

# In God's Name

A Resource for Religious Education in Catholic Schools produced by: **Dr. Margaret Carswell**



## EYFS Topic 4 ~ FROM LENT TO EASTER

Spring 2 - 2019

The Diocesan Policy on Religious Education (2012) commits the Diocese to supporting schools to implement the requirements of the Curriculum Directory and other norms of the Bishops' Conference. In recent years this support has focussed on developing Religious education which is suited explicitly to the development and learning style of pupils in the early years.

This unit serves two purposes. First, it models the application of these two important areas and so serves as continuing the professional development of Staff.

This unit models:

- A Scripture process employing the principles described in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RECD),
- Explicit links between the teaching of Religious Education and the RECD as required by the Diocesan Inspection Framework.
- Opportunities by which pupils are invited to consider the most fundamental aspect of Faith: - belief in God.

### **How to use this unit:**

With your existing scheme: Schools may use this unit within the scheme of work they are currently using by selecting those activities they think are appropriate.

Alternatively, schools may choose to teach this unit as it stands. As this unit will not be taught next year it does not matter if pupils across the early years complete similar activities.

# Overview

## Topic Theme: Lent and the Passion of Jesus

Children will explore the season of Lent as a time of thoughtfulness (penance), prayer and generosity (almsgiving). The season of Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday when the Triduum, the three days – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, occur. This unit looks only at the Passion of Jesus, not the Resurrection. The Resurrection, post Resurrection experiences and Pentecost are covered in the next topic.

The word 'Easter' actually refers to the Sunday of the season, the day of the Resurrection and the season that follows it to Pentecost.

## Content Areas from the Religious Education Curriculum Directory

*Pupils will have the opportunity to:*

Revelation:

- Come to know that God loves each one always and at all times
- Hear the story of Easter

Church:

- Experience that a Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.

Celebration:

- Experience liturgical celebrations in a variety of simple settings.
- Experience and recognise prayer is talking and listening to God.

Life in Christ:

- Consider ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life, and show care for one another.

## Key Teachings from the Catholic Tradition *from the RECD*

**Revelation:** Pupils' will learn that through grace, God has revealed himself and given himself to human beings. This he does by revealing the mystery, his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all people. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Celebration:**

Pupils are taught that the Stations of the Cross develop their living relationship with God, in and through Jesus Christ. It is an intimate encounter within the heart of each person.

**Jesus Christ, Son of God:**

Pupils are introduced to Jesus who is truly God and truly human. In him the entire revelation of the most high God is summed up. His life, death and resurrection are the core events of human history and the heart of our faith. His cross is the ultimate sacrifice for each of us. Jesus reveals the truth and love of God through himself; truly human, truly God.

## Background Information for Teachers

### Lent:

Lent developed in the fourth century through the bringing together of four traditions all of which emphasised the need to prepare and get ready for what was to come in a spirit of thoughtfulness.

- The first tradition was an ancient paschal fast that began initially as a two-day observance before Easter but which over time was gradually lengthened to 40 days.
- The second was the preparation for Baptism of those preparing to become Catholics at Easter.
- The third was the 'Order of Penitents' for those who were already Catholic but who had fallen into serious sin.
- Two Biblical traditions explain choice of the number 40. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years prior to coming to the promised land and Jesus himself spent 40 days in the wilderness in prayer and contemplation before entering his ministry.

Bringing together these traditions, Lent became what it is today, a time of 40 days of self-examination, traditionally of fasting, prayer and penance, in preparation for Easter Sunday.

### ***Fasting, Prayer and Almsgiving***

*Fasting* is one of the best known practices linked to Lent. Vatican II called us to renew our observance of this ancient fast: "...let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind" (Liturgy, # 110). Fasting should be linked to our concern for people, in particular to those who 'go without' because of poverty, social or financial injustice or political structures. Our Baptism demands that we care for others; fasting gives us a chance to show Christ's love to the world. Practically, fasting, when it is linked to *almsgiving* (the giving of money for the poor) can be a very real way of making a better world for those who have little. Abstaining from meat is traditionally linked to Lent and to the plight of the poor who could not afford meat. If we remember why we are avoiding meat during Lent (and on Friday) then we can increase our awareness of the poor. Avoiding meat but eating crayfish instead misses the whole point. *Prayer* is obviously a wonderful way of focusing and reconnecting our beliefs and our actions. Prayer at any time strengthens our relationship with God and with others; during Lent it reminds us of our common call at Baptism to be children of God.

