

Level 3

Overview

Strand

Strand Units

Christian Faith

- Mystery of God
- Mystery of Jesus Christ
- Mystery of the Holy Spirit
- Creation
- Mystery of the Church/Kingdom
- Mary
- Eternal Life
- Other Religious Traditions

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Strand Units

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 - ◇ Jesus' Birth and Youth
 - ◇ Jesus' Public Life
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 - ◇ Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension
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Strand Units

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Strand Units

Christian Morality

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- Human Freedom and Responsibility
- God's Graceful Presence and Assistance
- Social Teaching of the Church
- RSE in a Christian Context

Strand: Christian Faith

Aims

Children will:

- develop their understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- develop their knowledge of the person of Jesus, his identity as God's Son, his historical context, the Kingdom of God, the meaning of discipleship, Christian beliefs, and relate these understandings to their own lives and the lives of others
- explore the significance of Mary and the Saints within the Catholic tradition and learn from their spirituality
- demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the Church as a community which continues the mission of Jesus and explore their part (vocation) in it
- develop an understanding of the growth and organisation of Christianity in Ireland, the development of their local Christian community/ies and of the missionary tradition in the Irish Church
- explore a variety of expressions of Irish Christian spirituality in the past (e.g. pilgrimages, Celtic spirituality, sacred places)
- begin to explore other Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities, developing respect for how they worship (cf. LG 17)
- begin to distinguish between a religious and non-religious worldview, showing sensitivity and respect for people who hold beliefs different from their own. (CSRE 2)

Skills

The child should be enabled to:

Understanding:

- research, investigate and analyse Christian religious concepts and beliefs
- investigate and imagine the meaning and significance of Christian beliefs for today
- recognise and explore Christian beliefs presented in art, architecture, music and digital texts
- evaluate the truth of religious statements for his/her life (judgement)
- make decisions about how religious truths, beliefs and values might affect his/her behaviour (decision).

Communicating:

- gather, utilise and present research and projects on religious concepts and beliefs.

Developing Spiritual Literacy:

- pose and respond imaginatively to ultimate questions of meaning and truth that arise from his/her experiences in the world
- investigate how the liturgical life of the Church relates to his/her own spiritual life.

Developing Inter-religious Literacy:

- discuss the importance of religious or philosophical beliefs in the lives of people in his/her community
- investigate the religious practice of children in other Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities in Ireland and relating it to his/her own religious practice.

Strand Units

Children at this level will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

Mystery of God

- God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit (CCC 152, 234).
- The Trinity is one God in three persons. They do not share divinity among themselves, but each is God whole and entire (CCC 253).
- God is faithful and compassionate (CCC 205).
- God is all-knowing and all-powerful (CCC 268).
- God knows and loves me personally (CCC 300).
- God promised to send us a Saviour (CCC 705-6).
- God sent Jesus to save us from our sins (CCC 620-21; GDC 102).
- On Easter Sunday, God the Father raised Jesus from death to new life in a glorious body. This is called the Resurrection.
- God our Father sends us the Holy Spirit to help us to be like Jesus.
- When Christians say 'I believe in God' they mean that they know and trust God's words, works, promises and commandments (CCC 154, 1064: faith as believing).
- God calls people and they respond (vocation).
- Christians live their faith in God through prayer and action (faith as living/witnessing).
- Abraham and Sarah are models of faith (CCC 145).
- Faith challenges Christians to work for the Kingdom/Reign of God (CCC 542).
- People's faith has helped them in difficult times.
- God's existence can be denied or ignored (GS 19).

Mystery of Jesus Christ

- Jesus is the Second Divine Person of the Most Holy Trinity. Jesus, Son of God, came to earth to save us. He is our Redeemer, who came in love to forgive our sins. Jesus invites us to accept the Father's love and then to live that love in imitation of him.
- Jesus is called 'Saviour' because by his life, death and Resurrection he freed us from sin (SC 6; GS 22; GDC 97; cf. CCC 517, 1248).
- Jesus is called 'the Lord' because with the Father he holds all things in being and enables us to enter into relationship with the Father (CCC 202, 446-51, 454-55).
- Jesus brings peace to our world (PT, 169-70).
- Jesus is the Second Divine Person of the Most Holy Trinity.
- Jesus was a Jew and was obedient to the Law of God (CCC 423): religious practices Jesus observed, the great Jewish feasts, pilgrimages to the Temple, Jesus' anger that the Temple was defiled, work as a carpenter's son, Jesus' Jewish beliefs, Jewish prayers (CCC 531-32, 583-84).
- Jesus called people to repent and believe in the Good News, that is, the coming of the Kingdom of God (Mk 1:14-15; Lk 17:21; EN 11-14; LG 5; GDC 101-2; CCC 544, 1427).
- Jesus related to others, especially the poor and outcasts, with justice and compassion (Mk 1:40-45; Mk 2:1-12; Mk 7:31-37).
- Jesus helped people to change and 'grow' (conversion).
- Jesus spoke and acted with authority (Mt 7:28-9).
- Jesus insisted that his teaching must not only be acknowledged, but also acted upon (Mt 21:28).

