

## Our World – A Universal Church Topic

### \*Note to parents.

This work comes from the *Come and See* Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that your child may have come across in school and have only 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 your child to remember and strengthen their learning.

***Please only choose the activities you and your child wish to complete. There are lots of suggestions to help you choose.***

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 as the theme progresses. The second part, called – **REVEAL** shares bible stories, religious teachings, lives of saints etc. that can relate to their everyday life.

This theme is a **Universal Church** theme and shows the Church at work throughout the world.

CAFOD resources are mentioned throughout and can be accessed on their website: [comeandsee.cafod.org.uk](http://comeandsee.cafod.org.uk) You will have to log in to use the resources, but they are plentiful, fun and free to use.

## EYFS - OUR WORLD - EXPLORE

What we love and wonder about our world

- Children can talk about their own experiences of the world and what they love about our world
- Children might be able to say what fills them with wonder about the world.



### Activity:

Go outside and enjoy a nature walk. Take a magnifying lens if you have one. Look around you at all the wonderful things you can see – flowers, birds, trees, insects, etc. etc. Take a close look at the detail you see and talk about everything you can see, hear, smell, touch and possibly taste. Take some photos. Collect some leaves, feathers etc. (Remember not to pick the wildflowers!)

What is it that you liked the best on your walk? Why?

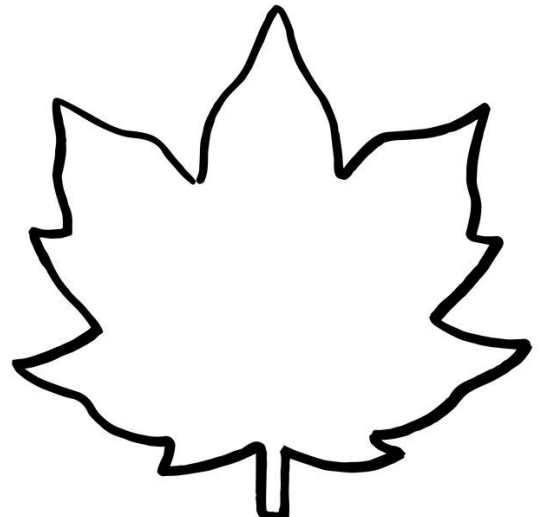
Is there anything you saw that you don't like – anything that spoils our world? (– litter, graffiti etc.)

When you get home, look at all the photos that you have taken and talk about the beauty in each.

Perhaps you could make a collage of the things you have collected and / or make some leaf prints.

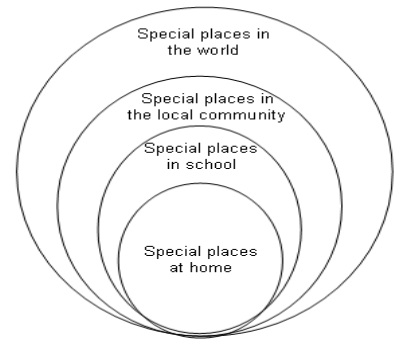
Give each child a leaf shape and ask them to say what they wondered about on their walk. Write it on the leaf and add it to your collage or leaf prints.

Talk with the children about how we should look after things in our world, so they don't get spoiled.



# YEAR 3 – SPECIAL PLACES - EXPLORE

Everyone has a special place



## STANDARD INDICATORS

- Children may be able to wonder about and say what their experiences and feelings are about places that are special to them and can say why they feel this way.
- Children may be able to make links to show how their feelings about special places affect their behaviour.
- Children may be able to appreciate that other people have places that are special to them.

Talk to the children about places that are special to you and why they are so special. Everyone has a place that is special to them and everyone's special place may be different. Ask the children to talk about any place that is special to them – it might be somewhere they have been on holiday or for a day out. It might be their bedroom or garden. Find or take photos of their special place(s). They might have some objects that remind them – souvenirs etc.

Encourage the children to think about why these may be special places (e.g. because my friends/family are there; because it is a safe place; because it reminds me of happy things that happened there; because it is beautiful).

Talk about how people around the world have places that are special to them. Look at the photos below:



Talk about how these places are special to those people and how they are different from our special places.

Ask the children to use their imagination to create their ideal special place. They might like to draw write a description of it. They could use a computer art programme to draw it or make a model of it.

# YEAR 3 – SPECIAL PLACES – REVEAL

## Special Places for Jesus and the Christian Community

- Children may be able to retell stories about special places for Jesus.
- Children may be able to describe some ways and say why Christians live out their religion by going on pilgrimage to special places.
- Children may be able to give reasons why Christians should care about the world as a special place for us all.

On the map below are some places that were special to Jesus. It is possible today to visit many of these places in what Christians call *the Holy Land*. They can go there on a pilgrimage to find out more about what happened there and to experience that special place.

As the children find out what they can about the places on the map and what happened in the life of Jesus in each special place. When they have done this, they can play the matching activity.