### ***Ash Wednesday.***

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when ashes are placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross. The ashes for Ash Wednesday are normally made from the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance (when those who wanted to change their way of life sat at the back of the Church in sackcloth and ashes). They also remind us of our mortality and that one day, we will be with God and our lives will be known. At the distribution of ashes the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" OR "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" are said. Both these 'formula's' remind us of our frailty – physically and spiritually and the call to love life 'to the full' during our lifetimes.

The day before Ash Wednesday has a number of names: Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday. On this day, families would use up foods in preparation for eating simply during Lent. Typically, eggs, sugar, butter and milk would be used – hence the tradition of making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

The goal of every Christian should be to leave Lent a stronger and 'better' person than when they entered. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The seasons

and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies and pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works)." (CCC 1438)

Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday when the 'Triduum', the three days - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, occur. The word 'Easter' actually refers to the Sunday of the season, the day of the Resurrection and the season that follows it to Pentecost.

### **The Passion:**

Palm Sunday:

#### **Key Information for Teachers**

The Jews were waiting for their messiah – but they imagined that the messiah would be a strong and powerful King who would gather an army and throw the Romans out of their country. The symbolism of Jesus riding a donkey or 'colt' was, therefore, very significant. Someone riding on a donkey indicated that they were coming in peace. This contrasted to soldiers who would ride in on horses to invade a town or to assert their authority over the community. Luke's account of Palm Sunday does not actually mention palm branches being waved at Jesus, although other accounts do. Any branches that were waved in honor of Jesus were more likely to have been olive than Palm branches. Olive branches were also a sign of peace and reminded people of the narrative of Noah and the Flood.

It was customary for the subjects of a ruler or king to pay homage to him by spreading clothing on the road and waving branches from nearby trees. Because Jesus did not look and act as some Jews expected their messiah to, many did not think he was the messiah and refused to believe in him.

Holy Thursday:

#### **Key Information for Teachers**

As Jesus and his disciples were Jewish, it is likely that the meal they gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem was a Jewish ritual Passover (seder) meal. This meal was celebrated by Jews every year to remember God's redemption (saving) of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The meal followed a strict ritual which retold the Passover story and included the eating of symbolic foods, such as bitter herbs, unleavened bread and a sacrificial lamb. For Christians, Jesus' Last Supper begins a new understanding of a new covenant. Instead of the lamb sacrificed in the Temple as part of the Jewish seder, Jesus became the 'Lamb of God', sacrificing himself for us. During the Last Supper Jesus told his disciples that the bread was his body, and the wine his blood. Catholics believe Jesus is truly present in the consecrated (made holy) bread and wine, each time the Eucharist is celebrated.

Good Friday:

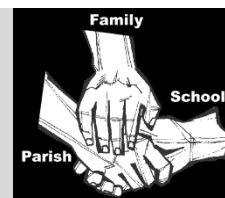
### **Key Information for Teachers**

Romans viewed crucifixion as the most shameful and degrading of penalties. Victims were crucified by having their arms nailed or tied to the crossbeam. If a criminal survived for an extended period of time, death could be hastened by breaking the victim's legs (to prevent them pushing upwards to breathe) or by piercing their heart with a spear. In the Roman tradition, the body was left in the cross after death as an additional sign of disgrace and as a warning to the general community not to offend. It was customary for a placard to be placed at the top of the cross with the name of the victim and the nature of the crime. Jewish law required that the body of a criminal should not remain on the cross but should be buried before the end of the day. The body would have been anointed with perfumes, such as nard or myrrh (the gifts of the wise men) and aloes were also used. The body was wrapped in a shroud, the face veiled and the feet tied up with linen strips.

