



First and Second Class/P3-P4



COMMUNITIES OF ...

FAITH

LEARNING

LOVE

RESILIENCE

HOPE



First and Second Class: From the Curriculum – Level 2

Christian Faith	Word of God
<p>Mystery of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>Mystery of the Church/Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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).	<p>Sacred Scripture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mt 7:12
Liturgy and Prayer	Christian Morality
<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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).	<p>Human Dignity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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).



Monday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith

25 January 2021

Consider:

- A community is another name for a group of people that share something. Can we think of different communities? GAA club and county teams, a town or village community, a parish community, etc.
- Catholic schools are special communities of faith. That means they are part of a parish that wants to serve God and love God. God loves us and wants us to live like Jesus did, in our thoughts, words and actions.
- The children could be asked to consider how we could live like Jesus did, and how we should treat each other every day in our thoughts, words and actions.

Explore:

- Explore with the class some of the things we do to show we are part of a community of faith. Praying helps us to become closer to God who loves us. Going to Mass in the parish church gives us a chance to come together as a community to worship God. Helping people and being kind to others shows us that we are living as Jesus wants us to.
- Explain to the children that at the end of Mass the priest gives us a special blessing before we leave. This blessing is called the dismissal rite. We are invited to ‘go in peace to live like Jesus.’ We are asked to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and use our gifts and abilities to continue his mission in our world today.
- On the interactive whiteboard, show a picture of the local parish church. Explain that this God’s house, which means when we come together to pray and spend time there, God is with us in a special way. Talk about the special occasions we have in churches, such as baptisms, weddings, First Holy Communion, etc.
- The school is a community of faith because there we learn about how much God loves us and we can learn to pray to him. Jesus wants to welcome everyone and care for everyone.

Activity:

- The children can work in pairs or groups to complete the About our Parish page. If the children do not know some of the answers, the parish can be looked up on Google.
- If possible, the children could be brought to the local church to see where the local Catholic community gather to worship.





About Our Parish

Name: _____

Saint: _____

Priest/s: _____

Church/es: _____

Schools: _____

What I know
about my Parish: _____

What I like best
about my Parish: _____

How we share
the Good News
in our Parish: _____



Tuesday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Learning

26 January 2021

Consider:

- Schools are communities of learning because we come together to learn many different things each day.
- In Catholic schools, we learn about subjects such as maths, Gaeilge and science and we learn all about the world around us.
- We learn about the rules we should follow to keep everyone happy and safe.
- We also learn how to care for ourselves, for others and the environment. We learn to follow Jesus' Golden Rule.

Explore:

- Ask the children what rules they follow in the classroom and in school. Do we have rules at home? Why are the rules important?
- Introduce Matthew 7:12 to the class. 'Do for other people the same things you want them to do for you' (taken from *International Children's Bible*).
- They can also watch a short video on the Golden Rule on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLRMuYfoHEY>
- Ask the children what they think Jesus means by this. Brainstorm on the whiteboard what ways we could do this in our thoughts, words and actions.

Activity:

- Make a Golden Rule(r). Give each child a ruler-sized piece of card. They can write and fill in the phrase 'I follow the Golden Rule when I _____' onto the card. The Golden Ruler can then be covered with gold glitter, foil or other materials. These can be placed on the wall or in the classroom Sacred Space to help remind the class about the Golden Rule. We want to treat others the way Jesus treats us.

I follow the Golden Rule
when I _____



Wednesday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Love

27 January 2021

Consider:

- There are lots of different types of love. There is love that parents or grandparents have for us. There is our love of doing things we like.
- When we love something, it means we care very much about it and it has a very special place in our hearts.
- In our Catholic school, as a community we learn that God loves us very much and wants us to know and to love him too. Even when we make mistakes and do silly things, God will never stop loving us. The parable of the Prodigal Son shows us the infinite depths of God's love for each of us. We try to live out such love in our own lives as well.
- One way we can get to know and to love God better is through prayer.

Explore:

- Ask the children to think for a moment about someone or something they love. They can also discuss this in pairs. Hints or prompts can be given, such as family members. These can be written on the whiteboard.
- Discuss how we love our parents and/or grandparents and how they love us. We spend time together. We are kind to each other. We go places together. We celebrate special occasions together. This can include celebrations at the church, such as weddings and First Holy Communion, as well as sadder occasions like funerals. We show our love by being there for each other.
- One of Jesus' parables or stories is called the Prodigal Son. A children's video of the Prodigal Son can be played on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJgROx4wFKM>
- God will never stop loving us. Sometimes we make bad choices and turn away from that love. But we can always return to God and he will always welcome us back.
- God loves us and will always love us. Prayer helps us to talk to God, who always hears our prayers. Talk about some of the prayers the children are learning, such as the Morning Prayer.

Activity:

- The children can colour in the sheet of the Prodigal Son returning home.
- The children can write a short list or draw pictures of people they love that they want to pray for.
- Following this, the children can be invited into silent prayer. Prayer can be talking to God, but we can also pray by being still and silent by listening to our breath. They pick each person they want to pray for and, for a few seconds each, talk silently to God, asking him to take care of the people they love.





Thursday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Resilience

28 January 2021

Consider:

- Resilience means how we cope when things go wrong. It means that even when things get tough, we don't give up. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, things have been very strange and different, and this can make us worried and anxious.
- In our Catholic school, as a community, we learn ways to be resilient and to improve our well-being.
- God loves us and wants us to feel happy and safe. Our teachers and SNAs and staff want us to feel that way too.

Explore:

- The story of Moses in the Book of Exodus is a story of resilience. Many people were slaves in Egypt. Discuss what being a slave means and how difficult life would be if you were a slave. A holy man called Moses was called by God to free the slaves and lead them to safety.
- The children can watch the story of Moses via an illustrated story on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kNTUXomWP8>
- The message of this story for the children is that God wants us to be free and happy. Discuss the story and revise the story of Exodus.

Activity:

- Colour the sheet of Moses leading the Israelites through the Red Sea.
- Following on from yesterday's lesson, remind the children that God never stops loving them. Invite them to take a few moments to be still and pray to God about anything they are worried about. They can also pray for someone that might need to be prayed for. Remind the children that if something is worrying them, that they can also talk to their teacher.







Friday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Hope

29 January 2021

Consider:

- Jesus' Resurrection shows us that God's love is so strong that not even death can overcome it. In a Catholic school, as a community, we live in the hope of the Resurrection, which is a sign of God's love for us.
- Jesus' stories teach us to be hopeful and to do our best each day to be kind to others and live as a community that loves God.
- The parable of the Lost Sheep gives us the hope that God's love is for each and every one of us.

Explore:

- Remind the children how much God loves each one of us. Even when we make silly decisions and do silly things, God doesn't turn his back on us. Can we think of times we show God's love in our actions? Can we think of times where we don't show God's love? The children can work in pairs or groups to give answers. These can be written on the whiteboard.
- Jesus' story or parable of the Lost Sheep shows God's love for us: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Ry2MaMyvGo
- This story gives us hope that God will always be there for us, and that by following Jesus' lessons, we can get closer to God. We show this through caring for and being kind to ourselves, to others and to the world around us. That way, we can hope to make the world around us more like the Kingdom of God, where everyone is welcome.

Activity:

- The children can complete the worksheet on the Lost Sheep.
- As this is the final day of Catholic Schools Week, the children can celebrate the message of community by any of the songs below, or a song the children have learnt from *Grow in Love*.
- This Little Light of Mine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCN893hzueQ7>
- Circle of Friends: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCN1W_Re34s



Jesus is my Shepherd. He looks after me.



Follow the shepherd as he finds his lost sheep.

