

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Local Church / Community – SPECIAL PEOPLE Y1

#### \*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 Scripture stories and Church Tradition that links to their everyday life.

This topic is part of the LOCAL CHURCH theme. The experience of community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. In normal times, the cycle of a year and the span of a lifetime contain occasions for regular celebrations as well as unexpected surprises, when people want to celebrate with family, friends and communities. The Church's celebrations are community occasions. On Sundays, the parish family gathers together. It is a time to remember how much there is to celebrate; a time to say thank you; a time to know that God's love is offered and made visible here and now in Jesus and in people. Sacraments are more formal special moments: signs of 'God-with-us', who journeys with his people; signs of strength and blessing for life.

All families who live or worship in a parish are part of the parish family. As in any family there are people who have special roles within the parish. On Sunday, in church, we meet people who do special jobs as we gather to celebrate the Good News of Jesus. There are also special people in our lives who are there to help us.

# YEAR 1 – SPECIAL PEOPLE – EXPLORE

There are special people in our lives who are there to help us

Children may be able to **talk about** their experience and feelings about the special people they know or have heard about.

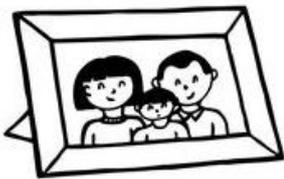
Children may be able to say what they **wonder** about the help special people give them.

Children may be able to **ask and respond** to questions about what makes a person special.

There are special people in our families, schools and communities that help us in many ways. Talk about the people who help you. Make a list of them.

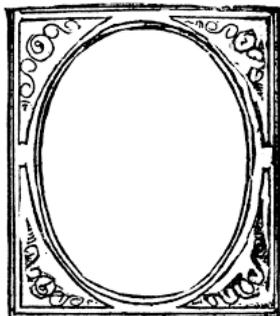
## Read Joe’s story together:

Every Sunday, we go to Grandad and Grandma’s with our Mum for dinner. Tim and I love going there. Grandad and Grandma let us play upstairs. We think it is a very special place. Grandma knows how much we like to look at all the photographs on the stairs, on the landing and in the bedrooms. There are so many of them. Tim and I make up games to play. We count them, try to spot the new ones and see if we can remember who all the people in the photographs are. Grandma says, “These are all my special people, they are our family. You are there, as well as your Mum, Uncle Brian and cousins.”



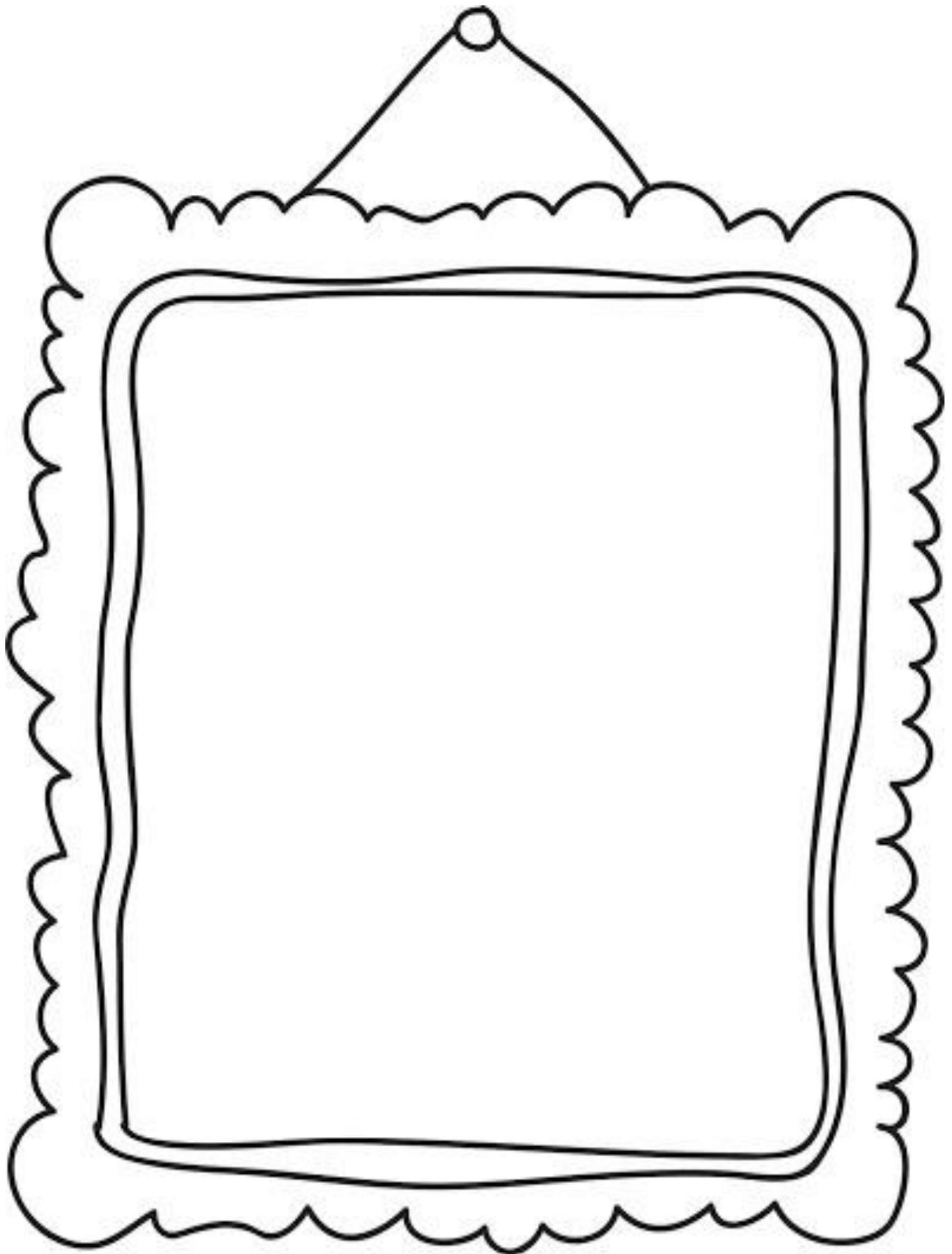
Tim and I are glad we’re Grandma’s special people. She is one of our special people, too. Some of the photographs are of people we don’t really know. There is one of Monica, Grandma’s best friend, who lives in the next road. They go shopping together every week. Another is of Sally, the district nurse, who helped to look after Grandad when he was very ill last year.