# From Lent to Easter

## Linking School, Parish and Home

Insert school  
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### Religious Education

#### Topic Theme: Lent and the Passion of Jesus

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#### Learning opportunities include:

- Hearing the story of Easter
- Coming to know that God loves each one always and at all times
- Experiencing that a Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.
- Experiencing liturgical celebrations in a variety of simple settings.
- Experiencing and recognise prayer is talking and listening to God
- Considering ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life, and show care for one another.

#### Monitoring opportunities:

Student's development will be monitored through observation and the collection of work samples for their portfolio.

#### Affective and Spiritual Dispositions

*It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- An awareness of the events of the Passion
- A sense of prayerfulness
- A openness to God's love

#### Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much higher if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. Help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this unit is being taught:

- Mark the season of Lent with appropriate activities or symbols: purple decorations on the table, Lenten prayer, charitable practises.
- Celebrate the Passion of Jesus in the liturgical life of the Parish.

#### An idea for prayer at home

##### Prayer Activity




Pray with your children at meals.

Loving God, in Jesus you often sat at the table with your friends and told stories to remind them of how much God loved them. May the stories we tell at this table remind us that we too are loved by you, and be a sign of the love and care we have for one another this Lent.

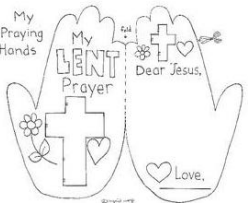
Amen

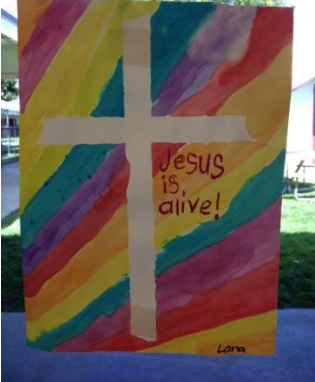
## FROM LENT TO EASTER

Date Learning Objectives	Teaching & Learning Strategies	Focus activity
<p><b>Week 1:</b> 25/02/19</p> <p><b>To learn about the importance of gathering.</b></p>	<p><b>LESSON 1:</b> <u>Intro:</u> Light candle to mark the beginning of lesson. <i>Who is with us when we light the candle? Who do we learn about in our RE lesson?</i></p> <p>Tell the children that our new topic is called 'Lent to Easter'</p> <p>Talk about the importance of gathering to remember important events in life – link to meal times and families eating together. Remind pupils about Prayers before Meals (see Family/School/Parish page)</p> <p>Children to make a circle and practice setting the table. Discuss the things needed when gathering to eat together. Use real props.</p> <p><b>LESSON 2:</b> <u>Intro:</u> Light candle to mark the beginning of lesson. <i>Who is with us when we light the candle? Who do we learn about in our RE lesson?</i></p> <p>Link to lesson 1 – Make a whole class list or make picture collage of children's favourite celebration food.</p>	<p><b>RE book:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photos from carpet session.</li> <li>• List or make picture Collage pupils' favourite celebration food.</li> <li>• Practice setting the table.</li> <li>• Paper plate – favourite food.</li> <li>• Make pancakes and discuss Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday as the start of Lent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 2:</b> 4/03/19</p> <p><b>To begin to understand the season of Lent.</b></p>	<p><b>LESSON 3:</b> <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Explain to chn very soon we will be celebrating a special time in the church called Easter. Before Easter the church gives us 40 days to get ready and prepare. This time of preparing is called Lent. Chn to repeat word Lent. Tell chn that there is a special colour that reminds us of 'preparing'. Point chn in direction of RE board above prayer table. 'What colour do you think reminds us that we are preparing?' (Purple). Tell chn that when Lent begins on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 we will change the cloth on our prayer table to the colour purple.</p> <p><b>Tell chn – During Lent we try hard to do three things.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>We give money</b> to those who have less than us to show we care for them</li> <li>2. <b>We pray</b> to help us feel close to God</li> <li>3. <b>We say sorry</b> and try to be good people – sometimes we "give things up" like our favourite foods so that we remember how lucky we are to have them.</li> </ol> <p>As you go through these points scribe on the board</p> <p>1) give money 2) pray 3) say sorry – penance</p>	<p><b>RE book:</b></p> <p>Chn to decorate petals or leaves for display with purple collage materials eg: paint, glitter, tissue paper, sawdust, sequins.</p> <p><b>Scribe chns comments about Lent:</b></p> <p>What do you know about Lent? What special colour do we see in Lent? What does purple remind us about? What are you going to do in Lent?</p>

