



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lent/Easter – GIVING – YEAR 5 - SACRIFICE

*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.

Lent is the Church's seasons for discerning and doing good. In the Christian Year, Lent precedes and prepares for Easter. It is a penitential season and a time of spiritual growth. If people want to be followers of Jesus, they must be prepared to notice what others need and then see what they can do to help. During Lent this is traditionally put into practice through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Christians make Lenten promises saying what they hope to do during Lent. Christians practise this throughout the Lenten season to remind them of the complete self-offering of Jesus which is remembered in the liturgy of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – YEAR 5 – Lent/Easter SACRIFICE

EXPLORE – Giving and refusing to give and appreciating the cost of giving.

When we talk about giving or ‘giving of ourselves’ we are describing the action of choosing to do something for someone else without being asked or for any reward. We do it because we simply want to. Another word that is sometimes used is generous for example a person may be generous with their time or go over and above what is necessary or expected. Giving of ourselves can be easy. However, sometimes it can be hard especially when you have been doing something for a long time and feel like you need a break or something becomes a ‘thankless task’. We call this ‘the cost of giving’ sometimes we need to learn to recognise just what the cost of giving is.



A young carer is someone under 18 who looks after another person. Caring for someone might involve things like cooking and cleaning every day. Or might involve having to do much more if their family member can't do some things for themselves like washing or getting dressed.

A young carer might look after someone because they're sick, have a disability or mental health issues. Or, if a parent or family member has a health problem, they may be unable to care not just for themselves but anyone else so the young carer might have to look after other younger family members too.

This is a true story. Sean aged 16 is a young carer. He helps to look after his brother who has a severe learning disability. Sean's brother Ben is actually 11 but he has a mental age of three or four. He has severe learning difficulties and problems with his behaviour. Sean lives at home with his Mum. This is his story:

'Ever since I was old enough, I have been helping out with my brother, mainly by playing with him, feeding him and helping him get dressed. I also look after him when my Mum goes out. It is like looking after a three or four-year-old. He can't talk, read or write, but he makes noises, which I can understand a bit and we do have a laugh together. I am quite good at amusing him. However, we hardly ever go out and haven't been on holiday for several years.



The most stressful part to deal with is his behaviour. He can be aggressive, he pulls my hair and sometimes bites me, he is very hyperactive. He often wakes up really early in the mornings, which generally means that Mum and I wake up early too. Looking after my brother has meant I have had to become more responsible. I don't go out much, but I like to relax by sitting and listening to music in my room. Usually, I feel OK and try to keep calm, but sometimes I get fed up and deal with this by becoming upset, shouting and storming off somewhere. The other week I got fed up and told my Mum I was not going to look after Ben anymore and I went off and hung out with my friends for a bit, but I came back and said I was really sorry. My Mum said she understood, and she thought I ought to have some nights off and go and stay with my cousin. For one night every two weeks my brother goes to be cared for by someone else, to give us a break. This is called Respite.

This helps, but one thing that would really make a difference would be to have some more free time.

Mum and I have talked about what is going to happen to Ben in the future and how we will look after him. We love him very much and don't want him to be cared for in a residential home, if we can help it. Although there are many difficult times, Ben has brought us together as a family and there is lots of love and joy among us. We all care about each other I know that my life is different from other young people, but I wouldn't change the fact that I am a young carer. I do what any other person would do for their family in need.'



- Q How does hearing Sean's story make you feel?
- Q Would you describe Sean as self-giving and generous? Why?
- Q What happens when Sean refuses to give? How do you think he feels?
- Q What is the cost of Sean's giving?
- Q Do you think that Sean appreciates the cost of his giving? Why?

Choose an activity:

- Design a logo for a 'Young Carers' group in your area.
- Write a poem entitled 'The cost of giving'. Here are some words which are connected with giving: sacrifice, selfless, generous, unselfish, courageous, brave, strong, kind, donation and gift which you may find useful.

REVEAL – Lent the opportunity to turn away from evil.



