who share the Good News in Ireland and abroad. Local missionaries (The Society of Missionary Children).
- We can share the Good News that Jesus loves us within our families and community (mission).
- Saints are those who love God and are in heaven with God after death. The Church honours them with a feast day (SC 104; CCC 828).
- Saints are a great example of how to live and Christians ask their help in prayer (CCC 828).
- Saints: explore St Patrick, St Bernadette, St Francis of Assisi and a selection from the following list – St Joseph, St Ita, St Gobnait, St Stephen, Saints associated with the school or parish.
- St Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and ecology.

### Mary

- Mary listened and responded to God (Lk 1:38; LG 53).
- Mary was called by God to be the Mother of Jesus (LG 56; CCC 495).
- Mary had courage and trusted in God (CCC 494, 511).
- Mary loves and cares for us.
- Mary is a model for all Christians (LG 53; CCC 501).
- Mary's months of October and May (CCC 971, 2678, 2708).

### Eternal Life

- Jesus promised new life here on earth and after we die.
- We believe that:
  - when we die, God calls us to heaven (CCC 1011).
  - God's plan is that when we die we will live on with God, Jesus, Mary, the angels and saints in heaven (CCC 1024).
  - heaven is our true and final home after our life on earth where we will be happy with God.
  - one day Christ will come in glory and in his Kingdom there will be no more suffering, no more tears, no more sadness (Mt 16:27-8).

### Other Religious Traditions

- Christians love everyone because we all have the same Father in heaven who loves us and wants us to love one another (CCC 1877-78).
- We are members of one human family and community on earth.
- Each person is unique and precious in God's sight.
- Catholics are called to respect other people's ways of praying, their holy objects, religious stories, sacred writings and beliefs.

## Strand: Word of God

### Aims

Children will:

- listen to and explore gospel accounts of Jesus' childhood, public ministry and teaching
- explore how people's lives were changed by their encounter with and response to Jesus
- develop their ability to listen to, understand, interpret and respond creatively to Sacred Scripture texts
- develop a familiarity with the language and contexts of Sacred Scripture texts
- develop their understanding of Sacred Scripture as the revealed Word of God.

### Skills

The child should be enabled to:

#### Understanding

- recall and explain Biblical terms, images and sayings.
- evaluate the truth/rightness of characters' words/actions in Sacred Scripture texts
- apply ideas and principles in Biblical texts/parables to his/her own life.

#### Communicating

- read sentences/phrases/passages from Sacred Scripture.

## Strand Units

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

### Bible

- The book which contains the Gospels: four important books which tell us about Jesus (CCC 124-27, 139).
- Jesus Christ is the central person in the Bible for Christians (CCC 129).
- God makes himself known to us in the Bible so we can love him (CCC 50-141).
- As members of God's family, we listen to Jesus speak to us through the Gospels (CCC 104, 131, 134).
- God speaks to us through the Bible which is the Word of God (DV 11-13; 21-26).
- The Bible, as a privileged means of the transmission of divine Revelation, teaches us how to live.

### Sacred Scripture

#### *God's Loving Plan of Salvation (CCC 355-84)*

- Gn 1:1-2:4. The story of creation.
- Gn 1:26-27. Made in God's image.
- Gn 2:4-9; 15-17; 3:1-12. Story of the First Sin.
- 1 Sm 16:1, 6-13. David chosen by God.
- 1 Sm 17:1-50. David and Goliath.
- Ps 9:1. Thanking God.
- Ps 23:1-4. The Lord is my shepherd.
- Ps 25:12; 38:15; 56:4. Trusting in God.
- Ps 95:1-7. Hymn of praise.
- Ps 100:3-5. Hymn of praise.
- Ps 105:1-6. Thanksgiving for creation.
- Is 9:2. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- Is 49:15. I will not forget you.
- Is 66:13. God comforts his people as a mother comforts her child.

#### *Jesus' Birth and Youth (CCC 422-24; 430-60; 522-34)*

- Mt 1:18-25. Birth of Jesus.
- Mt 2:1-12. Wise men.
- Mt 2:13-16, 19-23. Flight into Egypt/Joseph's dream/return to Nazareth.
- Lk 1:26-38. The Annunciation.
- Lk 1:39-45. The Visitation.
- Lk 2:1-20. Story of Jesus' birth.
- Lk 2:22-40. Presentation: Anna and Simeon.
- Lk 2:41-52. Jesus is found in the temple.