- Jesus was tempted in the desert (Lk 7:11-17; CCC 538).
- Jesus healed many who were sick and even brought some back to life (Lk 7:11-17; CCC 547, 548-49).
- Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, Susanna and many other women accompanied Jesus as he journeyed and provided for him out of their resources (Lk 8:23; MD 13).
- Jesus made Peter the 'rock' of his Church. He gave him the keys of his Church and made him shepherd of the whole flock (LG 8; LG 18; CCC 881; Mt 16:18-19).
- Jesus revealed himself risen from the dead to Mary Magdalene whom he commissioned as 'apostle to the apostles' (Jn 20:11-18; MD 16).
- Jesus was willing to suffer and die to show how much he loved God his Father and us (CCC 569, 608).
- Jesus offered Himself to God at the Last Supper and at Calvary (CCC 610, 621).
- After his Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us (CCC 659, 665).
- At his Ascension Jesus entrusted his life's mission to the apostles and the Church (CCC 669).
- At his Ascension Jesus promised to be with us forever (Mt 28:20); the sending of the Holy Spirit as part of the promise.
- Jesus is the head of the Church, the One who leads God's People.

Mystery of the Holy Spirit

- On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples to remain with them forever (Acts 2:1-13; AG 4).
- The gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church (CCC 732).
- The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and Son to help us become more like God (CCC 682-747).
- The Holy Spirit guides and cares for the Church (GS 11; LG 4; CCC 739, 747).
- The Holy Spirit will remain with us forever (CCC 729).
- The Holy Spirit enables Christians to spread the Good news of Jesus in different ways.
- Christ gives the Holy Spirit through the sacraments, especially in Baptism and Confirmation (CCC 1116).
- The Holy Spirit gives grace to all God's people.
- Grace is the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in us. We need the gift of grace which we receive in a special way through the sacraments and prayer.

Creation

- God created the entire universe, including our earth and all that is in it by his Word, from nothing (Jn 1:1-3; Col 1:16-17; 2 Mac 7:28; CCC 290-91, 296).
- God so loved us that he created the world and us in it to share his life and love (Eph 1:5-6; CCC 279-95).
- God keeps everything in existence (DV1; CCC 301, 320).
- Angels are spiritual creatures who worship God without ceasing and who serve God's saving plans for other creatures (CCC 350).

Mystery of the Church/Kingdom

- The Kingdom of God is a reign of justice, peace and love (CCC 865, 2046).
- Jesus invites sinners to the table of the Kingdom (CCC 545; Mk 2:17; Lk 15:7; Lk 7:11-32).
- People witness to the Kingdom of God and help it grow by acting justly, loving others and caring for God's creation (Mic 6: 6-8; GS 33; CCC 2045-46).
- The Church is the People of God made one by Jesus, a community which shares his love and life (CCC 804; 781-86).

- The Church is a liturgical assembly and it is a community of believers (CCC 752).
- The Church shows people what God is like and brings God's loving care to all (CCC 780: Church as sacrament of salvation; GS 3: Church as servant).
- The Church is the community which continues Jesus' mission to proclaim Good News to the whole world (LG 8, LG 17; AG 1; CCC 3, 849: mission; Mk 16:15).
- Jesus sent the apostles to make all people his disciples and so spread his Church (LG 19: mission).
- The Pope represents Jesus in leading the Church on earth, in succession to St Peter, the leader of the apostles (LG 18; CCC 880-82, 936-37).
- The family/Catholic school builds up the Kingdom of God by participating in the life and mission of the Church (GS 48; FC 49, 17-18).
- Every person has his/her own role in the Church (domestic and local) (LG 12).
- Every Christian is called to spread 'the Good news' (LG 17: vocation).
- Living as a friend of God/disciple of Jesus needs the support of the Church family.
- Study of local parish communities: worship, mission and service.
- Ways of taking part in the life and worship of the domestic and local church (e.g. celebrating Eucharist, prayer for others, parish activities).
- Some roles and responsibilities within the local Church community/ies are: parish priest, deacon, religious communities, laity, ministers of the word, parish pastoral council, leaders of prayer, school leadership, youth ministry, faith development co-ordinator etc. (LG 10, LG 12; cf CCC 910-11, 913).
- Local Christian groups in the community (e.g. The Society of St Vincent de Paul, altar servers, choir, etc.).
- History of local Christian community/ies.
- Early Christian Ireland.
- Work of Irish Missionaries (e.g. The Society of Missionary Children).
- Saints: explore St Patrick, St Mary Magdalene and a selection from the following or similar list – St Brendan, St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Clare, St Kevin, St Columban, local saints. Other witnesses to Christ in the past.
- Christian spirituality and pilgrimage: places of pilgrimage in Ireland and wider world, e.g. Glendalough, Knock, Fatima, Lourdes, famous churches, Celtic crosses: (CCC 1674).
- Introduction to other Christian churches present in the local community: e.g. Church of Ireland; Methodists and Presbyterians, Orthodox Christians, Evangelical Christians, Eastern Rite Churches.
- All those who are baptised, who identify Jesus as God's son and who believe in his Resurrection are called Christians.
- All members of the Christian family are called to worship God and to serve their communities in imitation of Jesus.