Tim’s favourite photograph is the one of Grandma and Grandad with all their friends and neighbours. It was taken at the community centre last year at a party. Grandma has so many photographs because she has many special friends. I couldn’t tell you about them all today as it would take too long. Perhaps you could think of people who are special to you.



- Q What do Joe and Tim like to do at Grandma and Grandad’s?
- Q Who are the people in the photographs?
- Q Who are the special people Joe tells you about?
- Q Can you think of some other people who may have been special for Grandma?
- Q Who are special people in your lives?
- Q Do you know any other special people?

- There are many people who have become special to us during this pandemic. Talk about any special people you know about and what has made them special.
- Invite your child to make a collage of special people in their families in a photo frame and talk about them. You can use photos or drawings. Why are they special?



## YEAR 1 – SPECIAL PEOPLE – REVEAL

On Sunday in church, we meet people who do special jobs as we gather to celebrate the Good News of Jesus

Children may be able to **recognise** how everyone helps each other because they belong to the parish family.

Children may be able to **recognise** some stories about Jesus and some may begin to **retell** the story of Anna and Simeon.

**The parish church is where the parish family gathers.** Just like at home or in school everyone has their part to play in the parish family. It is a community.



In the picture people are welcoming those who are coming to church.

*Talk about what they are doing and saying.*

*Why do you think this is an important job?*

*What other jobs can you think of that people do in church?*

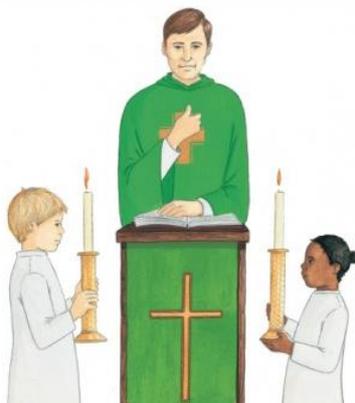
There are quite a few people who welcome and help at Mass on Sunday. *Talk about the people the children may have noticed if they have been to Mass.*

Although there are people with special roles at Mass, everyone who is there is important and joins in by praying, listening, singing by saying the responses and by going forward for a blessing.

Some people have special roles at Sunday Mass: e.g. greeters, the priest, deacon, altar servers, readers, those who take the collection, bring up the bread and wine to the altar and the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

Some people help prepare the church for Mass on Sunday e.g. flower arrangers and those who clean the church. During the pandemic, those who clean the church are having to work especially hard to keep people safe! They clean the church thoroughly after every Mass. During lockdown, our churches were closed, and parish families were unable to gather together for Mass. The parish family often gathered virtually through the internet either by watching Masses streamed online or by watching on YouTube or Facebook.

The deacon or priest ends the gospel reading with:  
'The Gospel of the Lord.'  
We respond with: 'Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.'



When the parish family gathers to celebrate Mass, we have an important part to play by listening to God's Word. The priest (or deacon if there is one) reads the Gospel, the stories of the life of Jesus, who is the most special person for the parish family. We stand to listen to the Gospel.

One of the stories we hear at this time of year is about Mary and Joseph taking Jesus, as a baby, to be presented in the Temple. Mary and Joseph made many journeys to the Temple. We remember this story on 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus. Candles are blessed and carried on this day to remind us that Jesus would bring light and joy to the world.

