



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Lent/Easter – GIVING – YEAR 6 – DEATH AND NEW LIFE

\*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).

### EXPLORE – How loss and death bring about change for people

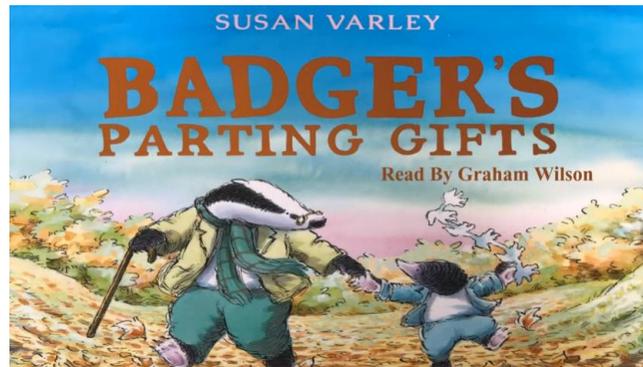
Everyone has to deal with loss and change in their lives at some point. Experiencing loss is not just about dying; you may move to a new house, class, or new school and lose seeing your friends and family. Maybe an older brother or sister leaves home to go to university or to get married. Sometimes it is the loss of a person who has died that brings about change but it might be the loss of a much loved pet. Losses will always involve a change in peoples' lives. Change can mean growth and development, as when people move to another school, make new friends and learn new things. No matter what type of loss it is, there are always goodbyes and sometimes these can be very hard.

Read this story:



- Q What losses have you experienced in your ordinary everyday life?
- Q How did these affect you?
- Q What changes did they bring?
- Q What things remained the same?

Listen to the story of 'Badger's Parting Gifts' a really uplifting story of death and new-life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8xsYq4JXSs>



Choose an activity:

- Draw each of the characters from the story 'Badgers Parting Gifts' and describe their feelings firstly on losing their old friend and how that changes when they remember him through the gifts he has left them.
- Interview an adult at home using some of the following questions to help the discussion.
  - What was the loss they encountered?
  - How did you feel when they/you left?
  - What do you remember about them?
  - What keepsakes do you have of them/that time?
  - What did you do?
  - What or who helped you cope?
  - In what ways did it change you?
  - In what ways are they still 'there' for you?
- On a large piece of paper draw a road map of some of changes which people experience in their lives.

**REVEAL – Lent a time to remember the suffering and death of Jesus**



Ash  
Wednesday

Lent is a time in the Church's year when the Christian family remembers the suffering and death of Jesus. During Lent, Christians try to be like Jesus. They practise 'dying' to their old ways in order to 'live' a new life. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. The priest blesses ashes (made from the previous year's Palm Sunday palms) and makes a cross with them on the forehead of each person who comes in procession to the altar.

The ashes symbolise the repentance of the person who receives them. In the past those who confessed their sins were required to stand outside the church wearing sack cloth and ashes to show they were truly sorry for what they had done wrong. Turning away from sin is a form of dying; the death of selfishness, laziness, jealousy and so on. It is a time when Christians think about the ways which prevent them from living a good life.

At Mass on Ash Wednesday after the Homily, the priest says:

*Dear brothers and sisters let us humbly ask God our Father that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.*

After a brief prayer in silence, he continues with a prayer such as:

*O God, who desires not the death of sinners, but their conversion, mercifully hear our prayers and in your kindness be pleased to bless + these ashes, which we intend to receive upon our heads, that we, who acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust, may, through a steadfast observance of Lent, gain pardon for sins and newness of life after the likeness of your Risen Son.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, then places ashes on the heads of all those present who come to him, and says to each one:



Repent, and believe in the Gospel

Or:

*Repent, and believe in the Gospel.*

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Lent is a time to choose a new way of life and start again. Believing in the Gospel is about having a new life. It means being generous, hard-working and appreciating the gifts of others.

Click on the link: <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/resources-for-lent-2021/> and download the Mission Together Lenten Calendar and have a look at some of the practical ways in which you can show generosity and start again throughout your Lenten journey to Easter.

- Q What do you think the ashes symbolise?
- Q What does the prayer said during the Ash Wednesday service remind Christians of?
- Q What are Christians invited to think about and do during this time of Lent?

Choose an activity:

- Create your own Lenten calendar – showing ways in which you can live a good life in Jesus.
- Compose a Lenten prayer or reflection which can be said by a Christian after receiving their ashes.



## Reveal: The Easter Vigil: Celebrating the New Life at Easter

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night takes place on Holy Saturday night, as late as possible. This is a celebration of Jesus' New Life, his Resurrection from the dead and it is a joyful occasion. The priest wears white vestments.

