

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION : SACRAMENT – EUCHARIST – GATHERING – EYFS

*Note to teachers/parents and carers.

This work comes from the Come and See Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that children may have come across under normal timetabling in school. We have suggested and selected a small amount of the programme. The activities aim to keep Religious Education practical and fun. They are in Year groups however, there is no harm in completing other year group work as this will help children to remember and strengthen their learning.

The first part of learning is called – **EXPLORE**. This shares your child's everyday experiences and helps them to see how the Catholic faith is lived in their everyday lives. The second part, called – **REVEAL** shares bible stories and Church tradition that links to their everyday life.

This theme is a **SACRAMENTAL** theme, and the children will be studying the sacrament of Holy Eucharist – Holy Communion. For Christians, communion has a significant meaning. To receive communion means being in union with Jesus Christ and with one another. It means breaking and sharing the consecrated Bread which Catholics believe is the Body of Christ. To celebrate Eucharist means community. It challenges believers to ask, 'Can I share this Eucharist if I do nothing to help my brother or sister who is hungry?' 'Can I partake of this communion if I refuse to forgive a wrong?'

Different names include:

Eucharist, (Thanksgiving) because it is an action of thanksgiving to God.

The Lord's Supper, because of its connection with the supper which the Lord took with his disciples on the eve of his Passion.

The Breaking of Bread, because Jesus used this Rite, part of a Jewish meal, when as master of the table he blessed and distributed the bread, above all at the Last Supper. It is by this action that his disciples recognised him after his Resurrection.

The **memorial** of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

The **Holy Sacrifice**, because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Saviour and includes the Church's offering.

Holy Communion, because by this sacrament we unite ourselves to Christ who makes us sharers in his Body and Blood to form a single body.

Holy Mass, (Missa) because the liturgy concludes with the sending forth (missio) of the faithful, so that they may fulfil God's will in their daily lives. (cf 1328-1332)

In Nursery and Reception, the children will be studying the topic of GATHERING. They will learn how the parish family finds strength in gathering for the celebration of the Eucharist, a sign of God's love in our lives. We share memories, love and thanks as we celebrate the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. There are extra notes on the Sacrament of Eucharist for your reference.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – EYFS – SACRAMENT – GATHERING

EXPLORE – How and why people gather together.

At the end of **EXPLORE**:

Some children will begin to **talk about** the times they have gathered together with others and **talk about** how they felt. They may be able to talk about how they have felt when they have not been able to gather together with their friends.

Some children will begin to say what they **wonder** about the enjoyment of being together.

Read this story together: ‘Happy Together.’

“Can I really go back to school tomorrow?” Thomas asked his Mum. “Of course, you can,” she answered. “The schools are open again for everyone.”

Thomas had not been able to go to Nursery (school) for ages because the schools were closed for lockdown. He had not liked that very much at all. He had enjoyed being at home at first and having Mum for a teacher, but she was often busy and had to do her own work. She wasn’t as patient as Miss Taylor and Mrs Whelan were and wouldn’t let him play outside as much as he wanted to. He was fed up with being at home now! The snow had been exciting for a bit, but it had soon vanished, and he was bored. He hadn’t been able to play football with his team on Saturdays either or go to the soft play centre.

The worst thing about not being able to go to Nursery (school) was not being with the other children. Thomas had felt all alone. He had no brothers or sisters and Emma and Joe, his friends from Nursery (school), were not allowed to come to his house to play anymore.

Now Thomas was excited. He could hardly wait for the next day to come. He was looking forward to playing in the sand with Joe, doing puzzles with Emma and sharing a game on the climbing frame.

- Encourage your child to talk about the things that they miss because of not being at school with their friends. What do they like to do together with their friends there? Talk about a typical day.
- Play ‘The Farmer is in his Den’ or another game together. (Try to play one that requires the support and encouragement of others.) Discuss how your child enjoyed it because you played together.
- Talk about the picture and say why it is important for the children to sing and play together.
- Make a chart of all the things that you have done together as a family for the last week or so and talk about the activities that are better done together. What makes them better?
- Look through family photos of family gatherings. Talk about the times you shared and how you all felt and what you did.
- Make a card for your friend at school to tell them you are missing them and are looking forward to seeing them again soon.