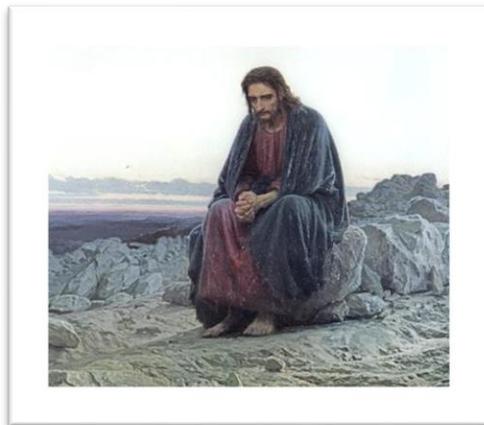
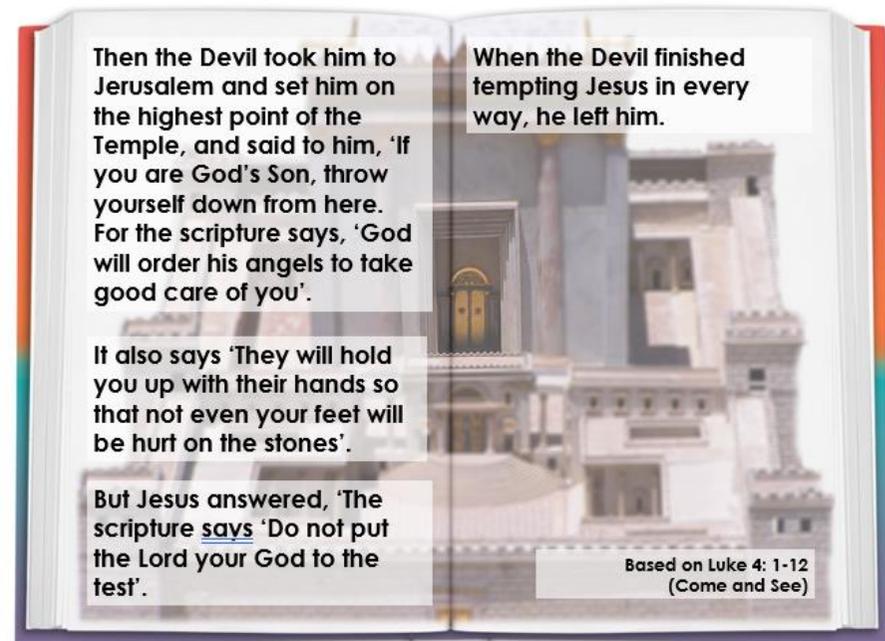
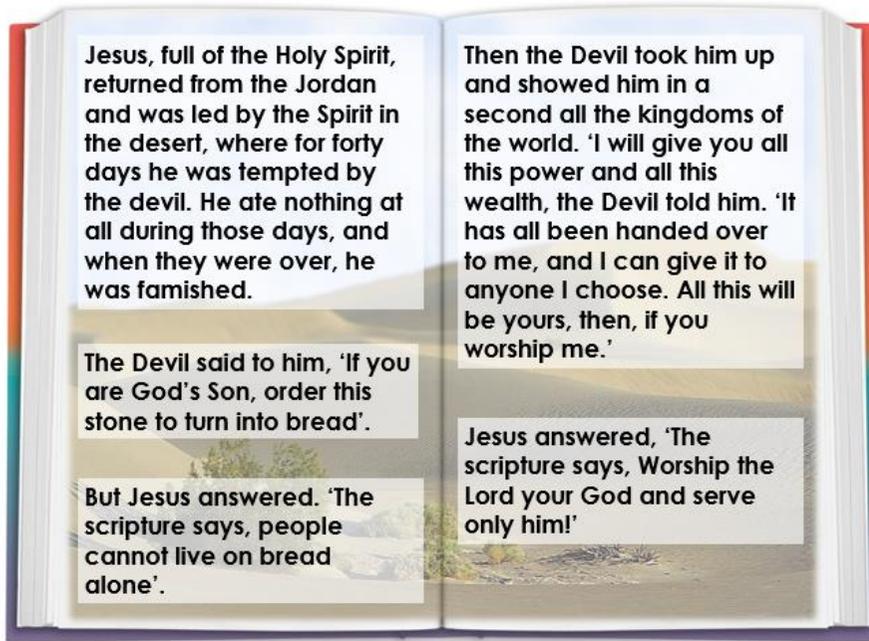
Lent is the Church's seasons for discerning and doing good and lasts for 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday. In the Christian Year, Lent precedes and prepares for Easter. It is a penitential season and a time of spiritual growth. If people want to be followers of Jesus, they must be prepared to notice what others need and then see what they can do to help. During Lent this is traditionally put into practice through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Christians make Lenten promises saying what they hope to do during Lent.