Mary

- The Church honours with special love the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (SC 103; LG 66).
- Jesus gave us Mary, His mother, as Mother of the Church (LG 53, 63; CCC 963).
- Mary is God's Mother and Our Mother (GS 22, LG 52-3, 60-2; CCC 744, 963, 968, 971, 973-75, 495, 508-10).
- Mary always leads us to Jesus (MC 57).
- Mary was specially preserved by God from all sin (LG 55; CCC 411, 491, 493: Immaculate Conception).

- Mary and the saints can intercede for us with God (CCC 956, 969).
- The Virgin Mary is the supreme model of faith in God the Father Almighty for she believed that ‘nothing is impossible with God’ (Lk 1:37; CCC 273).
- The Church encourages many great prayers of Mary: eg. The Rosary, the Magnificat, the Memorare, the Hail Mary, the Angelus.
- Icons and images of Mary (e.g. Mother of God, Mary of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Czestochowa).

Eternal Life

- God’s Kingdom, begun on earth, is everlasting (Dn 7:14; CCC 670, 664).
- God wants all people to live happily with him in heaven forever, through the salvation brought by Jesus (GS 18; CCC 1026).
- Jesus rose from the dead in his own body and entered heaven so we might join him one day and share in eternal life (CCC 666–67).
- The Lord Jesus said: ‘Whoever believes in me shall have eternal life and I shall raise him up on the Last Day.’ Christians believe and hope that they too will rise to new life with the risen Jesus. This is called eternal life (1 Cor 15:23–4).
- ‘Just as Christ is risen and lives forever, so all of us will rise at the last day’ (CCC 1016; 1 Cor 15:54–7).
- Christians believe that when they die they shall be with Christ, and they shall see God (1 Cor 13:12).
- Christians believe that their bodies and souls will rise from the dead (GS 22; CCC 990).
- Images of Heaven: life, light, peace, wedding feast, wine of the Kingdom, the Father’s house, Paradise (Lk 13:29; Rev 22:5; Jn 14:1–4; CCC 1027).

Other Religious Traditions

- Christians consider their every neighbour as another self (Mk 12:31; GS 27; CCC 1944).
- The parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that ‘loving our neighbour’ means being a neighbour to people of other religious traditions.
- Dialogue with people of other religions is obeying the command to love our neighbour.
- Catholics are called by God to respect the beliefs of others, to respect religious freedom, to honour differences and to work for unity (GS 28).
- Judaism, Christianity and Islam are the three great monotheistic faiths.
- Judaism, Christianity and Islam are sometimes called Abrahamic religions because they all revere Abraham.
- Catholics are called to dialogue and co-operation with other religious communities (DP 82).
- Catholics are called to witness to their faith in Christ in word and deed (DP 59, 82; EN 5).
- **Judaism:** Jews believe in God. Jesus was a Jew. Friday sunset – Saturday sunset as God’s special day; Sabbath, day of rest, worship and the family meal. Going to the synagogue to worship. Irish synagogues.
- **Islam:** Muslims believe in one God. Muslims pray five times a day; they call God Allah and respect his name. Friday, day of special prayer; the call to prayer; worship in the mosque, decorations with patterns and texts; men and women pray separately; the holy book is called the Qu’ran- how it is treated. Irish mosques.

Strand: Word of God

Aims

Children will:

- enhance their understanding of discipleship of Jesus and of the Kingdom of God
- study the basic structure of the Bible
- demonstrate basic Bible study skills
- begin to explore the concept of 'covenant' in the Hebrew Scriptures
- begin to understand that God's will for his people is made clear through the lives of Biblical characters (revelation) (CSRE).
- develop their understanding of the inspiration and truth of Sacred Scripture as the revealed Word of God.

Skills

The child should be enabled to:

Understanding:

- gather, record and present information about people, places and things in scriptural texts, in a variety of formats (audio/video clips, PowerPoint, documents, collages, photostory).

Communicating:

- construct timelines and storymaps to represent Biblical events and the organisation of information.

Strand Units

Children at this level should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the following ideas and concepts:

Bible

- The Holy Spirit guided the people who wrote the books of the Bible.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to listen to, understand and respond to God's Word today.
- The Bible is a library of books (CCC 112).
- The Bible is the name given to the Sacred Scriptures for Christians; it contains the Old Testament writings sacred to the Jews.
- There are four Gospels: the gospel according to Matthew, the gospel according to Mark, the gospel according to Luke and the gospel according to John. These occupy a central place because Jesus Christ is their centre (CCC 139).
- The Old Testament for Catholics comprises forty-six books that deal with God's revelation prior to the coming of the saviour, Jesus Christ (CCC 120).
- The Old Testament contains the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, the Wisdom books, and the Prophetic books (CCC 120).
- The Old Testament relates God's teachings and actions prior to the coming of Jesus Christ. It focuses on the covenant God made with the Jewish people, which is called the 'Old Covenant' to distinguish it from the 'New Covenant' made by Jesus Christ (CCC 121-123).
- The people of Israel had a covenant with God, a promise of love and faithfulness often compared to a loving marriage (Is 54:10) or devotion between a parent and child (e.g. Is 49:15; Hos 11:1-4).
- God made an everlasting covenant with Noah and with all living things. It will remain in force as long as the world lasts (CCC 71; Gn 9:8-16).
- God chose Abraham and made a covenant with him and his descendants (CCC 72; Lev 26:11-12).
- By the covenant God formed his people and revealed his Law to them through Moses (CCC 72).
- The New Testament comprises twenty-seven books that deal with the life and teaching of Jesus and of the early Christian community (CCC 120).
- The New Testament contains the Four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Epistles or Letters and the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse).
- For Christians the Gospels are at the heart of all Scriptures (CCC 125, 139).
- The Gospels lead us to accept Jesus Christ in faith and apply his teaching to our lives.
- The wise men recognised Jesus as God, and knelt and worshipped him, an event known as the Epiphany (Mt 2:1-12; CCC 422-24).

