

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 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?

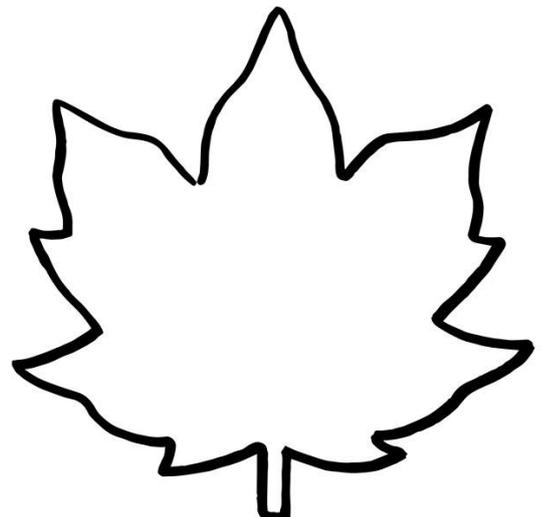
Is there anything you saw that you don't like – anything that spoils our world? (– litter, graffiti etc.)

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 4 – GOD’S PEOPLE – EXPLORE

Ordinary people who do extraordinary things

- Children may be able to ask and respond to questions about what they know and how they feel about ordinary people doing extraordinary things.
- Children may be able to show how feelings beliefs and values affect their behaviour and the actions of others e.g. Eric.



Read Eric’s story. (It can be found as a PowerPoint by following the link: <https://comeandsee.cafod.org.uk/Year-4-resources#file-21063>)

Eric is 8 years old and lives in Rwanda with his 7 brothers and sisters and his niece, Benita. His older sister, Julienne looks after them all. The family grows and sells vegetables through a business that CAFOD helped them to set up. Both Benita and Eric look after the crops of aubergines and potatoes.



At home, Eric shares a bedroom with his brothers and sisters. They sleep on mattresses on the stone floor.



Eric goes to school and loves maths! He gets homework to do. He prays to God that he can finish his studies so he can have a good life and help his family.

Eric likes to help out at home. In the evenings, he looks for wood to cook supper and helps to prepare the meal.



His best friends are called Fizz, Fabreze and Simiona. They play lots of games together along with his brothers and sisters.

Eric also like singing in his choir and they sing to be united and to build peace in their country. Rwanda was once at war, but now it is



now a peaceful country and children are leading the way by taking care of each other.



Thanks to our help, CAFOD can continue to help families like Eric’s by helping them find ways to help themselves through work, such as growing and selling vegetables.

Can you think of any qualities and values that Eric has that makes him special? Can you think of any other special people? What qualities do they have?

Eric's Story, My Story

CAFOD
Just one world

Use the photos to help you retell Eric's Story and then tell your own story focusing on the similarities in your lives.

Eric's Story

My Story



YEAR 4 – GOD’S PEOPLE – REVEAL

Different saints show people what God is like

- Children may be able to retell some special stories about people who show what God is like and give reasons for their actions.
- Children may be able to describe some ways in which religion is lived out by different saints.
- Children may be able to make links between scripture and the action and beliefs of followers of God’s way and show how their beliefs shape their lives.

Eric is part of the worldwide community we all belong to.

Christians, whether they are living on earth or in heaven, belong to what is called the Communion of Saints. Communion means to belong together and saints are those who follow God’s way. They show us something about God. They may be kind, generous, loving, faithful, forgiving and caring.

In the first letter of St John, (1 John 3:1–3), where he is encouraging his readers to follow God’s way, he offers some ideas about how we can all become a bit more like God, a saint:

*See what great love the Father has for us,
that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!*

*Dear friends, we are already children of God,
we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him,
because we shall see him as he is.*

*Everyone who has this hope in Christ,
will try to be loving and kind and keep away from anything that is wrong.*

We are all called to be saints and there are some people who are given a special title of saint because of the life they have led. These saints may have a special feast day during the year like St Andrew, St David, St Patrick. On 1st of November every year the Church celebrates the Feast of All Saints, that is all the holy women and men who have followed God’s way.

You might like to invite the children to research a saint: it might be a saint of their school, parish church, their name or the name of someone in their family. They could use the internet or books. Ask them to think about the qualities and values that the saint has.

St Paul was always writing letters to the friends he had made all over the world. In one letter to the Christians in Colossae he said:

*“You are created by God, to be like God.
You are God’s people, his saints. He loves you. You are all different.
You come from different places,
speak in different ways, have different customs.
But the important thing is that you are God’s children.
So love one another, help one another, be at peace with one another.
And let the love of Jesus fill your hearts and minds.”* (based on Colossians 3:10–11)



Show the children a box of chocolates and explain that, although each one looks and tastes different, they all contribute to the whole package – just as we all have a place in this world, and we rely on one another.

You might like to research the lives of people who, because of their beliefs and values, have stood up for what they know to be right e.g.

Martin Luther King, Rosa Parkes, St Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa), Oscar Romero.

Invite the children to write a postcard to another child, telling them what they have learned about saints and, in particular, how they can live their lives to show what God is like and why it would be good to do so.

<p>Dear</p> <p>I have been learning about:</p> <p>This is what I found out about:</p> <p>This is how they behaved and how God wants us to behave:</p> <p>Love from:</p>	<p>To:</p>
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On the star shape, write down as many qualities and values as you can from your work in the topic that people have that show us what God is like.

At the end of all the work you have done on **GOD'S PEOPLE**, say together:

Loving Father,

Help me to use my gifts and talents for the good of all people.

Help me to make a difference to the lives of those who are in need.

Help me to stand up for what is right and just.

Amen!