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UNIT F

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will be introduced to the role of the priest as a special person in God's Family who helps people. This unit also has a focus on the church building as an important place within the parish community. The children will also learn about a saint being an important person in God's Family. In this unit they will also consider the help that Jesus gave to people when they needed it.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work in Nursery about people showing love and care for others.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have some experience of a church building being a special place where people gather.

SKILLS

Listening skills, interpreting symbolism, writing skills, role-play, drawing, writing prayers.

VOCABULARY

Priest, church, help, care, God's Family, Jesus, altar, candles, cross, statues, Bible, Mass, celebration, miracle, saint, sorry, Holy Communion.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know some things about the work of the priest and will understand that the church building is a special place. They will also be able to identify some artefacts in the church. The children will recall a few features from the celebration of Mass and they will be able to identify parts of stories of Jesus that show him helping other people. The children will understand that people have opportunities to follow Jesus today by the way they live.

Less able children will know that the priest is a special person in the Church community and they will be able to recall some artefacts that they see in church. They will know that Jesus cared for people and helped them when they needed it.

More able children will be able to explain in more detail why the priest is an important person in the Church community. They will have a greater knowledge of artefacts in the church and be able to recall more information about the celebration of Mass. Pupils will be able to retell stories of Jesus helping others. They will also be able to explain why it is important for followers of Jesus to try and live like him.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

L8 Observe and recognise similarity.

L9 Recognise and respond to opportunities to share activities and resources.

Ch3 Ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life and show care for one another.

Ch4 Church building and furnishing and how people show respect and reverence in Church.

C3 Hear about the Church's celebration of Sunday as a special day.

C1 Take part in celebrations which express thanks and praise.

Ch1 Roles in the community to which they belong.

C5 Hear about ways in which Jesus invited men and women to friendship and discipleship.

L5 Hear about ways in which Jesus showed love and respect for others.

Recall work on our families who care for us.

When we are not with our family there are others who care for us in special ways. Use dressing up clothes to role play some people who help us or show pieces of jigsaws which show people who help us and build up a jigsaw picture piece by piece. Who can name these helpers with the fewest numbers of pieces?

Explore, with the children, who we meet at church?

Invite a priest with a written invitation to visit the children in the classroom to talk about some of the special things he does.

Prepare for or follow up the visit by collecting artefacts and pictures that tell the story of the work the priest does. These could include some of the vestments, different things that are found in the church building, etc. Some of the vessels that are used for Mass.

Children to learn the names of the different things that the priest uses and some of the things that he does.

Children to prepare captions and sentences about the work of their priest and the care he shows God's Family.

Ask your priest to invite children and parents with written invitations to visit church on Sunday. Include in the invitation different things he would like them to notice when they are there, e.g. altar, candles, cross, statue, etc.

Talk to the children about what they saw when they return to school. Make lists of words and identify the symbols and actions they saw the priest and the people doing.

Explain to the children that the people who went to the church are part of the parish community. Brainstorm some of the different things the people did during the celebration of Mass. Include singing, reading from the Bible, saying prayers and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.

Ask the children to think about why some of these things are important to people. You might use the symbol or a photograph to lead some discussion.

Some people are too sick to go. People from the community go to visit them. Explore with the children some reasons why in the parish we take care of sick people.

Discuss any names the children have heard of people who were good friends of Jesus.

Jesus chose them to be with him and help him. They travelled with Jesus and were there when he helped people.

Role-play the calling of the disciples using name cards. Think about what was really special about being called to be a friend of Jesus.

Explain to the children that some of these special people are called "saint" because they were such special helpers. Is the school or the Church named after a saint?

Explore one of the saints appropriate to the time of year.

Hear stories of Jesus and how he cared for others in the community, e.g. Feeding of the Five Thousand when they were hungry.

Role-play the story.

Use number work for the loaves, fish and the basket of scraps.

Brainstorm some words that tells us what Jesus was like from this story.

Introduce the children to the term "miracle" as a way of describing what Jesus did.

Write some sentences about the story and the type of person Jesus was and create a storyboard.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

L8 That people are alike and contribute to the life of the community.

