



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Local Church / Community – JOURNEYS – YEAR 3

*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 that links to their everyday life.

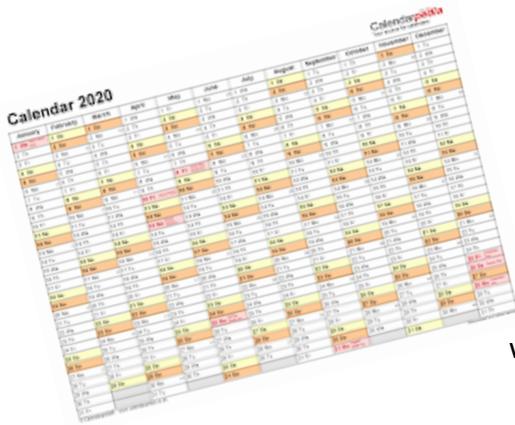
The experience of community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. The cycle of a year and the span of a lifetime contain occasions for regular celebrations as well as unexpected surprises, when people want to celebrate with family, friends and communities. The 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.

The Christian life is about journeying with Christ and sharing his way of life. The Church's year celebrates the key elements of Christ's life.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – YEAR 3 – Local Church COMMUNITY

EXPLORE – A Journey through a year

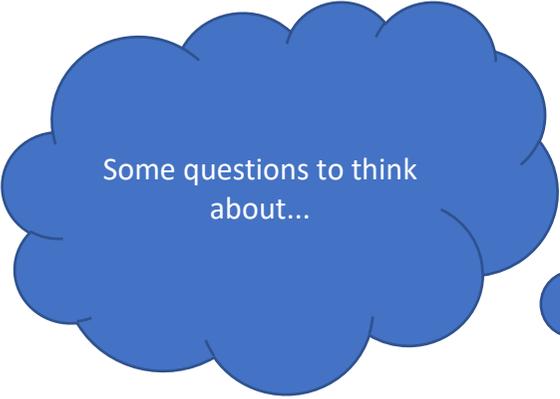
Life is a journey – no two days are ever the same, no events are ever the same. Think about the celebrations during the Christmas holiday you have just experienced. What events marked this time? What customs (things you do every year) does your family usually have at Christmas and the New Year? Was this different this year? Why?



Now think about the whole year, the school terms and the events you have experienced at school and those shared at home in the family. Think about Bank Holidays (holidays for all), family birthdays, holidays, seasons and special days e.g. Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, Bonfire Night and how these are usually celebrated. Every year they will be different because you will be journeying with different people in those communities.

Think also about the difficult or sad events of the year or seasonal difficulties. This has been a very different year because of the COVID-19 Corona virus which has affected everyone differently. This year you might have experienced somethings out of the ordinary such as being in lockdown and not going to school, or not seeing members of your family and friends. This has been a different journey but one which everyone has travelled sometimes together and sometimes alone.





Some questions to think about...

What have been the highlights of your year?

Who has travelled with you on the journey through the year?

What made it a good journey through the year?

Were there any difficult times on your journey through the year?

Choose an activity:

- Design a chart or a pathway of a calendar year, marking in your own high points and seasons with words and/or illustrations.
- If you were going on an actual journey, who would you like as a companion? How would you travel? What would you take with you? Create a mind-map showing your thoughts and ideas. What would be your reasons for these choices?
- Which is your favourite season? Using different colours highlight the events which take place within it or which reflects the mood of that season for you and say why you have chosen that colour.

REVEAL – The Christian family’s journey with Jesus through the Church’s year



Look at the diagram of the Church’s year. The year of the Church family is marked by special events and seasons. It is called the Liturgical Year. It begins with the first Sunday of Advent and ends with the feast of Christ the King. The word *liturgical* means the Church family’s celebration and remembrance of the journey of Jesus when he lived on earth, his death and Resurrection. It is a calendar of Sundays, feast days and special seasons which are celebrated during one year. A feast day is a day set aside by the Church family to celebrate an event in the life of Jesus, Mary his mother or a saint.

Liturgy is the actions and words of the prayer and worship the Church family offers to God. If you look carefully at the Liturgical Year you will notice that the different special seasons and feasts are marked out with different colours. Advent and Lent are coloured purple, whilst Christmas and Easter are coloured Gold. Over half of the year is coloured green – we call this ‘Ordinary Time’.

The Liturgical Year helps Christians to be close to the work of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) throughout the seasons of the year. It brings the whole Church family together as everyone shares in the celebrations. Following the celebrations Christians are sent out to love and serve God in the world.

Choose Activities:

- Design a Liturgical calendar that accurately represents the Church’s year using signs, symbols and colours to denote the different seasons and feasts.
- Advent and Christmas (Jesus’ birth), Lent and Easter (Jesus’ Death and Resurrection) and Pentecost (Jesus left us with the Holy Spirit) are very special times in the Liturgical calendar. Create your own symbols to depict each of these events and write about what happened then and how Christians celebrate those feasts today.