

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Mystery of God in P3

Faith Professed
Faith Celebrated
Faith Lived
Faith Prayed

Primary 3 pupils are becoming more observant of the world around them and are developing a sense of the diversity of plant and animal life as part of God's gift of creation. They are beginning to recognise that God's goodness, truth, beauty and glory is reflected in His creation through reading Genesis.

St Francis was made Patron saint of ecology by Pope John Paul II due to his delight in the created order of sun, moon, stars, plants and animals. A biography of St Francis will help pupils to recognise their role in caring for the earth, plants and animals and make Christian links to activities such as the Eco schools group and Green flag activities.

Encourage the pupils to hear, read and pray *The Canticle of the Creatures* by St Francis. Cross-curricular responses of writing, music, dance, drama or art should be encouraged outwith the Core RE time.

St Francis' love of Jesus brought him to contemplate the mystery of the creation and we can do the same. Encourage the pupils in a sense of wonder. Use images and experiences To promote prayers of praise.

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Image of God in P3

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Primary 3 are developing in self-awareness and are becoming aware of their own independent thought. They are also very aware of others and friendships with girls and boys may diverge as playtime activities and hobbies change. It is important to emphasise that although each pupil is different and unique - they are all made in the image of God and worthy of respect. This is especially important in building a respectful and nurturing ethos.

You will have experienced the pupils beginning to experiment with free will. Resisting instructions and realising the capacity to make their own choices is a step towards maturity. However, they also realise they have the capacity to hurt others or behave unfairly so a culture of respect, kindness and communication is important at this developmental stage.

Praying for guidance in making the right choices should be encouraged at regular prayer times and spontaneously as the need arises. God's grace and help should be sought in difficulty or challenge, great and small.

The Our Father should be seen as a great help when called to forgive other, especially when it is hard. A culture of forgiveness should permeate the resolution of playground and Classroom disputes so that forgiveness becomes a virtuous habit and a lived reality.

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Revealed Truth of God in P3

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Realising that God longs and seeks for each person to be in relationship with him and communicates this through other people creation and the wonder of our own unfolding personality and gifts.

The parable of the Loving Father and the two sons shows beautifully this yearning of God to be close to us regardless of our weaknesses and failings. His mercy and loving kindness is immense. Far more than we deserve - yet he freely gives.

Free will and choices in life can be confusing. Joseph was faithful to God and when he was in difficulty, God helped him in a dream to make good choices in taking Mary home and in making the flight to Egypt. If we are faithful, God will guide us to make the right decisions.

The pupils will be familiar with prayers to the Trinity. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan will explicitly reveal Father Son and Holy Spirit and Jesus then begins his ministry.

What activities would allow pupils to express their awareness of the Trinity?

Art appreciation, or art activities?

Prayers to the Trinity can be made for self, family, friends or the world.

And as Jesus did, we can turn to God saying, Abba or Daddy. Which hymns or chants would support prayer to God as Abba or Trinity??

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Son of God in P3

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The prime focus in Advent in Primary 3 is Joseph the just man and Herod the unjust man. Along with the study of Simeon and Anna who trusted in God's promise of a saviour, the pupils can consider the different character - those who are faithful and listen to God and follows God's ways - and Herod who goes against God's ways. Which literacy activities would support this learning?

The children will need to establish that Palestine was part of the Roman empire at the time of Jesus. A link to the Mass where we pray the prayer of the Centurion - Lord I am not worthy - is a useful link. Also the Census at the time Jesus was born was when the Roman emperor wanted to count his subjects. A bit like a very large register!

It is in this context that Jesus called his 12 special friends, the Apostles. What activities would allow the pupils to display and become aware of the names? A closer look at the stories of St Peter, St Andrew (perhaps on 30th November, his feast day, or St James Would be a project for the class divided into 3 groups. What oracy or drama activities could support this?

Two healing miracles - the man born blind and Peter's mother in law shows Jesus' divinity and the three lost parables reminds us of the single-minded searching of God for each one of us.

The only aspect of the Passion of Jesus explored in Primary 3 is the Garden of Gethsemane, Pilate sentencing Jesus to death and Joseph of Arimathea's kind burial of Jesus. Then the empty tomb and the angel declaring the resurrection. This is our hope of eternal life.