REVEAL – The joy of gathering together to celebrate at Mass.

At the end of **REVEAL**:

Children may begin to **recognise** the story of Jesus with the children as a religious story.

Children may begin to **recognise** the phrases “The Lord be with you.” “And with your spirit.”

They may begin to **recognise** the Lectern and know how it is used.

Children may begin to **recognise** how people gather together to share the stories of God’s love at Mass.

We gather together as a parish family to celebrate Mass.



Talk about what is happening in the picture and how the parish family gather for Mass.

Some questions to think about and answer.....

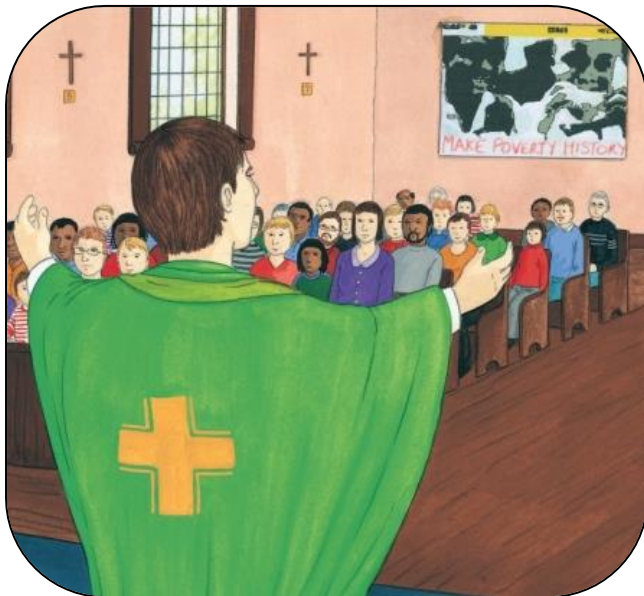
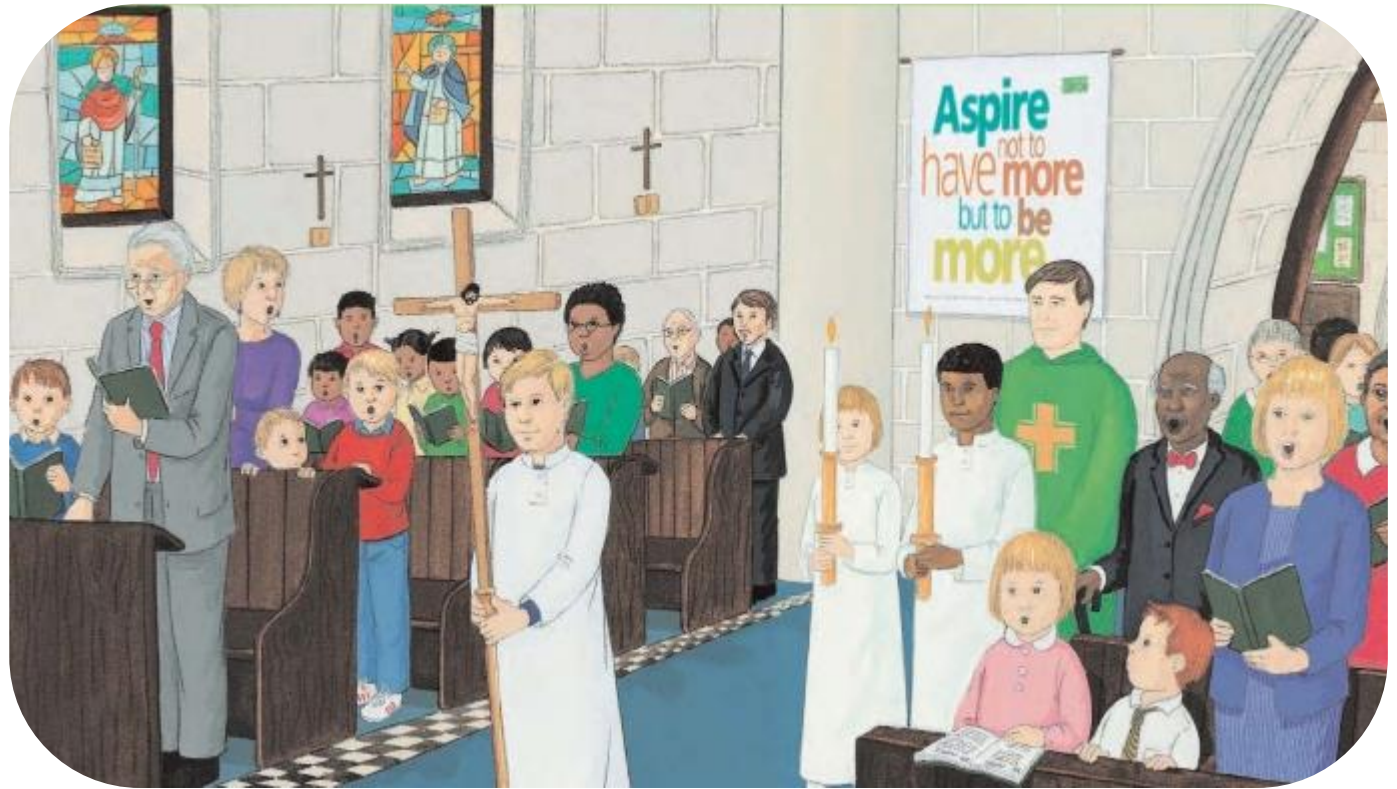
- Q What do you see in the picture?
- Q Who are the people in the picture?
- Q Where are the people going to?
- Q What are the people standing at the door doing?