### Read the story together:

*Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple. They wanted to thank God for him. At the Temple, they met an old man called Simeon. He was a good and holy person. He often went to the Temple to pray. When he saw Jesus, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God. He said, "This baby will bring light and joy to the world." Mary and Joseph were very surprised by Simeon's words and didn't know what he meant at the time. Simeon blessed them.*



*After that, they met Anna. She was eighty-four years old and spent all her time in the Temple praying. She said a thank-you prayer to God for Jesus and told everyone that he would bring happiness to those who loved God. Mary and Joseph took Jesus home to Nazareth where he grew up and learned to praise God.*

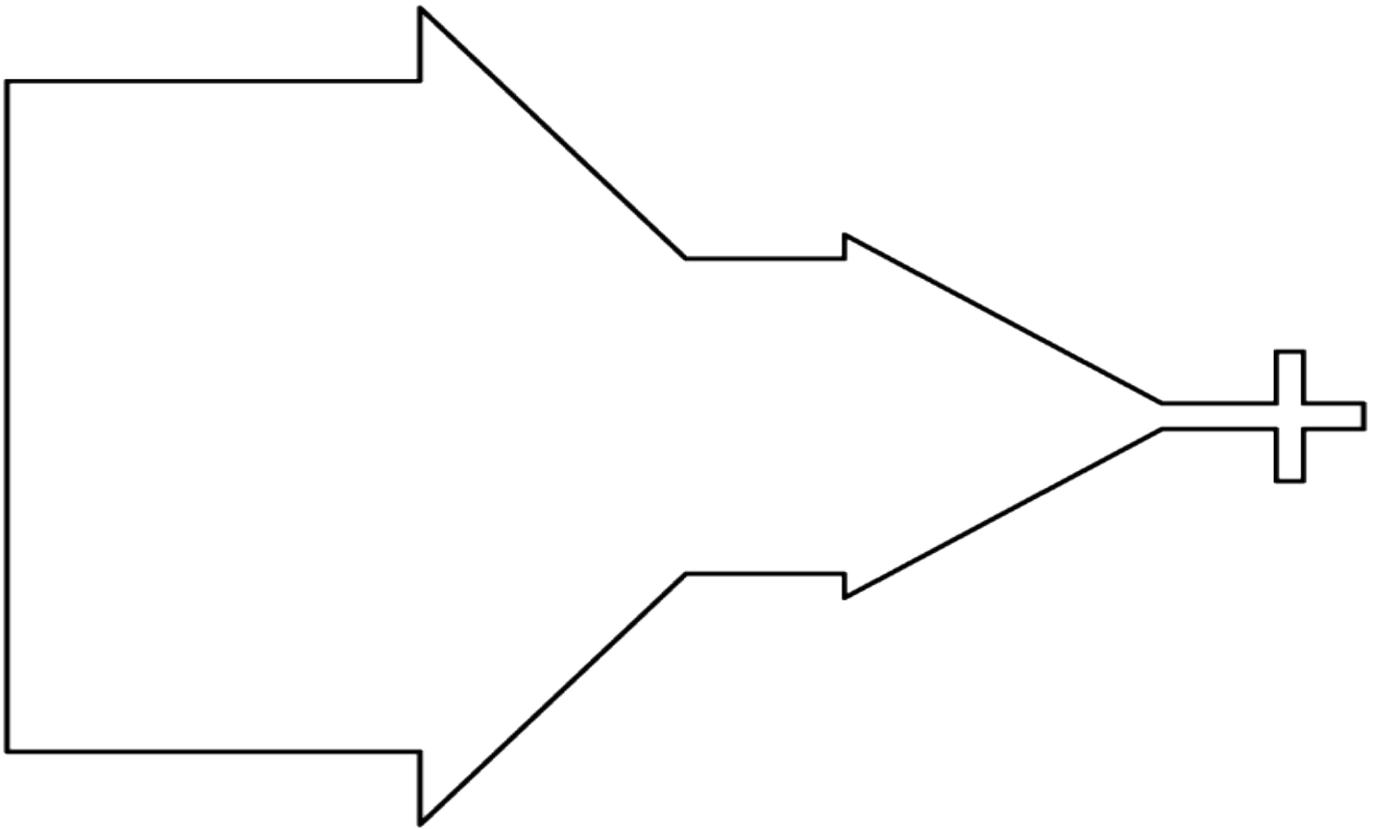
Based on Luke 2: 23 - 40

Some questions  
to talk about and  
answer...

- Q Who are the special people in this story?
- Q What did Simeon say about Jesus?
- Q What do you think this meant?
- Q How do you think Jesus brings light to the world?
- Q How can we bring joy to others?

### Some activities to choose:

- Make stick puppets of the special people in the story and act out the story with them.
- On a candle shape, names of all the special people you have learned about. Talk about how they are 'a light' or a shining example for others.
- On a template of a church, write the words which express the special things people offer us e.g. love, care, time, friendship, service etc.



At the end of all the work you have done on **SPECIAL PEOPLE**, say this prayer together:

*Dear God,  
Thank you, all the special people in my life.  
Thank you for our parish family and for all the special people who look after us in Church and who work so hard to keep us safe.  
Thank you for Mary and Joseph who looked after and cared for Jesus.  
Help all Christians to follow the light of Jesus and be shining examples for others. Amen!*