

## ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children learn about the story of Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. They will be introduced to the “Alleluia” as a special Easter song and the symbol of the Easter Candle.

## WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on children’s knowledge and understanding of the life of Jesus. It provides a basis for further work in other years on the symbols of Easter and further stories of post resurrection appearances of Jesus.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:  
some awareness of Easter being a special time for Christians.

## SKILLS

Recognising and interpreting symbolism, listening, singing, sequencing skills, writing, drawing.

## VOCABULARY

Easter, Easter Candle, Resurrection, Alleluia.

## ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know a story about the Resurrection of Jesus and understand that at Easter we celebrate Christ being alive. They will be able to identify the Easter Candle as a symbol of this season.

**Less able children will** know that at Easter we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

**More able children will** be able to think about the meaning of the Easter Candle and ask some simple questions about the symbols that are found on it. They will be able to describe in more detail the thoughts and feelings of the friends of Jesus when they found that he was alive.

A.T.1    A.T.2

N/a      N/a

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R6** Hear and become familiar with the main events, characters and places in the life of Jesus.

The children should return from the holiday with all signs of purple removed to emphasise a change in season.  
The prayer focus should be white. Include fresh flowers.

**C1** Take part in celebrations which express thanks and praise.

Sing a simple Alleluia and light a candle prior to reading the Easter story in a version appropriate to age group.

Recall and sequence some of the special events that took place in the story.  
In groups, get the children to illustrate part of the story and mount these around the word "Alleluia".  
Explore with the children some of their own thoughts and feelings about the story. How would they have felt if they had been one of the women or a disciple? Why would they have been glad to have seen Jesus again?  
Provide the children with a picture of one of the disciples and words associated with their feelings at the resurrection.

Recall Nursery work that all living things die.  
Explain to the children that when Jesus came back to life it was God his Father who did this, the God that was powerful enough to create the world.

If possible children visit church to see the Easter Candle.  
Children to identify how it is different from the others.  
Provide an opportunity for observational drawing.  
Children hear that this is the special candle for Easter and a sign of celebration and a reminder that Jesus who died on the cross is alive again.

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

Explain to the children that every Sunday when we gather together for Mass we remember that Jesus is alive and with us today.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R6** That Jesus is the Son of God; that Mary heard God and said yes; that the cross is the sign of Jesus' love; that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit; that the Bible is God's book.

**C1** That celebrations express thanksgiving, joy, unity and love; of the major feasts and seasons of the Church year.

Know that God Our Father brought Jesus back to life  
Know that Jesus is alive today.  
Be able to retell and discuss in simple terms the events of Easter Sunday.

Know that Easter is a special celebration in the Church  
Recognise that the Church is a special place where God's family come together and that Alleluia is the word of joy used in church and school.  
That the Easter Candle is a special sign of celebration and reminds us that Jesus is alive.

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

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Science: Knowledge and understanding of the world.  
Observational drawing.  
Speaking and Listening opportunities.

Children to look at Bible story books to find pictures of the resurrection stories.

Make a big Easter candle for the classroom.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Mt. 28: 1-10* – The Story of the Resurrection of Jesus

*Mk. 16: 1-8*

*Lk. 24: 1-12*

## OTHER LINKS

Music links: Opportunities to create some songs using the word “Alleluia.” Include some simple percussion.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Have an Easter Candle on the prayer table.

Consider making an Easter Garden to use in retelling the story of the Resurrection.

Reflect with the children in prayer time about Jesus being with us now, even though we don't see him.

## 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?**