#### *Jesus' Public Life (CCC 543-56; 857-62)*

- Mt 4:23-5. Jesus and the sick.
- Mt 6:9-13. Our Father.
- Mt 6:25-32. Jesus' teaching apostles to trust in God.
- Mt 9:1-8; Mk 2:1-12. Healing of man born paralysed.
- Mt 18:12-14; Lk 15:1-7. The lost sheep.



- Mt 28:20. 'I am with you always.'
- Mk 1:14-15. Proclaiming the Good News.
- Mk 1:16-20; Mk 3:13-19; Lk 6:13-16; Mt 10:1-42. Appointment of the Twelve.
- Mk 1:29-31. Cure of Simon's mother-in-law.
- Mk 1:32-38. Jesus at work.
- Mk 1:40-5; Mt 8:1-3; Leper healed.
- Mk 2:13-19; Mt: 9:9. Call of Matthew/Levi tax collector.
- Mk 2:15-17. Tax collectors & sinners.
- Mk 5:21-24; 35-43. Jairus' daughter.
- Mk 6:46; Lk 6:12; Mt 14:23. Jesus praying.
- Mk 10: 46-52 Blind Man (Bartimaeus).
- Mk 14:32-36; Lk 10:21-22. Jesus' special relationship with God the Father.
- Lk 3:2-3, 15-18. John the Baptist.
- Lk 4:1-13; Mt 4:1-11. Jesus in the desert.
- Lk 5:1-11. Disciples called.
- Lk 6:12-16. The choice of the twelve.
- Lk 19:1-10. Zacchaeus.
- Lk 21:1-4; Mk 12:41-44. The widow's mite.
- Jn 5:36-37. The Father has sent me.
- Jn 6:35. 'I am the Bread of Life.'
- Jn 6:38. 'For I have come down from heaven.'
- Jn 8:12. Jesus light of the world.
- Jn 12:1-8. Jesus shares a meal with his friends.
- Jn 13:34-35. Love commandment.
- Jn 14:9-10. 'Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.'
- Jn 15:14. 'You are my friends if you do what I command you.'

*Jesus' Passion and Death (CCC 575-637).*

- Lk 22:7-20/Mt 26:17-29. Last Supper.
- Lk 22:47-53. Betrayal and arrest.
- Lk 22:54-62. Peter's denial.
- Lk 23:33-49. Christ's death and burial, good thief.
- Jn 10:1-16. The Good Shepherd
- Jn 13:3-15. The washing of the feet.
- Jn 12:12-16. Entry into Jerusalem.
- Jn 19:17-30. Christ's death.

*Jesus' Resurrection and Pentecost (CCC 638; CCC 731-41)*

- Mt 28:1-8. The empty tomb.
- Mk 16:1-8. The women at the tomb (read first).
- Jn 20:1-10; 11-18. Disciples at the tomb.
- Jn 20:1, 11-18. Mary Magdalene meets the Risen Jesus.
- Acts 2:1-12. The first Pentecost.

*For memorisation*  
Jn 15:12. Love commandment.

## Strand: Liturgy and Prayer

### Aims

Children will:

- develop their capacity for personal and communal prayer, using appropriate signs, symbols, music, rites and rituals
- learn about the importance of Sunday as an element of the liturgical year
- develop their understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism
- explore Jesus' call to forgiveness and reconciliation and develop an understanding of how to participate in the sacrament of penance
- learn about the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and develop an understanding of how to participate in this celebration
- explore the events, celebrated by the Catholic community in the liturgical year and especially during the times of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Holy Week and Easter/Pentecost.

### Skills

The child should be enabled to:

#### Understanding:

- sequence actions and activities in rituals.

#### Communicating and Participating:

- use periods of stillness and silence for reflection and prayer (contemplative prayer)
- communicate understandings, questions and feelings about prayers, symbols, music, songs, sacred objects, liturgy and sacraments
- participate in preparation for liturgical celebrations (where appropriate).