Talk about how people are welcomed, as they gather in Church and how they listen to the Word of God.

Talk about what is happening in this picture. Point out how the congregation are singing together as they gather.

Some questions to think about and answer.....

- Q What do you see in the picture?
- Q Who are the people in the picture?
- Q What are the Church family doing together? (singing a gather song)
- Q What is happening? (Priest and altar servers processing in)

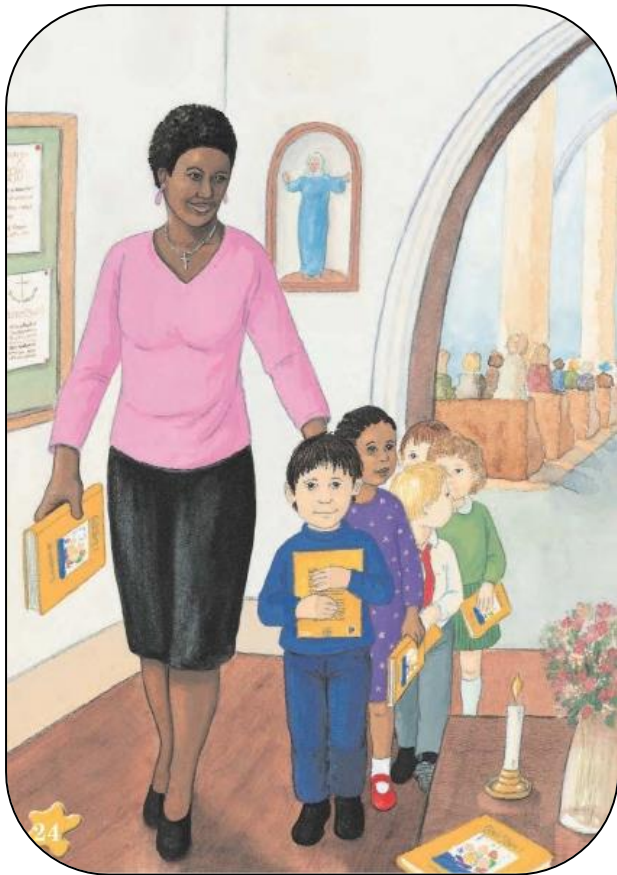


Talk about welcoming, gathering and listening. These words are used by the priest to welcome people at the beginning of Mass: *"The Lord be with you."* And the people say, *"And with your spirit."* Write the words in the speech bubbles.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit

We listen to God's Word when we gather at Mass.