There are four parts to the Easter Vigil in the *Holy Night*:

1. The Solemn beginning of the Vigil
2. The Liturgy of the Word
3. The Baptismal Liturgy
4. The Liturgy of the Eucharist



For the first part, everyone gathers outside the church in the dark for the blessing of new fire and the lighting of the Paschal (Easter) Candle. As the priest blesses the candle he draws the sign of the cross and near this the figures for the year e.g. 2021. As he does this he says:

*Christ yesterday and today the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega all time belongs to him and all the ages; to him be glory and power through every age and for ever.  
Amen.*



He also puts five grains of incense in the form of a cross and says:

*By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. Amen.*

As the candle is lit, the priest prays:

*"May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of hearts and minds."*

As the candle is carried to the altar the priest stops three times and holds it up and sings or says:

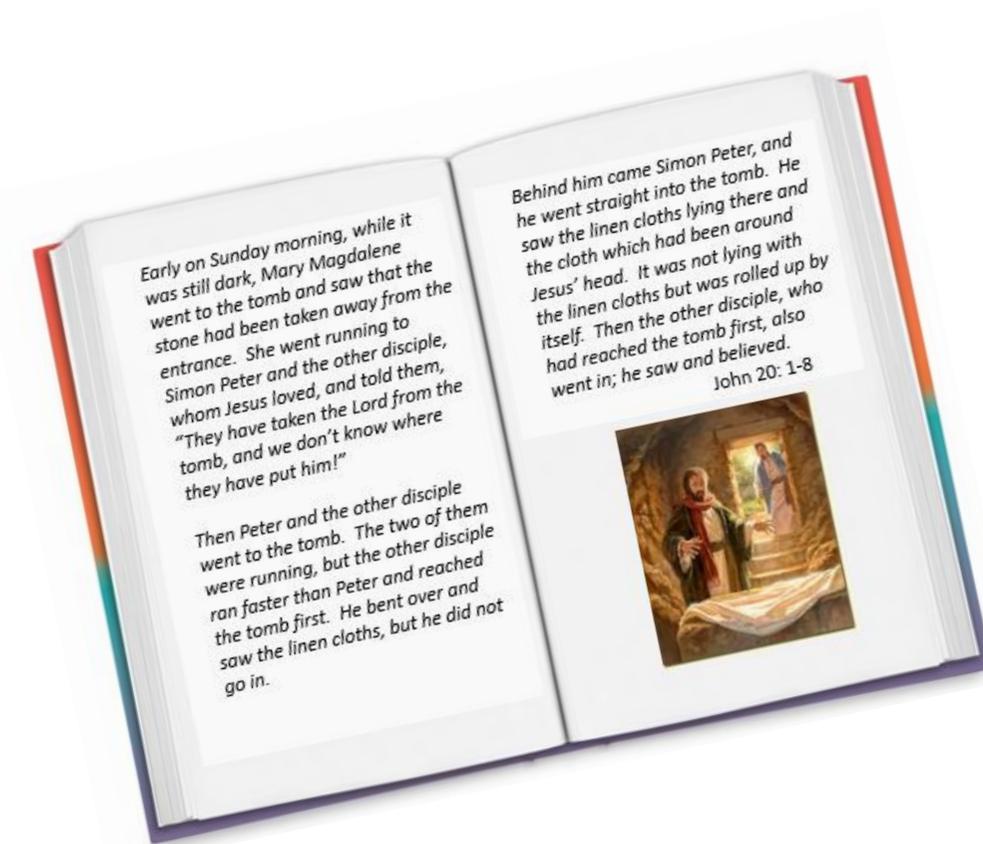
*"The light of Christ."*

Everyone replies: *"Thanks be to God."*

Each person's candle is lit until the church is filled with Easter light. The Gloria (a special hymn) is sung after the final Old Testament Reading in the Liturgy of the Word. Many 'alleluias' (praising God) are sung at the Vigil to mark the end of the season of Lent during which time no alleluias are sung.

This night, the Liturgy of the Word has a number of readings from both the Old and New Testaments which tell the story of God's People and how God loved and cared for them. The final reading is the Gospel story of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It always comes from John's Gospel.

Read this piece of scripture from John's Gospel:



The third part is the Liturgy of the Baptism, when water is blessed and often people are baptised at this time. The priest blesses the water with a beautiful prayer which recalls events in the Old Testament and Jesus' Baptism in the river Jordan. He concludes with the prayer:

*"...all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him."*

Everyone has the opportunity to renew their own Baptismal promises. The Liturgy of the Eucharist continues as usual.

- Q Why do you think the Easter Vigil takes place at night and what do you think it symbolises?
- Q What makes Easter a time of joy?
- Q What do you think the words of the prayer mean: *'That all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death, May rise again to life with him'?*



Choose an Activity:

- Research the meaning of the Alpha and Omega symbols on the Paschal (Easter) candle. Draw an outline of a Paschal (Easter) candle complete for this year and around it write down your findings.
- Draw/Paint or make a collage (from things you have at home) to recreate an image from John's Gospel of Peter and the disciple arriving at the empty tomb.
- Create a poster which reflects Easter as a 'time of joy'.
- Compose an Easter poem entitled 'New-Life in Jesus'.