## Strand Units

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

### Prayer

- Praying is listening and talking to Jesus (GDC 139).
- Jesus prayed frequently and especially when he faced important decisions (Mk 6:46; Lk 6:12; Mt 14:23; CCC 2600).
- In the 'Our Father' Jesus taught his followers how to pray (CCC 2607).
- Jesus teaches us to pray to God Our Father (Mt 6:9-13; CCC 2608).
- God knows what we need even before we ask for it (Mt 6:8; GDC 139).
- We can ask the help of God, of Jesus of the Holy Spirit or Mary or the saints (Intercession; LG 50).
- Catholics have customs and traditions to remind them that God is present in all of life (e.g. putting a cross on bread, blessing oneself with holy water before leaving the house, lighting baptismal candle on your birthday, palms on Palm Sunday, making Brigid's crosses) (CCC 1180; CCC 1674).
- Prayers of adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, praise, sorrow and repentance. (CCC 2628, CCC 2634).
- Prayers from the Celtic tradition.

### Formal Prayer

- Act of Contrition/Sorrow (CCC 1451-54)
- Prayer for Forgiveness
- Prayer after Forgiveness
- Journey Prayer
- Prayer before Communion
- Prayer after Communion
- The Rosary: Joyful Mysteries (CCC 971)
- All Mass responses: Confiteor, Kyrie, Sanctus, Our Father, Agnus Dei, Lord I am not worthy.

### Additional Prayers

- Blessing of advent wreath and candles (CCC 1672)
- Praying to respect others
- Prayer to be Jesus' friend (CCC 2665)
- Praying to be like Jesus
- Family blessing
- Some stations of the cross (CCC 1674, 2699):
  - Jesus receives his cross
  - Jesus falls
  - Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross
  - Jesus meets the women
  - Jesus dies (Jesus is risen)
- Prayer to Mary, Jesus' mother and ours.
- Prayer to saints
- Simple examination of conscience

- Blessing and giving of ashes
- Simple versions of Psalms praising God for creation (e.g. Ps 148, Ps 150)
- Ps 9:1. Thanking God.
- Ps 23:1-4. The Lord is my Shepherd.
- Ps 25:12; 38:15; 56:4. Trusting in God.
- Ps 95:1-7. Hymn of Praise.
- Ps 100: 3-5. Hymn of Praise.
- Ps 105:1-6. Thanking God.

### Liturgical Year

- Sunday is the Lord's Day because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week (CCC 2174).
- Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day (Sunday). (Third commandment).
- Advent: four weeks of longing to celebrate Christmas, the birthday of Jesus.
- Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus into the world.
- God prepared for Jesus' coming by sending John the Baptist (Acts 13:24; Mt 3:3; CCC 523).
- Christmas is a time when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world (Is 9:2, Is 9:6; Mic 5:1; Jn 8:12)
- Lent is a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter – the most important feast in the Church's year.
- Lent lasts for forty days because Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days and forty nights.
- Lent is a time to turn back to God and believe the Good News.
- Lent is a time for me to show the ways that I can be a friend like Jesus.
- Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent when ashes are placed on the forehead of Catholics as a reminder to believe the Good News and to follow Jesus more closely.
- On St Patrick's Day we remember that St Patrick brought the 'good news' to Ireland.
- Holy Week is a time to remember the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), his Last Supper, his passion and death.<sup>17</sup>
- The palms remind us of Jesus' journey into Jerusalem.
- At Mass on Holy Thursday the priest washes people's feet to remind everyone of what Jesus did. Jesus wanted to show his friends how they must behave towards each other – caring for and looking after each other.
- The cross is the sign of Jesus' love for his Father and for us.
- The Stations of the Cross are pictures that tell the story of Jesus' death.
- On Easter Sunday Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.
- Easter Sunday celebrates God giving new life to Jesus. Jesus is alive and with us now.
- God raised Jesus from the dead to be with us.
- The Paschal candle is a reminder of 'Jesus the Light of the World'. It is lit during the Easter season, for Baptisms and funerals.
- At Pentecost the Church family celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Good News of Jesus.
- The Feast of All Saints is a time to celebrate the lives of all those women, men, and children who show us how to follow Jesus.
- On the Feast of All Souls the Church remembers those who have died and prays for them.
- Feast Days of Mary: Annunciation (CCC 484). Our Lady's birthday.

<sup>17</sup> Note the presentation of the Last Supper is to be integrated with what is presented on the Mass emphasising a) Jesus' will to remain with people of all times, and b) Jesus' making the bread and wine signs of his presence in the midst of humankind.