Sacred Scripture

God's Loving Plan of Salvation (CCC 62-4,71-2; 522, 761-62, 781, 1164, 2056-63, 2077)

- Gn 9:8-17. Covenant between God and every living creature (Noah).
- Gn 12:1-10. Call of Abraham.
- Gn 15:1-6, 18-21. Promise to Abraham.
- Gn 17:1-10, 15-22. Covenant with Abraham and Sarah. Birth of Isaac.
- Ex 1-2. Pharaoh and the Israelites; the young Moses.
- Ex 3:1-22. God calls Moses; God's name.
- Ex 5:1-11:10. Moses and Pharaoh; God's promise of deliverance.
- Ex 12. The Passover.
- Ex 14. God saves the Israelites; Exodus story.

- Ex 19:3-8. The Covenant at Sinai; God's chosen people.
- Ex 20:1-17; Deut 5:1-22; Ex 19:3-8. The Ten Commandments.
- Ex 24:3-8. Sealing the covenant.
- Ex 34:6-7. God's love is everlasting.
- Ps 18:1-3. God my Rock.
- Ps 23. The Lord is my Shepherd.
- Ps 31:14-15. My times are in your hand.
- Ps 37. Trust in the Lord.
- Ps 70:1. Asking God for Help.
- Ps 131. Like a weaned child.
- Ps 148. Cosmic Hymn of Praise.
- Ps 104. Celebrating nature.
- Is 9:6-7. Jesus is Saviour.
- Is 40:3-5. 'A voice cries out ...'
- Is 43:1-5. I have called you by your name, you are mine.
- Is 49:15. I will not forget you.

Jesus' Birth and Youth (CCC 422-24; 430-60; 522-34)

- Mt 1:18-25. Birth of Jesus. Mt 2:1-12. Wise men.
- Lk 1:5-25. Elizabeth and Zechariah.
- Lk 1:26-38. Annunciation.
- Lk 1:39-45. Visitation.
- Lk 2:1-20. Christmas.

Jesus' Public Life (CCC 535-50; 1716-29)

- Mt 5:38-48. Love your enemies.
- Mt 6:1-18. Beware of practising your piety ...
- Mt 9:1-8; Mk 2:1-12. Healing of the man born paralysed.
- Mt 13:31-2; Lk 13:18-19. Parable of the mustard seed.
- Mt 13:33; Lk 13:20-1. Parable of the yeast.
- Mt 13:44-46. The treasure and the pearl.
- Mt 18:1-5; Mk 9:33-7; Lk 9:46-8. Who is the greatest?
- Mk 7:32-37. Healing deaf man.
- Mk 8:22-26. Healing the blind man.
- Lk 3:3-6:15-6. John the Baptist.
- Lk 4: 1-13; Mt 4: 1-11 Temptations.
- Lk 7:11-17. Widow's son at Nain.
- Lk 8:1-3; Mk 15: 40-1. Women provide for Jesus.
- Lk 9:12-17. Jn 6: 1-13. Feeding of the five thousand.
- Lk 10:25-37. The Good Samaritan.
- Lk 10:27. The Greatest Commandment.
- Lk 11: 5-13. Parable of the insistent friend.
- Lk 13:10-17. Healing of woman bent over.
- Lk 15:4-7. Parable of the lost sheep.
- Lk 15:8-10. Parable of the Lost Coin.
- Lk 18:1-8. Widow and judge.
- Lk 18:9-13. Pharisee and tax collector.
- Jn 13:34-35. New Commandment.

Jesus' Passion and Death (CCC 575-637)

- Mt 21:1-11. Entry into Jerusalem.
- Mt 26:36-66. Gethsemane – High Priest.
- Lk 22:13-23. The Last Supper.
- Lk 22:31-34; 54-62. Peter betrays Jesus.
- Lk 22:66-71, Lk 23:1-43. Trial and crucifixion.
- Jn 19:1-16. Crowning with thorns.
- Jn 19:18, 25, 30, 38-42. Jesus dies on the cross.
- Jn 19:26-27. Woman, here is your son.

Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension (CCC 631-67)

- Mt 28:1-10; Lk 24:1-12. Women at tomb.
- Mt 28:16-20. 'Go therefore ...'
- Jn 20:1-9. Peter and John at tomb.
- Jn 20:19-23. Jesus appears to his disciples.
- Jn 20:19-29. Doubting Thomas.
- Acts 1:6-11. Ascension of Jesus.