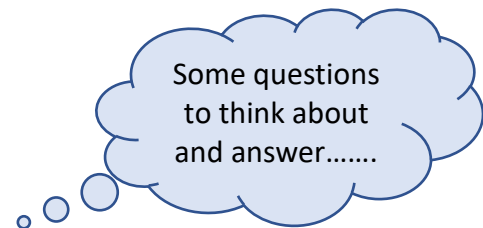
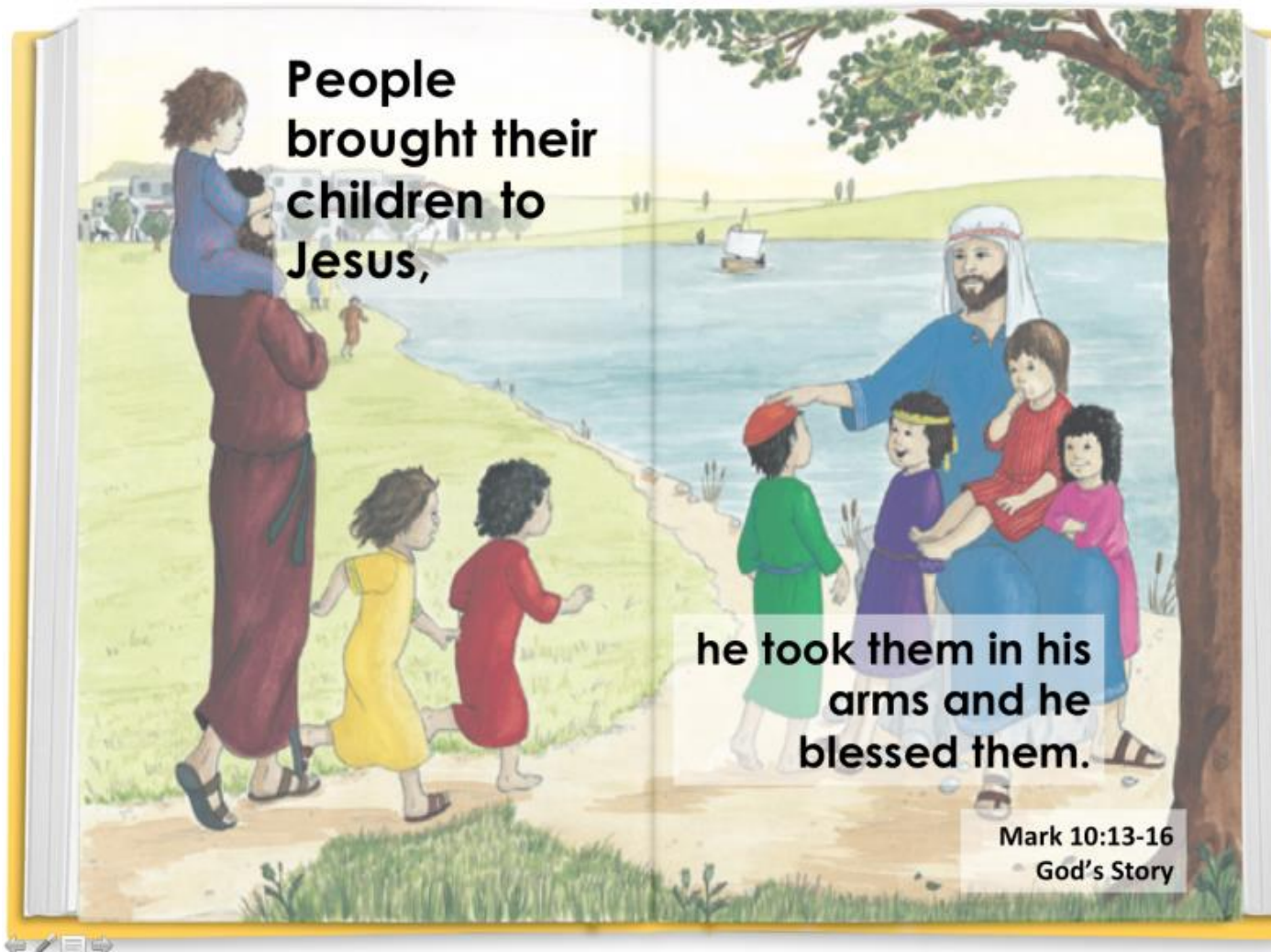


Talk about how, at Mass, people gather together to hear God's Word and know they are loved by God. Sometimes children go out of church with one of the parish catechists to listen to the Word of God that they can understand at the Children's Liturgy of the Word. The adults stay behind in church to listen to God's Word being proclaimed at the Lectern by a reader and to hear the Gospel being proclaimed by the Priest or Deacon.