## Sacraments

- Baptism is the sacrament through which people become children of God and members of the family of the Church (CCC 1213, 1226, 1239-41, 1243, 1257, 1267, 1272, 1278-80, 1282).
- In baptism, as in all of the sacraments, we receive God's grace.
- Grace is a gift from God that helps us to be holy (CCC 1999, 2021-24).
- Baptism uses symbols of water, sign of the cross and anointing with Chrism, white garment, light (CCC 1234).
- The baptismal candle is lit from the 'Paschal/Easter' candle: the light of Christ for everyone.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's forgiveness and love.
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we admit how we have failed to love God and each other (CCC 1455, 1458).
- God continues to love us even when we sin (CCC 1468).
- When we choose to do wrong we have sinned against God, whom we should love above all things (CCC 1849, 1850).
- God calls us always to be sorry for our sins and accept his forgiveness (CCC 1425, 1451).
- Jesus asked his followers to forgive (RP 12). We remember this when we pray the Our Father.
- Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to forgive our sins and to give us grace to do good and avoid future sins (CCC1446).
- Christ, the Good Shepherd, always seeks out the lost sheep (Mt 18:12-14; Lk 15:1-7).
- The Lord Jesus forgives us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 987, 1422, 1462, 1486; RP 29).
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a whole consisting in three actions of the penitent and the priest's absolution. The Penitent's acts are sorrow or contrition, confession of sins to the priest, and the intention to make reparation and improve behaviour (CCC 1488, 1491; RP 31). The priest's role is to forgive sins in God's name, give absolution and give act of satisfaction (penance) (CCC 1494, 1495).
- Through penance Christians seek to undo the harm caused by sin (CCC 1431, 1459-60).
- Sin is not living as Jesus asked his followers to live.
- Sin is not loving like Jesus.
- Sin is intentional not accidental. It means 'I know and choose to do wrong' (CCC 1745).
- The Word of God helps me discern right from wrong (CCC 1785).
- When the priest says the prayer of absolution, we are forgiven in God's name through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Mass

At this level work on the Mass pivots on six points:

1. Eucharistic Presence (SC 7, MF 35-8, CCC 1088, 1373-77).
2. Sacred Meal (CCC 1347)
3. Memorial Sacrifice (CCC 1357, 1362-72).
4. Praise and Thanksgiving (CCC 1328, 1359-61).
5. Communion (CCC 1382).
6. Structure of the Mass (CCC 1348-55).

### 1. *Eucharistic Presence*

- The Mass is a sacred banquet in which we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. In doing so, we become more like him (CCC 1382).
- The Holy Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus under the appearance of bread and wine (CCC 1333-36; 1373-81; 1410; 1412; 1418).
- Jesus is present in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the Real Presence of Jesus, and the Eucharist nourishes us and strengthens us to follow Jesus (CCC 1088, 1374, 1377-78).

### 2. *Sacred Meal*

- The Last Supper was the first Mass. Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with the apostles on the night before he died (Mt 26:20-29; CCC 1323).
- At Mass the parish family shares a holy/sacred meal like Jesus did at the Last Supper (SC 10).
- Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper (SC 10).

### 3. *Memorial Sacrifice*

- Jesus asked us to 'do this in memory' of him (LG 22:19; CCC 1333).
- At Mass we remember that Jesus died and rose again to save the world.
- The Eucharist makes present the death and Resurrection of Jesus, which accomplished our salvation (CCC 1359, 1366-1367).

### 4. *Praise and Thanksgiving*

- *Mass*: a special time for saying thank you to God the Father for everything and especially for the gift of Jesus.

### 5. *Communion*

- Jesus wants us to be united with him and with one another.
- When we eat the 'Bread of Life' Jesus comes to us and we grow in friendship with God and with one another (Jn 6:35).

### 6. *Structure of the Mass (Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, CCC 1088, 1346, 1349)*

- Basic elements of the celebration and children's participation in it: example: At Mass we gather, listen to the Word of God, give thanks, share in the Bread of Life, are sent out to live like Jesus. When we read aloud from Sacred Scripture we are proclaiming the Word of God.
- Preparation for Communion: To honour Jesus, we are asked to fast from food and drink for at least one hour prior to the reception of Holy Communion. (Water and/or medicine do not break the Eucharistic fast).
- We receive with reverence – on the tongue; in the hand.
- Making thanksgiving.

