

Choosing Activities for Core learning in Mystery of God

Faith Professed
Faith Celebrated
Faith Lived
Faith Prayed

P2 pupils are gradually becoming self-aware and also aware of how they relate to others. Friendships, sharing, making up after a dispute are the bread-and butter of this age.

This is key to developing a sense of 'neighbour' in the Catholic Christian life.

It is in these interactions that patterns of generosity, give-and take, forgiveness, and kindness and thoughtfulness are developing. What activities could help pupils recognise and rejoice in their individual and God-given gifts?

Think of how activities could reflect the different dimensions of the 4 Pillars of the Catechism listed above.

What activities could engage pupils in the suggested scripture for mystery of God in P2? Could an art or drama response reinforce the message of the scriptures? Perhaps pictures and cue cards would be useful prompts - encourage the children in pairs/fours to retell/express in movement the Scripture narrative.

Think of any further activities teaching episodes that would develop a deeper understanding of the wonder of each child's creation, giving thanks to God.

Discuss with Colleagues.

Choosing Activities for Core learning in Image of God

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Often it is tempting to avoid discussing difficult or challenging issues with children. Beginning with the children's experience in Circle type activities can be helpful. In any one class there may be a variety of experiences of loss or bereavement. This is a good way to begin considering the Catholic belief of eternal life, albeit in a simple but honest way.

Think of your current class - discuss with colleagues how you might approach this.

The lifelong skill of mending a relationship after a mishap is crucial at this stage. It also forms the basis for a right understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in P3.

The unconditional love of God, who seeks and calls us to be his own is an important theme. Think of games where calling and listening to others' voices can be central. Read and have children retell relevant scripture. Discuss with colleagues possible approaches.

Consider active learning approaches when teaching about Baptism. Water, white garment, Baptismal candle and dish of oil. How could learning be reinforced and deepened? Share ideas with colleagues.

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Choosing Activities for Core learning in Revealed Truth of God

The importance of being a witness to faith is clear in this strand. Think of involving your chaplain, grannies, parish workers to talk to children about the place of faith in their lives. Simple, brief testimonies can be very powerful. The teacher or Head Teacher can witness too!

Consider the use of silence at these times as well as prayers of intercession and Thanksgiving.

The context of the Our Father, where Jesus shares his relationship with the Father with us is important. Repetition of the story of the Annunciation, acted out by two volunteers, with children taking turns to explain the narrative: angel wings and a blue tea towel can help with lightning sketches as well as links to the Hail Mary. The doctrine of the Incarnation for P2! Jesus, as Son of God and Son of Mary.

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, is the first revelation in scripture of Jesus as the second person of the Trinity. Links could be made with the Sign of the Cross, holy water used when blessing oneself; Jesus' ministry follows this event just as our faith journey begins at Baptism.

Choosing Activities for Core learning in Son of God

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The focus on the Nativity is common to P1-4 in Son of God. In P2 we focus on the Shepherds' role. Children also revisit the Annunciation and the Visitation: two parts of the Hail Mary - and recognise that these two events are the first 2 joyful mysteries of the Rosary, the Nativity being the 3rd joyful mystery.

The Angels song of joy to the Shepherd's is echoed in the mass. Children should sing a simple Gloria.

Discuss how you might link this core learning to the Nativity play in school and the retelling of Sacred Scripture. Which suitable Glorias might you use. How could this support Mass attendance?

Jesus in the Gospels is seen as a teacher, who challenges people to be as open to God as a little child.

Lent and Easter links to the Last Supper and the Mass are very important. How could you make this active? Thirteen tea towels and a repeated drama enacted while children narrate? Discuss!

Choosing Activities for Core learning in Signs of God

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Primary 2 children are invited to discover the variety of sacramental celebrations that occur in the local Parish. Discuss how you could make links with the classroom to bring this subject to life. Digital photography, display, visitors and return visits to the Parish.

The symbols of Baptism are explored. Which essential props could be in the class to support repetition and memorisation of these? What dressing up clothes could Allow the pupils to play out their understanding. Thoughtful and calm use of water And candles used in teaching regularly can assist questioning and understanding of the children. Discuss the logistics with colleagues.

At the Annunciation, Mary was able to say yes to God through the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Saints also responded to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to say yes to God in their lives.

What prayer routines could the children develop to ask the help of the Holy Spirit when making choices in their lives? Discuss your ideas with colleagues.

Choosing Activities for Core learning in Word of God

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The reverence with which you treat the class Bible is very important.
Children are keen observers.

Processions with the Bible as well as teaching the liturgical responses to hearing scripture, or your retelling of scripture are very important.
Discuss your own ideas for showing reverence to Sacred Scripture.

The idea that scripture is 'alive and active' is important.
Ask the children to reflect in silence after listening to Scripture for what God's Word might be saying to them today.

What ideas for using art, drama, music or play might help support this aspect of learning in This Is Our Faith.

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Choosing Activities for Core learning in Hours of God

Children will learn the prayers on the Prayer Grid, but also have meditative prayer, prayers of intercession and thanksgiving. How could you plan daily prayers to reflect the variety of prayer forms, including prayer songs, movement and gestures of reverence? Discuss with Colleagues.

Dressing the altar or sacred space will be an important way to teach about the liturgical year and the changing liturgical seasons. How would you develop this understanding using the children's participation and activity to deepen learning?

How could you engage pupils in an understanding of the Mass?
What visual images, props might be helpful in class?

How could pupils engage with the Parish as a prayer community? Would visuals or a visit help them identify key features of a Catholic Parish Church?

How can you engage children with Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter in a prayerful way?

How can feast days of Saints help children understand 'saying yes to God' ?

Choosing Activities for Core learning in Reign of God

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Explore being fair and being just as part of God's call?

How would you use relevant scripture to illustrate this? What activities support this?

How could you help children see prayer as a way of following Jesus way of being with people?

What discussions and activities would help pupils develop understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation?

How can children show their love of God and neighbour at an age appropriate way?

Discuss and record 3 answers for each.