Pentecost (CCC 731-41)

- Acts 2:1-13. Pentecost.
- 1 Cor 12:4-7. Varieties of gifts.
- Eph 4:5-6. 'There is one body ...' (ecumenism).
- 1 Pt 5:7. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

For memorisation

Mt 22:37. Two commandments of love:

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your mind.
2. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.
 - Ex 20:1-17; Deut 5:4-21. Ten commandments.
 - Mt 7:12. Do to others as you would have them do to you.
 - Jn 6:35. 'I am the bread of life.'
 - Ps 23. 'The Lord is my Shepherd.'
 - Is 43: 1-5. 'I have called you by your name, you are mine.'
 - Jn 3:16. 'For God so loved the world ...'
 - Jn 15:12. 'No one has greater love than this ...'

Strand: Liturgy and Prayer

Aims

Children will:

- develop an understanding of how prayer, liturgy and sacraments enable us to encounter and celebrate the presence of Christ today
- understand that the source of the grace of all the sacraments is Christ's saving work (CCC 1128)
- develop their understanding of the liturgical year
- learn how celebrating the feast days of Mary and the Saints and praying to God through Mary and the Saints can enrich their lives
- develop an understanding of what a sacrament is
- develop their understanding of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
- investigate how a range of resources can be used to create prayers and rituals for a variety of purposes
- develop an appreciation of sacred art, architecture and music.

Skills

The child should be enabled to:

Understanding:

- use the Bible as a source of prayer
- name sacraments and explain these in their own words
- explore sacraments and seasons in relation to the actions of Jesus.

Communicating and Participating:

- create objects, symbols and spaces to communicate understanding of the liturgical year and to support personal and classroom prayer.

Strand Units

Children at this level will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

Prayer

- Jesus promised to be present where people gather in his name (Mt 18:20).
- Jesus tells his followers to ask God for what they need 'in his name' (Jn 14:13-14).
- Jesus tells his followers always to pray and not lose heart (Lk 18:1).
- Jesus advised his followers to pray in secret (Mt 6:6; SC 12).
- We can pray by being God's hands in helping others (praying by doing).
- By prayer Christians can work for the coming of the Kingdom (CCC 2632).
- We can pray anywhere and any time (CCC 2660; CSRE 2c).
- Special places of worship Catholics respect e.g. Irish monasteries, sacred wells, pilgrimage sites (CSRE 2c).

Formal Prayer

- *Comhartha na Croise*
- *Glóir don Athair*
- Prayer to the Trinity
- Gloria
- St Patrick's Breastplate
- Apostles' Creed
- Stations of the Cross (CCC 1674, 2699)
- The Rosary: Sorrowful Mysteries (CCC 971)
- Memorial Acclamations 2 and 3
- The Angelus
- Sanctus (Holy Holy)
- Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)
- All Mass responses

Additional Prayers

- Prayer to the Trinity
- Prayer for peace and unity: 'Lord Jesus you said to your apostles.'
- Prayer for Lent ('This is the wood of the cross')
- Praying for the intercession of all Holy Women
- Psalms 23, 37, 104, 148.
- Num 6:24-6. The Lord bless you and keep you.
- Saints' prayers: e.g. Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi/Teresa of Avila
- Prayer of Commendation (Order of Christian Funerals, CCC 1020)
- Prayer to Jesus as Teacher, leader and friend
- Prayer to the saints
- Prayer for Christian unity
- Prayer for peace
- Prayer for the mission
- Prayer for vocations

Liturgy

- The liturgy is the public prayer of the Church, in which she celebrates above all the death and Resurrection of Christ which accomplished our salvation. The members of the Church come together, usually in the church building, and all participate. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray with Jesus to God the Father, uniting us to God and to one another. Liturgical celebration can include sign and symbol, words and actions, song and music, and sacred art (CCC 1067, 1071-1073).
- The liturgy is led primarily by Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Bishops, priests and deacons take the place of Christ in leading the prayer and worship (CCC 1142, 1188).

Liturgical Year

- During the liturgical year the Church family journeys with Jesus through the major events of his life (CCC 1194).
- The Liturgical year is celebrated in seasons as follows: Advent, Christmas Season, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter Season.
- Throughout the liturgical year our Church recognises and celebrates the lives of the martyrs and saints (CCC 1173).
- The colours of Church vestments used for the Sundays in different seasons of the liturgical year are: Green – Ordinary Time; Violet – Advent and Lent, Sacrament of Reconciliation; Red – Good Friday, Pentecost, Palm Sunday, Confirmation Masses; White – Christmas, Holy Thursday, Easter, Weddings, Baptisms.
- Ordinary time: What and when it is. History (based on the word ordinal: refers to the Sundays of the year).
- Advent and Christmas: the Church's seasons of preparing for and celebrating the birthday of Jesus.
 - The people of God waited in hope for the coming of God among them.
 - The Season of Advent (four weeks) is the beginning of the Church year.
 - The Advent Calendar.
 - The custom of the crib and the story of the first Crib (St Francis in Greccio).
- Lent is a time to turn back to God, repent of our sins and believe the Good News.
- Lent lasts for forty days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending the day before Passion (Palm) Sunday.
- Lent is a time to grow and change through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, to prepare for Easter.
- The ritual of Ashes on Ash Wednesday reminds us of the need to turn back to God, to repent of our sin, and to live the gospel.
 - On Ash Wednesday Catholics fast as Jesus did in the desert.
 - On Saint Patrick's Day we celebrate the coming of Christianity to Ireland.
- Holy Week is a time to remember that Jesus shared the gift of himself: at the Last Supper/on the cross.
 - On Holy Thursday the Church recalls the events of the Last Supper.
 - On Good Friday Jesus' followers recall his death and burial by reflecting on the Stations of the Cross.
 - The cross reminds Christians of the sufferings of Jesus and of his love for the Father and for us.
- Easter is the greatest feast of the Church's year when Christians celebrate the death and Resurrection of Jesus.
 - During the Easter Season Christians celebrate their new life in the risen Lord.