'To discern' means to 'recognise or to gain insight'. During Lent Christians pray to gain understanding and strength in recognising 'good' and 'evil'. Like us Jesus was tempted, but he never chose to do what was bad. Because he was close to God his Father, he knew what the good response was.

We experience evil in many forms. We also contribute to the evil that is in our world and help to spread it. Evil is described as a power, or powers, at work in our world. The Church gives the name Satan or devil to

evil. Evil has the power to affect our lives, but with God's help, we have the power to resist and overcome all that is evil. Temptation itself is not wrong, wrong occurs when temptation is given into. In the Gospel according to Luke, there is a story of a time when Jesus was tempted by the devil.

Read this piece of scripture based on Luke's Gospel:



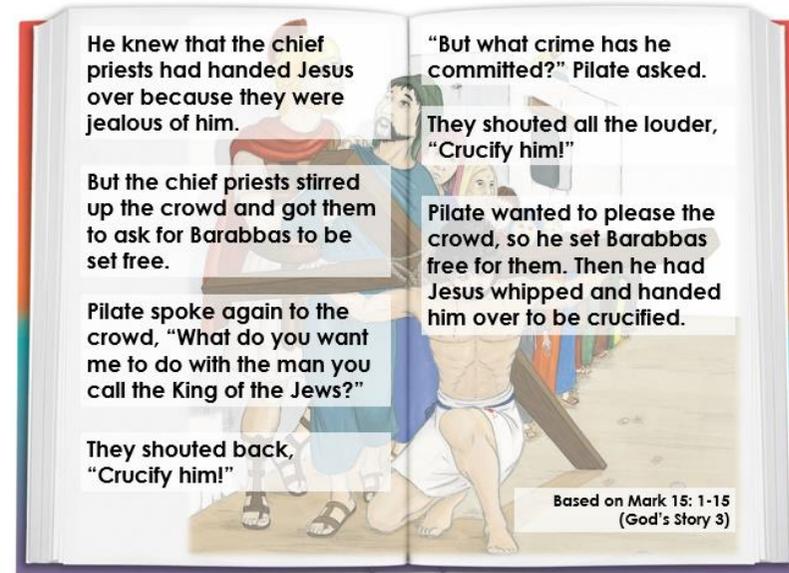
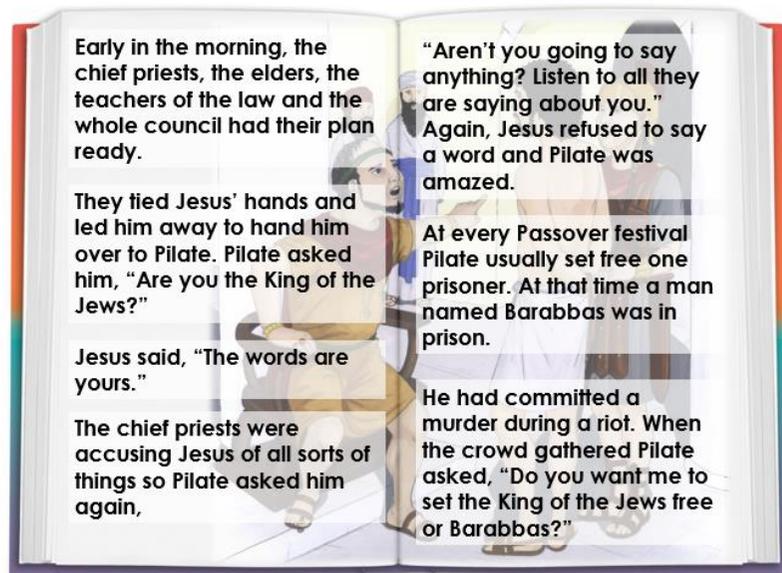
- Q Why do you think Jesus went into the desert by himself?
- Q What did you notice about the way the devil tempted Jesus?
- Q What did you notice about the way Jesus responded each time?
- Q How do you respond when you are tempted to do wrong?
- Q What helps you to resist temptation?