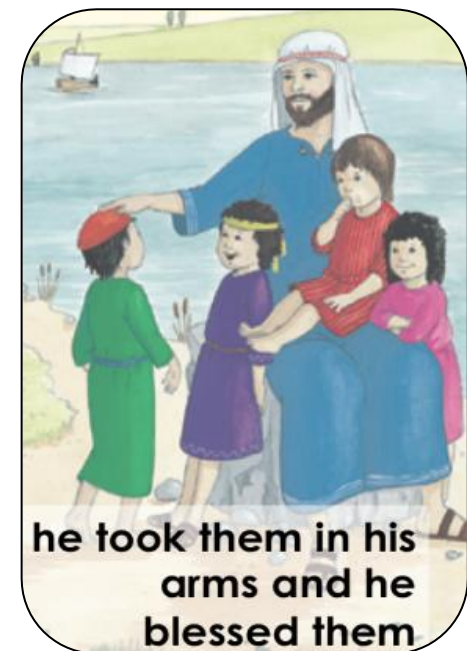
Talk about what is happening in the pictures. Who and what do you see? What are they doing? Can you see the *lectern* that the lady is reading from?



Look at the picture below. It shows a story from the Gospel (Mark 10: 13, 14-16). Jesus loved everyone, he was kind and gentle. Parents and carers brought their children to Jesus for him to bless. When the children saw him, they wanted to go to him to listen to his stories and just be with him. Some people thought the children should not be bothering Jesus, but Jesus loved all the children and said, "Let the children come to me." So, the children gathered round Jesus and loved being with Jesus. He gave them a blessing. Jesus loved the children. This is one of the Gospel stories that we listen to in Church.



- Q In the story how does Jesus welcome the children? (smiling, places his hand on a child, someone on Jesus' knee, someone leaning on him)
- Q What do you think Jesus might be saying to the children?
- Q Why did the children want to be near Jesus? Would you like to be there too, why?
- Q What does the story tell you about Jesus?



Activities to choose:

- Talk about the story of Jesus and the children together and re-enact it using small figures.
- Cut out the small picture of Jesus and stick it in the middle of a piece of paper. Draw a picture of yourself and your friends around Jesus. Put in a speech bubble what you would say to Jesus?

We Come Together

1. We come together to celebrate

We come together to celebrate
We come together to join as one
We come together to join as one

Chorus

To thank you God for all the gifts we have
To thank you God for loving us each day
To thank you God for all the gifts we have
To thank you God for loving us each day

2. We come together to hear God's Word

We come together to hear God's Word
We come together to share with God
We come together to share with God

3. We come together as a family

We come together as a family
We come together to praise God's Name
We come together to praise God's Name

Activities to choose:

- Read and talk about the words of John Burland's song, 'We come together'. Talk about why people come together in church.
- Work together to design a 'Welcome to Church' poster for your parish church. Include the people you will see gathering and listening. You might like to send it to your parish office.



At the end of all the work you have been doing about **GATHERING**, gather together as a family and remember the happy times you have had together. You could look over any photos you found that celebrated the times when you gathered together. Cut out the heart template and give it to a member of your family. Tell them how you will be kind and loving to them during lockdown.



Share the story of Jesus and the Children together.

Then, say this prayer together:

Thank you, God for the fun times we have as a family at home.

Thank you for the love we share.

Please help us to enjoy being together and keep us safe.

Thank you, God for the good times I have my friends in school.

Please keep us all safe until we can gather together there again.

Help us all to be loving and kind like Jesus. AMEN!