- Pentecost: the celebration of new life in the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.
- Jesus returned to his Father in heaven on Ascension day.
- The Feast of All Saints is a holy day of the Church honouring all saints, known and unknown. It is a holy day of obligation. The eve of All Saints is known as All Hallows eve, or Hallowe'en.
- On the Feast of All Souls Catholics pray for the dead to ask God to purify them with his love and bring them to eternal happiness in heaven (CCC 1032).
- The Church offers prayers, especially the Mass, on behalf of the dead (LG 50; CCC 1055).
- On Sunday, the Lord's Day, the Church remembers the Lord's Resurrection by resting from work and by gathering to celebrate the Eucharist (SC 102; 106; CCC 1163, 1166, 1167, 1193; Gn 2:1-3; Deut 5:15).
- Liturgical feasts of Mary (the feast of Mary, the Mother of God; Our Lady of Lourdes; the Annunciation; Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary; the Immaculate Conception) and prayers such as the Rosary express devotion to Mary (MC 49).
- Hymns to Mary.
- The Feast of the Presentation, the Feast of Epiphany (Holy day of obligation: *Nollaig na mBan*), the Feast of St Joseph, the Feast of the Ascension, the Feast of Pentecost, the Feast of All Saints, the Feast of All Souls.
- Irish liturgical art and music.
- Objects in the church: reconciliation rooms, presidential chair, tabernacle, lectern, sanctuary lamp, stations of the cross, ciborium, pyx, censer and monstrance.

Sacraments

- The seven sacraments of the Catholic Church are Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders (CCC 1113; 1210).
- The seven sacraments are signs established by Jesus to give us grace, his own life and love (CCC 1113-16; 1123; 1127-29; 1131; 1996-2005).
- A sacrament is a special meeting with the risen Jesus (SC 7; CCC 1097).
- 'Sacramental grace' is the grace of the Holy Spirit which is given by Christ in each Sacrament. (SC 59-60; CCC 1129).
- In the sacrament of Baptism Christians become children of God and brothers and sisters of every other member of the Christian community (CCC 1265).
- In baptism, God gives the Christian God's own life. This is called grace. (CCC 460, 1266, 1999: sanctifying grace).
- In the sacrament of Baptism God gives Christians the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them to follow Jesus (CCC 1266, 1996).
- When children are baptised as babies; the parents and godparents make the baptismal promises on the baby's behalf, to believe in God and to reject Satan and sin. These promises are renewed at Confirmation.
- Godparents promise to help parents bring up their children as members of the Church.
- Importance of the Christian name given in Baptism (CCC 2156, 2158).
- The grace of Baptism comes from the redemptive death and Resurrection of Jesus.
- Baptism lasts forever and can only be received once.
- The sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.
- Jesus had a special love for the sick (Lk 7:16; Mt 4:24; CCC 1503).
- In the Anointing of the Sick, Christ continues to 'touch' us in order to heal us (CCC 1504).
- The Anointing of the Sick celebrates the presence of Christ to those who are seriously ill, giving them strength, hope and peace (CCC 1509, 1514-15).

- The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is not only for the dying but also for those suffering from serious illness, for the elderly and for those facing major surgery (CCC 1509, 1511, 1527).
- The sick person is given the grace of the Holy Spirit, the strength, peace and courage to overcome the difficulties that go with serious illness or the frailty of old age, and the fortitude to bear suffering patiently (CCC 1520, 1527).
- Only a priest (or bishop) is the Minister of the Anointing of the Sick. Those who are seriously sick should be encouraged to call for a priest to receive this sacrament (James 5:13-16; CCC 1516, cf. 1526, 1532).
- The celebration of the sacrament consists in the anointing of the forehead and hands of the sick person and the prayer of the celebrant asking for the special grace of this sacrament (CCC 1531).
- The sacrament also provides the sick person with the forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God.
- In addition to the Anointing of the Sick, the Church offers those who are about to die Eucharist as Viaticum that gives them strength for the last part of the journey through death (CCC 1524).
- Organisations that work with people who are sick, disabled or dying, e.g. the hospice movement, L'Arche.
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation the Church celebrates the gift of the love and mercy of God and calls people to confess sin, seek forgiveness and be reconciled to God and to one another (RP 31).
- Jesus forgave sinners and restored them to the community (Lk 15; 19:9; CCC 1443).
- Christians show their faith in Jesus by being forgiven and forgiving.
- Jesus calls his followers to turn the other cheek to the one who strikes them and to give their cloak to the one who has taken their coat (Mt 5:38-40).
- The Law of forgiveness: Mt 5:44.
- Jesus said that his followers are to forgive without limit (Mt 18:21ff.).
- Jesus began his risen life by giving his apostles power to forgive sins (Jn 20:23; RP 8, 29; CCC 1461).
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation continues his work of forgiving and reconciling.
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we meet the risen Jesus (CCC 1484).
- The grace of forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation comes from the redemptive death and Resurrection of Jesus.
- Sin: anything you think, say, do or anything you should do and don't, that spoils or breaks your friendship with God, other people and creation (sins of omission and commission).
- We sin when we refuse to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves, and respect creation as Jesus taught. (GS 13; CCC 1487; 1849; 1853).
- Sin is anything that breaks Jesus' law of love (RP 14).
- While all sin displeases God, there are some sins which are less serious (venial sins) and some that are very serious (mortal sins) (CCC 1855).
- While the individual celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the norm, this Sacrament may take place within the context of a communal celebration where 'the personal confession of sins and individual absolution are inserted into a liturgy of the Word of God with readings and a homily, an examination of conscience conducted in common, a communal request for forgiveness, the Our Father and a thanksgiving in common' (CCC 1482).