Choose an activity:

- Create a scenscape of Jesus in the wilderness using any materials you have at home e.g. paints, crayons, felts, craft materials etc. Choose any one of Jesus' answers from the piece of scripture above and incorporate it onto your picture.
- Make your own Lenten calendar showing how you will spend the remaining days of Lent preparing for Easter. Leave a blank square at the end of each week to fill in after reflecting on your actions giving reasons for how they have shaped your life and the lives of others.

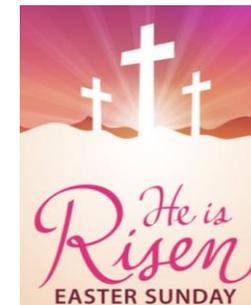
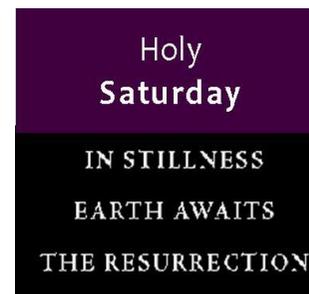
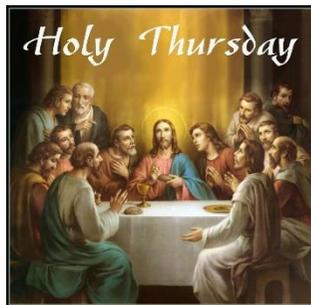
REVEAL – The Sacrifice of Jesus

After Jesus was arrested, he was taken to the High Priest's house for questioning, he was insulted and badly treated. They handed him over to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. Read this piece of Scripture from Mark's Gospel:



Notice that Jesus makes no attempt to explain himself. He accepts his fate, knowing it will lead to his death. He is ready to make this sacrifice. After his struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane he has accepted God's will. In the Old Testament a sacrifice is an offering to God. In the New Testament Jesus offering himself up to die on the cross is his total self-giving.

- Q Why do you think Pontius Pilate called Jesus the King of the Jews?
- Q Why do you think the crowd shouted for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be crucified?
- Q Do you think this is the same crowd who greeted Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem? If so, why do you think they have changed their minds?
- Q What do we learn about Jesus from his attitude at his trial?





Easter begins on Holy Saturday night with a special Vigil. 'To keep vigil' means to keep watch during the night. The Church has accompanied Jesus through his suffering and death and now waits to share and celebrate his new life. During the celebration people rejoice and sing the Alleluia (praising God) again as it is not been sung throughout Lent.

Inside and outside the church all is darkness. Christians everywhere are waiting for the moment when they pass from darkness to light, from the discipline and sadness of Lent to the joy of Easter. The actions, prayers and symbols used during this vigil tell the Easter story.

Everyone gathers outside the church. The priest blesses the new fire. It is a symbol of Jesus who passes from death to life. Next the priest blesses the Easter candle and lights it from the new fire. The candle is a special Easter symbol, a sign of Jesus, the light of the world and the new life which he shares. The church too is being renewed. He prays: *"May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."* The deacon or priest leads the people into the darkness of the church. He stops three times to sing: 'Christ our Light' and everyone responds with 'Thanks be to God'. Then the light from the Easter candle is spread all through the church and everyone holds a lighted candle. This symbolises the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection which is to be shared by everyone present and by the whole world. The deacon or priest sings a special Easter song of praise to proclaim the Good News 'Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!' This is called the Exultet.



Choose an activity:

- Write a newspaper article for the 'Jerusalem Times' as an eyewitness to the trial of Jesus.
- Write a letter from Pontius Pilate to Caesar, the Roman Emperor, informing him of the trial of Jesus. Describe in some detail the actions of Jesus, the High Priest and the crowd.
- Design a religious Easter card depicting the Good News of the Risen Christ using some of the words and symbols studied. Inside the card write a greeting and share it with someone over the holiday period.
- Make an information leaflet entitled 'Why Easter is important to Christians' describing how belief in the Easter story shapes the lives of Christians and encourages them to give of themselves in sacrifice as Jesus taught us.