



Junior and Senior Infants Class/P1-P2



COMMUNITIES OF ...

FAITH

LEARNING

LOVE

RESILIENCE

HOPE



Junior and Senior Infants: From the Curriculum – Level 1

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

‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation’ (Mk 16:15-16).

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 song *God’s Love is so Wonderful* can be sung as it is a simple way of explaining how much God loves us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju38Sdc2cSg>
- The children can also colour the picture provided.



Going to Mass





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. 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*).
- Ask the children what they think Jesus means by this. Brainstorm on the whiteboard what ways we could do this.

Activity:

- Make a Golden Rule(r). Give each child a ruler-sized piece of card. They can write the Golden Rule onto the card or decorate it with a picture of them living the Golden Rule with others. Alternatively type out and print the Golden Rule text and the children can paste a copy of it onto the card. The Golden Ruler can then be covered with gold glitter or foil. 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.





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. There is the love we have for a pet or a teddy bear or doll or toy.
- 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.
- 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 or First Holy Communion, as well as sadder occasions like funerals. We show our love by being there for each other.
- 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:

- On the colouring sheet, the children can colour, write or draw a picture of someone they love that they want to pray for.
- They can also 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 them to take care of the people they love.









Thursday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Resilience

28 January 2021

Consider:

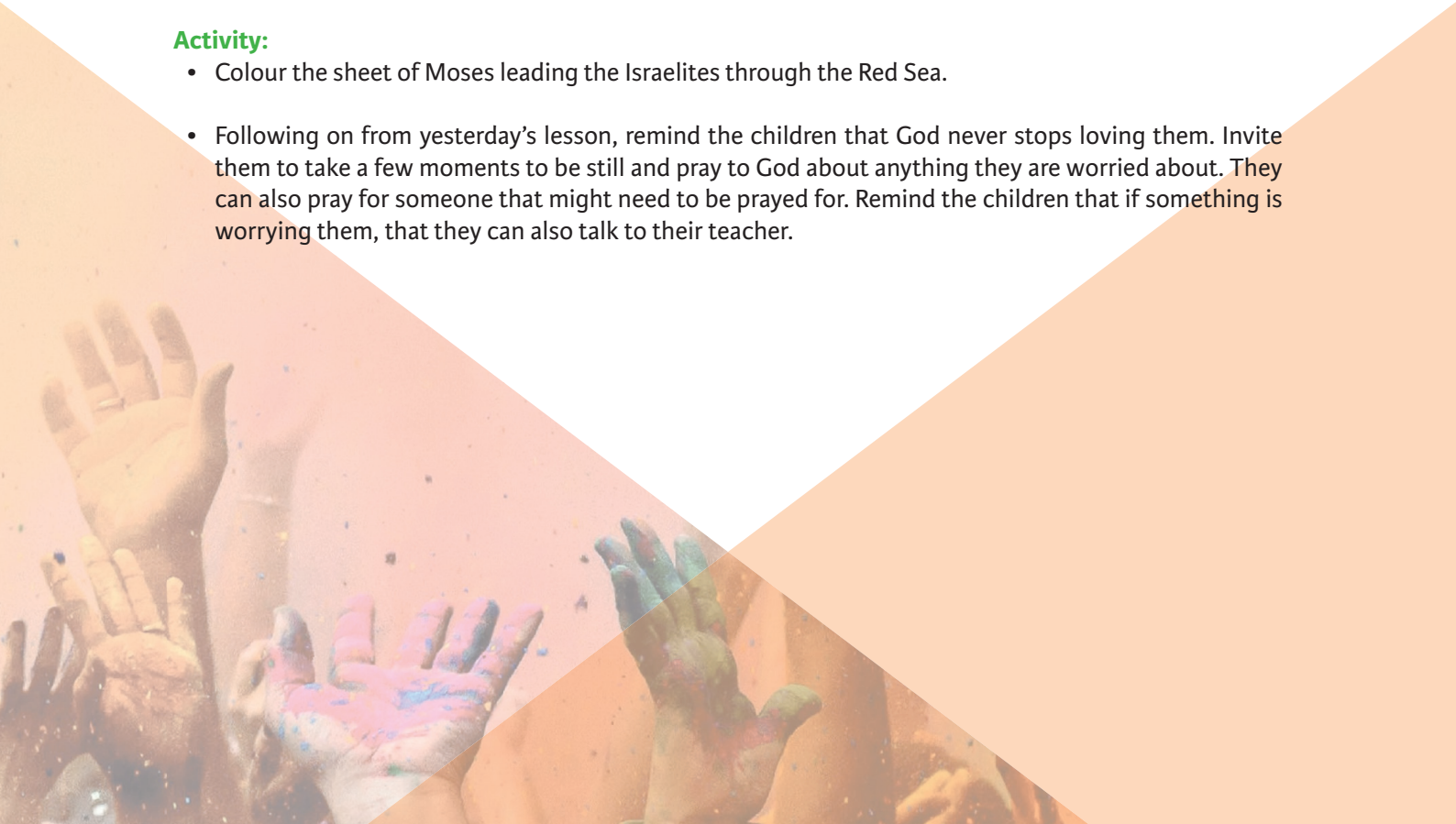
- Resilience means how we cope when things go wrong. It means that even when things get tough, we don't give up.
- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, things have been very strange and different, and this can make us worried and anxious.
- In our Catholic school, as a community, we learn ways to be resilient and to improve our wellbeing.
- God loves us and wants us to feel happy and safe. Our teachers, 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.
- Today we celebrate God's love for each of us and how he made each of us special and unique.

Explore:

- Remind the children how much God loves each one of us. God gives us all gifts that make us special.
- Talk to the children about the gifts they have been given by God. Talk about how we celebrate when someone does something good in our class. Do we give them a clap, a high five or say well done?
- Use the activity sheet to help them identify something special that they would like to celebrate about themselves and their friends.
- When all the children have completed the activity and coloured in the picture below, invite them to tell the rest of the class about their gift and encourage the class to celebrate what they say.

Activity:

- Complete the sheet and post the completed work on the wall or place by the Sacred Space.
- Finish with the song *God's Love is so Wonderful* as it reminds us that God loves each and every one of us, and we can place our hope in that love: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju38Sdc2cSg>





Catholic Schools: Communities of Hope

My name is

I am special because I

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My friend's name is

My friend is special because

.....