	<p>Ask chn to think quietly about what they are going to do in Lent. Share some ideas. During Lent we try to 'take up' all the best things in life: kindness; taking turns; listening carefully; being gentle. Name 'Lent people' – people who take extra care of themselves and others.</p> <p><b>LESSON 4:</b> <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Link to lesson 3 – Learn the Hymns – 'Lord of the dance' &amp; 'Be Still and Know that I am God' - Sing and dance.</p> <p>MAKE A LENTEN PROMISE TREE</p>	<p><b>RE book:</b> Photos of dancing and singing</p> <p>Write and decorate Lenten promises on flowers and leaf templates – to put on the Lenten tree or class display</p> 
<p><b>Week 3:</b> <b>11/03/19</b></p> <p><b>To listen to the story Palm Sunday.</b></p>	<p><b>LESSON 5:</b> <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Remind chn that we are in a new season in the church called Lent. During Lent we have 40 days to prepare for Easter. Count to 40 as a class. Remind chn that our special Lent colour is purple. It reminds us that we are preparing / getting ready. Remind chn that during Lent we try really hard to do three special things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give money to those who have less</li> <li>- Pray to feel close to God</li> <li>- Say we are sorry and think about others by trying to be good people</li> </ul> <p>Explain that today we are going to hear a story about Jesus coming to celebrate a special event. The event was called Passover and it was like a birthday that went for a whole week. Passover was always celebrated in the Temple in a city called Jerusalem. <b>Tell the story of Palm Sunday according to Luke. SEE KEY INFORMATION FOR TEACHER IN THE BOXES ABOVE.</b></p> <p><b>LESSON 6:</b></p>	<p><b>RE book:</b></p> <p>Photos and examples of children making palms using twigs, sticks, lolly sticks, string, cotton wool, card, paper to be used as we tell the story again next week.</p> <p>Talk about how people might have felt on Palm Sunday -Excitement, joy, happiness</p> <p><b>RE book:</b></p>



	<p><u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Link to lesson 5 – Build Jerusalem using the building blocks, act out the story of Palm Sunday using the palm trees that the children previously made. Ask chn in the crowd how they are feeling. Play 'Give me joy in my heart' Sing and dance to celebrate Jesus coming.</p>	<p>Photos of role play of the story Palm Sunday. Pictures and annotation of children's understanding of the story.</p>
<p><b>Week 4:</b> <b>18/03/19</b></p> <p><b>To listen to the story Last Supper.</b></p>	<p><b>LESSON 7:</b> <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Remind chn that we are in a new season in the church called Lent. During Lent we have 40 days to prepare for Easter. Count to 40 as a class. Remind chn that our special Lent colour is purple. It reminds us that we are preparing / getting ready. Remind chn that during Lent we try really hard to do three special things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give money to those who have less</li> <li>- Pray to feel close to God</li> <li>- Say we are sorry and think about others by trying to be good people</li> </ul> <p>Explain that today we are going to hear a story about Jesus sitting down with his disciples. Tell the story of the <b>Last Supper</b> according to the Gospel of Luke. Explain <b>Passover</b> - the celebration meal Jesus gathered to celebrate <b>SEE KEY INFORMATION FOR TEACHER IN THE BOXES ABOVE.</b></p> <p><b>LESSON 8:</b> <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Link to lesson 7 – Act out the Last Supper. Remind the children about the feelings of the people - Holy Thursday - wondering and thinking;</p>	<p><b>RE book:</b></p> <p>Continue to build temples and explore the colour purple in our environment – purple playdough, painting, collage, large painting outside.</p> <p>Encourage chn to talk about how they are preparing for Lent.</p> <p>Children to sequence the events of Palm Sunday and the Last Supper – children to annotate with key words and simple sentences.</p> <p>Write a Lenten Prayer</p> 
<p><b>Week 5:</b> <b>25/03/19</b></p>	<p><b>LESSON 9:</b> <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Show children the stations of the cross and tell the story. Count to 14. (14 stations).</p>	<p>Make crosses in a variety of different ways, using different materials.</p> <p>Record children's comments and</p>