Mass

- At this level work on the Mass pivots on six points
 1. Eucharistic Presence (SC 7, MF 35-8, CCC 1088; 1373-77).
 2. Memorial Sacrifice (CCC 1357, 1362-72).
 3. Praise and Thanksgiving (CCC 1328, 1359-61).
 4. Communion (CCC 1382).
 5. Pledge of Eternal Life (CCC 1378-81; 1391-1401; 1418).
 6. Structure of the Mass (CCC 1348-55).

1. *Eucharistic Presence*

- Jesus Christ, present in the world in many ways, is uniquely present in the Eucharist.
- Jesus Christ is present: in the community gathered by God; in the word proclaimed; in the priest who celebrates the Mass, and above all, under the appearances of bread and wine changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.
- The Lord Jesus is present in a special way after the Consecration, when the bread and wine are changed into his body and blood (CCC 1375).
- The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ (CCC 1333-36; 1373-81; 1410; 1412; 1418).
- The priest begs the Father to send the Holy Spirit, so that the bread and wine may become the Body and Blood of Christ (CCC 1105).
- Jesus Christ is present in the Blessed Sacrament which is kept in the tabernacle to foster adoration (MF 66; CCC 1379).
- The sanctuary lamp which burns before the tabernacle is a sign of our faith in the presence of the Risen Jesus.

2. *Memorial Sacrifice*

- At Mass we remember that Jesus Christ died and rose again to save the world.
- The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary is made present in the celebration of the Eucharist which brings us all its graces (CCC 601-14; 619-23; 1365-71; 1545; 2020-21; 2009-100).

3. *Praise and Thanksgiving*

- We celebrate the Eucharist to show thanks to God the Father for the unique gift of salvation given to us by Jesus on the cross and in the Mass.

4. *Communion*

- At Mass Jesus Christ gives us his Body and Blood, to share his life with us and to help us to grow in friendship with God and with others (CCC 1391, 1396).
- Receiving Jesus Christ, the 'Bread of Life', gives us the strength to love and serve like Jesus.

5. *Pledge of Future Glory*

- Holy Eucharist nourishes our souls with grace and helps us to love and serve God and others in this life and be happy with him forever in heaven (CCC 1378-81; 1391-1401; 1418).

6. *Structure of the Mass*

- The origins of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist in the actions of Jesus (CCC 611, 1337-44).
- The importance of being 'active participants' in the Mass (DCM 12; GIRM 5).
- The Mass is made up of the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist (SC 56; DV 21, CCC 1346).
- In the Introductory Rites, the community gathers. Penitential Act. Opening Prayer/Collect.
- The Liturgy of the Word in the Eucharist contains different elements: First Reading/Psalm/Second Reading/Alleluia or Acclamation/Gospel reading/Homily/Creed/Prayer of the Faithful/Universal Prayer of the Church.
- The Liturgy of the Word invites us to listen, proclaim and respond to the word of God.
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist, invites us to bring our gifts to the altar, to give thanks, offer sacrifice, remember, share a meal and we are challenged to live a life of service (CCC 1346).
- In Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ who offered himself 'for the life of the world' (CCC 1355).
- In the Dismissal Rite we are sent forth to carry on Christ's mission in the world. (CCC 1332, 1397).
- The faithful are obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and certain Holy Days (Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Epiphany, St Patrick's day, the Feast of the Assumption, the Feast of All Saints) and to receive the Eucharist at least once per year, if possible during the Easter season. The Church encourages more frequent, even daily, attendance at Mass and reception of Holy Communion (CCC 1389).

Strand: Christian Morality

Aims

Children will:

- understand their identity as people of the covenant (i.e. understanding morality as a response to a God who has taken the initiative in love)
- develop their understanding of Christian moral living as uniting themselves with Jesus' way of love and faithful loyalty to the Father
- develop a knowledge of the two-fold commandment of love, and the Ten Commandments, and explore challenges posed by them (CCC 117)
- grow in understanding of their own growth and development, emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually and the support they receive from others for that growth
- understand the call to appreciate and develop their gifts and talents and to share them with others, becoming co-workers with God for a better world (vocation; CSRE 3d)
- develop their understanding of freedom of choice, sin, moral judgement and human responsibility (critical moral orientation, development of conscience: GS 59)
- begin to develop an ethic that respects, defends, and promotes the rights and wellbeing of every person regardless of gender, race, social status, personal achievement or social contribution (justice orientation)
- co-ordinate concerns for equity (taking into account the special needs, situations or contributions of others) with reciprocity in structuring moral decisions
- continue to develop an ecological ethic.