L9 Of opportunities to give and receive love.

Ch3 Of different forms of ministry in the Church.

Know that the priest shows love and care for God's Family.

Be able to discuss some of the special things that the priest does.

Ch4 That a Church building is a holy gathering place where everyone is welcome and where the community share and celebrate life, and worship together.

C3 That Sunday is a special day of celebration for the Church.

C1 That celebrations express thanksgiving, joy, unity and love.

Know that the church building is God's house and is the special place where his family come together.

Understand that the church is a special place where we gather to pray and that Sunday is a particular day when we gather for Mass.

Recall some of the things that they see in the Church and some of the things that we do.

Ch1 That God calls individuals and communities to share life and show care for each other.

Hear about people in the parish who visit sick people in their homes.

C5 That people love and care for each other in different ways.

Know the story of the call of the disciples.

Know that some of the friends of Jesus are people we call saints.

Hear and learn some stories about the lives of saints.

L5 That Jesus gives an example of love and respect for others.

Know from the miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand that Jesus gives an example of love and respect for other people.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Make a big display of the work of the priest for the classroom or the school.

Create a display of artefacts about the celebration of Mass. Alternatively create a church in the home corner.

Make some cards for sick and elderly parishioners from the Reception Class.

Create a "saints parade". Children to dress in costume as saints and say a little about the person they are trying to be.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

L3 Recognise love shown to them and explore opportunities to show love towards others.

L4 Recognise and explore opportunities to take responsibility for themselves and towards others.

L10 Recognise responses that are not loving and failures to show love and care.

C8 To use their own words for prayer.

Explain to the children that we have lots of opportunities to show love and care to other people.
Brainstorm some ideas with the children. Include opportunities in school, in families and in the parish.
Explore with the children the idea that through these actions we are trying to follow Jesus.
Create a “We are following Jesus” display highlighting in words and pictures some of the things the children can do.
Use a secular story to help the children think about times when the responses we make are not loving.
We need to show love and care to others. Sometimes we don’t behave, as we should. The choices we make are not good.
Provide the children with some opportunities to think about this.
Explore with the children the importance of the word “sorry”.
When should we use this word? What does it really mean?
Explain to the children that for Christians it is important to ask God to forgive them when they have done something that hurts other people.
Introduce the children to a simple “sorry” prayer that they can learn by heart.

Conclude this unit of work with a special liturgy containing some of the themes covered. Include a “sorry” prayer and also prayers of thanks for the love and care the children receive from God and through other people. Include some prayers for the sick.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

L3 Of opportunities to give and receive love.

Know that people today try to follow Jesus by the way they live.

Be able to think of some ways in which they could try to be more like Jesus.

L4 That choices affect ourselves and others.

L10 That choices effect ourselves and others.

Understand that choices we make can affect ourselves and others

Recognise that we can ask God to forgive us when we pray.

C8 Of how to pray together; that they can speak to God in formal prayer and in their own words.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Introduce the children into the work of Mission Together, Father Hudson's Society or CAFOD to give real life stories of people showing tremendous care for others because they follow Jesus.

Learn a simple song about being sorry.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 5: 1-11 – The Call of the Disciples

Mt. 4: 18-22

Mk. 1: 16-20

Jn. 1: 35-42

Mt. 14: 13-21 – The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Lk. 9: 10-17

OTHER LINKS

Social development: There are opportunities in this unit to explore ways in which the Church helps people. CAFOD, Mission Together and Fr. Hudson's Society might have material that could be linked to this unit.

Music: Learn some simple songs about the call of the disciples.

Class Focus: You might create a church building as part of the focus for this unit in the home corner.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Use some artefacts that are found in the church building during class prayer time. This would serve as a good reminder to the children of some of the special features of the church.

Pray for the priest who serves your local parish and pray for vocations to the priesthood.

Pray for those in need today, especially the poor and starving people of the world. Use the "We are Following Jesus" display as a source for prayers of intercession. Introduce children to some simple prayers asking the saints to pray for us, including the patron saint of the school or parish.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?