

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will learn about some of the reasons why Christians pray. They will learn about some styles of prayer and be able to reflect on some of their experiences of prayer during the school year.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on children's experience of prayer since coming to school. It also serves as a foundation for further work and reflection on prayer in Year 1 and Year 2.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:  
some experiences of prayer from their celebrations of the liturgical year.

### SKILLS

Listening, discussion, sitting still, writing, speaking and listening.

### VOCABULARY

Prayer, talking, praise, thanks, Our Father, Hail Mary.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know that prayer is an important form of communication with God. They will be able to recall some forms of prayer and say why they are important. They will take part in some in prayer liturgies and write some prayers of praise and thanks.

**Less able children will** take part in prayer liturgies and know that prayer is a special time for people to spend with God.

**More able children will** be able to explain in their own words why prayer is a special time with God. They will be able to think of some reasons why Christians praise and thank God. Children will be able to take part in liturgies using different styles of prayer.

**A.T.1    A.T.2**

**N/a    N/a**

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

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

**C7** To hear, use and join in prayers from Scripture and Tradition.

**C8** To use their own words for prayer.

Set up role play area to include telephone, note pads, Dictaphone or tape recorder, message board. As this is in the summer term this could be a travel agents shop. Discussion: Their activities centre around communicating with others. Brainstorm words which mean talking (e.g. whisper, shout, chatter, etc.)

Children hear that the word prayer is the special word that describes the way we talk to God.

Identify with children prayers that have learned or begun to learn over the year. They say some of these with other children in assembly or with others if they go to church.

Can they tell when people are praying? What have they noticed people do? Recall actions, words and songs.

Recall that during the year they have made up prayers alone or with the class. Do they remember them? Were they written down?

Encourage children at prayer times during this unit to use their own words for prayer in thanks, to ask for help for those who are ill, etc.

Include favourite hymns learned during the year in song. Begin to encourage children to lead the class in prayer. "Today's prayer leader is ....."

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

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

Begin to understand how important it is to thank God for his gifts  
Be able to take part in a simple celebration with prayers and hymns

**C7** Of some traditional prayers of the Church, Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary and Our Father.

Pupils will know that there are special prayers that Christians pray.  
Begin to recite the words of the Our Father and the Hail Mary.  
Know that the Our Father is a special prayer that all Christians pray.  
Know that when we pray we talk to God our Father and we thank God for his gifts of Creation, for families and ourselves.

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

Begin to use their own words for prayers to thank God for his gifts and pray for others.

Role play  
Creative play  
Exploring and extending language  
Emergent writing.

Create different environments and prayer focus in the class room for children to experience different styles of prayer.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Mt. 6: 9-14* – The Story of Jesus Telling His Friends to call God their Father

### OTHER LINKS

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This unit of work provides a number of ideas for prayer and reflection. It is important that children are given some opportunities to pray the traditional prayers of the Church. Use the Our Father and the Hail Mary as part of your class prayers.

Learn some songs about prayer and simple prayers in the form of hymns during this unit of work.

## 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?**