Skills

The child should be enabled to:

Understanding:

- explore the knowledge, motives and emotions that influence Christian choices
- evaluate his/her own actions, values and relationships according to Christian moral principles (moral integrity and moral judgement, critical moral orientation).

Communicating:

- practice effective interpersonal skills in order to relate to others in peaceful, tolerant, and non-discriminatory ways.

Strand Units

Children at this level will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

Human Dignity

- Worship and obedience to God's commandments are responses to God's love.
- God gives us gifts and talents to use them for his glory, for our own growth, for the wellbeing of others and the care of creation.
- When we use our God-given talents, the likeness of God grows in us (Gn 2:27).
- God entrusts human beings with the duty of working for God's Kingdom on earth (CCC 307).
- My gifts are signs of God's love.

Human Freedom and Responsibility

- God gives us the freedom to choose between good and evil and this is a sign of his love. This is called freewill (Mt 4:1-11; GS 17, CCC 1705,1730-34).
- We need God's help (grace) to use our freedom responsibly. (CCC 1692)
- Prayer plays an important role in our decision-making.
- When we choose to respond to God's love, we become more like him, e.g. loving, compassionate, merciful.
- Note: teaching concepts relating to sin and forgiveness are found in the liturgy and prayer strand.

God's Graceful Presence and Assistance

- Grace is the help God gives people to answer God's call (CCC 1996; 2021).
- The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to love God and one another.
- The golden rule is 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you' (Mt 7:12; Lk 6:31; CCC 1970)
- All human beings are limited and fallen, and for this reason God in his great love for us provided teaching on what is right and wrong, initially in the Old Testament (typified most clearly in the Ten Commandments) and then again in the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament Epistles. The Church has always followed this divine example and has sought to teach clearly on what is right and wrong.
- Human persons are obliged to follow the moral law, which urges them to do what is right and avoid what is evil (GS 16). This law makes itself heard in their conscience.
- One way to inform conscience is through reflecting on the Word of God.
- Christians inform their conscience through daily prayer and faithfulness to the teaching of the Church.
- The Ten Commandments (Ex 20:1-17; Deut 5:6-22). (Note: work on commandments 6 and 9 will reflect the RSE policy of the school).
- The Ten Commandments sum up God's Law (CCC 2058).
- God gave the chosen people the commandments to help them to be faithful to God's love (CCC 2059).
- The greatest commandment of the Law is to love God with one's whole heart and one's neighbour as oneself (Mt 22:37-40; Lev 19:18; CCC 2067).
- Jesus taught that the love of God cannot be separated from love of neighbour (cf. GS 24; CCC 1878).

- The first three commandments are guides in loving God; the other seven are guides to true love of oneself and others (CCC 2067).
- Following Jesus involves keeping the Ten Commandments (CCC 2053).
- The commandments guide us in making moral decisions (CCC 2052).
- Jesus teaches that keeping the commandments will enable us to possess eternal life (Mt 19:16-22).
- The grace of God is needed to overcome temptation and avoid sin (HS 123).

Social Teaching of the Church

- Jesus saw the gift and worth of each person. Therefore, the Christian is called to show love to everyone without exception (CCC 1825).
 - Christians value every person: young and old, sick and people with disabilities.
 - People with disabilities are to be assisted to lead their lives to the full (CCC 2276).
 - All people have equal dignity as they are all made in the image and likeness of God (CCC 225, 356-61, 369, 1604, 1700-01, 1944-46, 2319, 2334).
 - People deserve respect regardless of their religious, social or ethnic background (CCC 2104).
 - God gives us the gift of peace and we are called to be peacemakers (CCC 1829, 1832, 2305).
 - Every kind of discrimination whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion is against God's will (GS 29).
 - Care for creation is a duty, since the world is God's gift to all generations (CCC 373, 2402, 2456).
 - God blesses those who care for the poor (Mt 25:31-36; CCC 2443-47).
 - Jesus was angry with those who inflicted hurt on the poor (Mt 21:12-17).
 - Man and woman are called by God to be stewards of creation (Gn 1:26).
 - Include: Stories of organisations that care for the poor (GS 88): Trócaire, the Samaritans, Society of St Vincent de Paul, The Society of Missionary Children, etc.
 - Contemporary Christian stories of welcoming the stranger, of justice, of love of enemy, of courage in the face of disability, of service to others and healing of the earth.
- Stories of contemporary role models who live out of their Christian beliefs.

RSE in a Christian Context

- **Note:** work on the fifth commandment should foster a respect for human life and for all creation, and an understanding of the sacredness of human life and the importance of care for the body.
- The human body shows us that we are mortal and limited – dependent on God who gives and sustains our life.
- The importance of looking after ourselves physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- As I grow I change spiritually through greater love of God and neighbour and through my awareness of the interconnectedness of all creation.