	<p><b>LESSON 10:</b>  <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Sequence the pictures of the Stations of the Cross to re-enact the story.</p>	<p>take photos.</p>
<p><b>Week 6:</b>  <b>1/04/19</b></p>	<p><b>LESSON 11:</b>  <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Talk about everything we have learnt so far about Lent.</p> <p>Briefly explain what happens at Easter. Jesus died on the cross. He died to save us. After he died he rose from the dead because he is a special person. Tell chn that we will learn more about this after the holidays.</p> <p>Ask them to see what they learn about Easter during the holidays when they go to church.</p> <p><b>LESSON 12:</b>  <u>Intro:</u> Light candle and practice making the sign of the cross.</p> <p>Remind children that our new topic this term is called 'Lent to Easter'.</p> <p>Link to lesson 11 – ask children to show their Easter Cards.</p>	<p>Children to make Easter cards.</p>  <p>One to take home  One for a friend</p>

Pre RE Attainment EYFS Goals	PSE	Expressive Arts and Design	Communication and Language	Physical Development	Literacy	Knowledge and Understanding	Maths
<b>AT1(i) Become immersed in the Beliefs, Teachings and Sources of faith</b>	Feelings of people: Palm Sunday - Excitement and joy; Holy Thursday - wondering and thinking; Good Friday- sadness and care.	<p>Make collage crosses</p> <p>Learn the Hymns – ‘Lord of the dance,’ ‘Be Still and Know that I am God,’</p> <p>Taize – ‘Jesus Remember Me.’</p>	<p>Role play events of Holy Week</p> <p>Learn Prayers before Meals (see Family/School/Parish page)</p> <p>Sequence the events of Holy Week through Role Play and pictures.</p>		<p>Hear the stories of Holy Week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palm Sunday</li> <li>• Last Supper</li> <li>• Good Friday (Very simply)</li> </ul> <p>(See Background Information for teachers)</p> <p>Key Words – Lent, Holy Week, Ash Wednesday, Last Supper, Palm Sunday.</p>	<p>Talk about the importance of gathering to remember important events in life – link meal times and families eating together.</p> <p>Explain Passover - the celebration meal Jesus gathered to celebrate (see Background Information for teachers)</p> <p>List or make picture collage pupils’ favourite celebration food.</p> <p>Practise setting the table.</p>	<p>Make Cooking pancakes and bread.</p> <p>Look at shapes e.g. pancakes, circles and crosses.</p>

<p><b>AT 1 (ii)</b> <b>Play with the Signs and Symbols of faith</b></p>	<p>During Lent we try to 'take up' all the best things in life: kindness; taking turns; listening carefully; being gentle. Name 'Lent people' – people who take extra care of themselves and others.</p>	<p>Explore symbols in a 'feely' box: palm branches; donkey; purple colour for Lent; the Cross; bread and wine  Name items</p>	<p>Play corner: the Last Supper  Small world play: Palm Sunday</p>	<p>Water play – pouring, scooping: ice cubes (food colouring in water tray, and /or purple ice cubes).  Cross printing e.g. potatoes.</p>		<p>Explain the season of Lent (use Background Information for teachers)</p>	<p>Purple play dough to make Hot cross buns: halve; halves; whole</p>
<p><b>AT 1 (iii)</b> <b>Explore the way people live</b></p>	<p>Children learn how other people may feel (sad times, happy time). How and why questions.</p>	<p>Make palm leaves – use mood music – children respond to sad and happy music. Make a palm leaf dance.</p>		<p>Thread 14 purple beads (14 because there are 14 stations of the cross).  Treasure hunt in sandpit – purple things.</p>	<p>Make a Lenten Promise Tree.  Write captions to go with Holy Week sequence of pictures.</p>	<p>Make bread from around the world.  Plant flowers from Easter garden for next topic.</p>	<p>Show pupils the Stations of the cross. Count to 14.  Count to 40 – link to 40 days of Lent.  Make crosses with wooden blocks, squares and rectangles of paper.</p>