### *Names, functions and meaning of objects used in celebrating the Eucharist*

- e.g. altar, altar cloth, vestments, chalice, paten, cruets, altar candles, alb, chasuble, stole.

## Strand: Christian Morality

### Aims

Children will:

- understand that following Jesus is living according to the example and teaching of Jesus, especially the Love Commandment (CCC 1694)
- understand their need for God's grace to live as his children
- explore the stories of holy people and saints as people who live in the way of Jesus (modelling)
- become aware of moral failure, of the need for forgiveness and appreciate the Mercy of God (moral awareness; development of conscience; CCC 1779). (See Liturgy/Prayer strand for the development of understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this level)
- develop their understanding of objective morality by reflecting on the reasons for moral precepts, rules and actions
- develop a sense of interdependence, of justice and of fairness as reciprocity
- understand that they are accountable for their decisions and responsible for their words and actions (moral agency)
- reflect on their freedom to make choices and the relationship between choice and consequence (freedom of choice and human responsibility; agency, self-reflection; moral judgement)
- develop respect for the views, feelings and possessions of others, in their own community and in other communities
- explore their responsibility to care for and preserve the local environment (CSRE 3d).

### Skills

The child should be enabled to:

#### Understanding:

- apply Christian moral precepts, maxims and rules to their own lives
- examine reasons for Christian moral precepts, ideas and actions (critical moral perspective)
- respect and respond to difference and diversity among peers
- define moral failure (sin) and the steps to conversion
- identify ways of caring for creation.

#### Communicating:

- justify moral choices made (moral agency, critical moral orientation).

## Strand Units

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

### Human Dignity

- God's plan is that all people would love and respect one another and be happy together.
- God gave us talents, human senses, the body, language, the gift of life in self, others and world (CCC 1004).
- Each person has been given gifts and talents that make him or her unique (CSRE 3a).

### Human Freedom and Responsibility

- We can make good and bad choices.
- Choices affect ourselves and others.
- We can choose to act like Jesus.
- When we choose to respond to God's love, we become more like him.
- Following Jesus also means being just and fair in our treatment of others.

### God's Graceful Presence and Assistance

- We need God's grace to live as his children (CCC 1747, 1749, 1759-61, 1776-77, 1781, 1783-85, 1789, 1811, 1996, 2021-22).
- Jesus will help us forgive others who hurt us if we ask him (CCC 1421).
- Jesus gives us a new commandment – the law of love (CCC 1823).
- Jesus' law of love is: love one another as I have loved you (Jn 13:34-5).
- The Holy Spirit helps us to live like Jesus.
- I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me (Ex 20:2-3).
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain (Ex 20:7).
- Remember to keep holy the Lord's day (Ex 20:8).
- Honour your father and your mother.
- You shall not kill.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- The voice of God urges us to do what is good and avoid what is evil (CCC 1706, GC 16: Conscience).

### Social Teaching of the Church

- We were made for one another (interdependence) (CCC 1877-1948; GS 25, 30).
- Jesus taught that his followers should have a special love for the poor (Mt 25:31-46; CCC 544).
- God calls us to show love, justice and peace in our relationships with others.
- Our Church family prays and cares for the sick in special ways.
- Everyone and everything is made by God and belongs to God. Therefore Christians reverence and take care of people and the world (CCC 2452).
- Jesus cared for creation.
- Each person has a responsibility to care for the environment (CCC 373; 2402, 2456; RH 15).
- God gave us the intelligence and skill to care for the earth.



### RSE in a Christian Context

- My family is a gift from God.
- Qualities and values of the Holy Family of Nazareth.
- Jesus' love is present when our parents/guardians love each other and love us.
- Each member of a family has responsibilities to the others (CCC 2201).
- Christians respect their bodies and the bodies of others because they were created by God (CCC 364; CSRE 3a).
- It is important to prepare responsibly for new life which comes from God.
- Jesus is present with us as we grow and change.
- Include: Stories of good vs evil, of right and wrong actions; stories that convey Christian moral values such as peacemaking, charity, social justice, interdependence, care for the sick, care for the earth, forgiveness, friendship, welcoming the stranger, importance of family, courage in the face of disability.
- Stories that facilitate an understanding of fair reciprocity (i.e., developing a concept of fairness as requiring the reciprocal co-ordination of two or more points of view).