These are the scripture references that you can look up to find stories about Jesus' special places:

Luke 2: 11 (Bethlehem)

Matthew 2: 23 (Nazareth)

Luke 2: 41, 46 (Jerusalem)

Mark 1: 9 (Baptism in the Jordan)

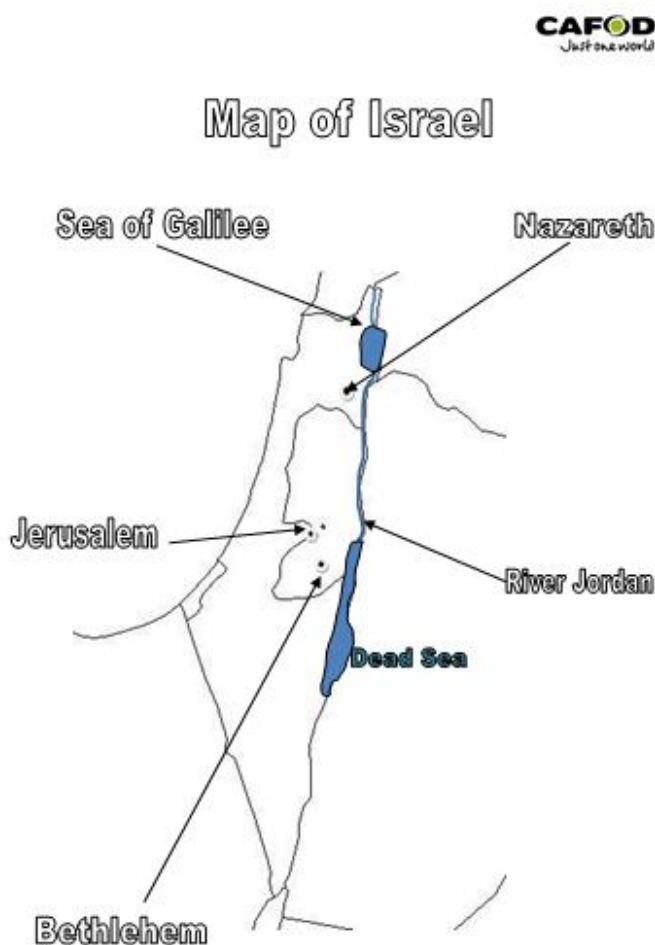
Matthew 5: 1–2 (Sermon on the mount)



### Special places for Jesus: a matching activity

Cut up the cards below.

Match the special events in Jesus' life to the special places they took place.



Jesus was born in this special place.	River Jordan
The hometown of Mary and Joseph. Jesus grew up here and became strong in this special place.	Bethlehem
Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in this special place.	Nazareth
Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered round him and he began to teach them.	The temple in Jerusalem
Mary and Joseph took Jesus to this special place to see an old man called Simeon. Here Simeon gave blessings to God for Jesus.	The hills around the Sea of Galilee

The children might write about which event happened at what place on the map and say why that place is so special to Jesus. They could then relate that to special places for them (e.g. the River Jordan is special to Jesus as he was baptised there. St. Mary's Church is special to me because this is where I was baptised).



There are places of pilgrimage in England and Wales, which you might like to visit or find more out about. For example:

- Our Lady's shrine at Walsingham in Norfolk. This shrine honours the Annunciation and was one of the greatest shrines for Christians in medieval times – when travel to the Holy Land was very difficult.
- Our Lady of the Taper is the national Catholic shrine of Wales. It is in Cardigan. A legend describes how a statue of Mary was found about one thousand years ago by the side of the River Teifi. The statue was of Mary with Jesus on her lap and a candle (taper) burning in her hand.
- St Winefride's Well in Holywell, North Wales, centres round a holy woman called Winefride who lived in the 7th century. She became a saint and her well at Holywell has been a place of pilgrimage and healing since that time.

Maybe you know someone who has been on a pilgrimage. You could ask them why they went and what they did while they were there.

Part of a pilgrimage to a special place is that it reminds people how important it is to pray and take time to think about what is important in their lives.



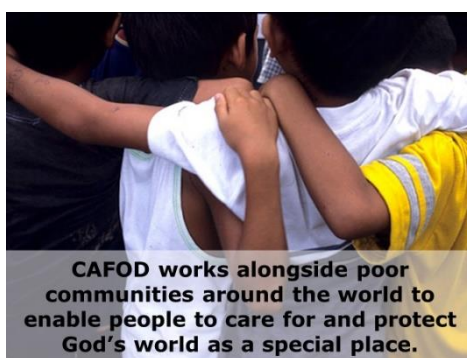
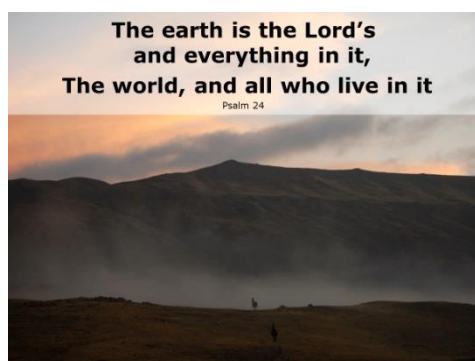
In the past, pilgrims often returned from their pilgrimage with a badge to show where they had been.

Pilgrims to the shrine of St James at Compostela in Spain wore a shell badge.

Perhaps the children could design a badge for one of the special places of pilgrimage. Encourage them to describe and give reasons for their choice of design.

Invite the children to write an acrostic poem using the letters of the words RESPECT at the start of each new line, linking this to how we look after God's world. Write the poems on cut-out leaves (using recycled paper where possible) and attach all the leaves to the branches of a tree for a class display.

Explain to the children that our world has been given to us by God, to enjoy, to share and to take care of so we should see it as a Special Place and take of it.



Invite the children to think of as many ways as they can that enable us all to care for God's world and to protect it as a special place. They could make a promise to care for the world and write it on a heart shape.

At the end of all the work on **SPECIAL PLACES**, say this prayer together:

*Lord, thank you for giving us so many special places  
In our homes, In our school, in our churches, in our world, in our hearts.  
Help us to take time to be still.  
God, thank you for having a special place in our hearts.  
Help us to know that you are always there in good times  
and difficult times.  
Fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit.  
Amen*