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Signs of God in P3

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Primary three pupils are becoming more aware of the groups of people in the Parish who care for other. This is the time to bring in 'experts' - pass keepers, cleaners, eucharistic ministers, catechists and parish priests.

The link between pastoral and the Latin word for shepherd is a good link to the pastoral role of our own Archbishop who follows Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The crozier and pallium are symbols of this in Archbishop Philip. What work is the pastoral work of the local priest?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Sick are Sacraments of healing which continue Jesus forgiving and healing ministry within the Church.

The pupils will be prepared to celebrate First Reconciliation.

The pupils will be able to describe the rite of Reconciliation - support form Reconciliation Workbook, Lesson notes and Powerpoint for Parents.

Display images of the 7 sacraments - describe their nature and ask the pupils in groups to illustrate a book of them and describe in their own words. Display

Through the seven sacrament, God's grace helps us to become more like Jesus..

Throughout the year, your class will be invited to participate in feast days, prayer services and liturgies, which will deepen their understanding of parish and Church.

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Word of God in P3

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Two stories of reconciliation and healing in the Old Testament - Joseph and his brothers and Naaman the leper remind us we are called to forgive and be forgiven in our own lives.

The Parables of the Lost coin, the Lost Sheep and the Lost Son are stories of reconciliation and forgiveness in the New Testament

Reverence for Sacred Scripture, identifying where it is placed in Church and in school and understanding that it is the inspired Word of God. Proclaiming scripture - even a verse or two should become increasingly confident.

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Hours of God in P3

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Regular routine of prayers at the beginning and end of lessons should cover the different genres of prayer over the year.

Repetition is the mother of memory - joyful repetition with a meaningful context should aid memory

The confiteor, the Gloria, the Eternal Rest and the Mass Responses as well as the joyful mysteries of the rosary should be begun early in the year to ensure memorisation.

A simple examination of conscience and the habit of saying sorry to God and others should be practiced.

Prayerful meditation on a scripture passage or prayer should be encouraged gradually increasing stamina for silence.

Prayers of praise, adoration and thanksgiving could be made, in own words, alone, or with others

Awareness of Angels in P2 and P3 narratives should be revisited and the prayer to the guardian angel learned.

Liturgical gestures, procession skills and genuflection should be rehearsed often.

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Hours (contd) of God in P3

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Decorating the sacred space or altar with flowers is suitable in October, Advent and May.
Procession can be rehearsed at this time too.

Key vocabulary, statues and prayer cards will all achieve an awareness of the various icons without too much effort. Teaching through the environment and display.
Christmas cards are also useful for this. Emphasis on saying Yes to God as Mary did.

Core learning on Mass will gradually increase awareness of the Liturgy of the Word, and Liturgy of the Eucharist as well as the Penitential rite and the Sign of Peace.

Visits to Church, processions, knowledge of vestments, penitential services helping prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be arranged.

Pupils should recognise different genres of crosses and crucifixes as a symbol of Jesus' love for his people.

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Hours (contd) of God in P3

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Children should be able to identify liturgical colours - use plants, natural artefacts, Beautiful objects to reinforce:
Purple during Advent and Lent
White during Christmastide and Eastertide
Red for Pentecost
Green for Ordinary time

Develop a rota where pupils take responsibility for decorating your altar or Sacred Space with Items for Saints days and feast. A rose for St Therese The Little flower; one simple angel for the feast of the Guardian angels; animal figures and a picture of St Francis etc.

A rota and a little advance planning will support pupil engagement.

Similarly props such as advent wreath ; palm crosses and simple but beautiful items representing the season can support learning. Prayerful activities should follow such As praying at a crib or cross.

We are called by Pope Benedict to be saints of the 21st Century. God sends us his Holy Spirit to help us to be more saintly or holy (which means to be a whole person !!)

Devotion and research into the Saints should be encouraged as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit to lead good lives. We celebrate their goodness on All Saints Day the 1st November - dressing up as favourite saints??

Choosing activities for Core Learning in Reign of God in P3

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Children of Primary 3 age often see leadership as being a hero. It is very counter-cultural to see that Jesus called his disciples to be examples of love, justice and peace - through service - The washing of the feet. Elicit examples where they have been served in kindness by others

- Dinner ladies, classroom assistants, carers, grannies etc.
- Read and reflect on the Good Samaritan - returning to the idea that neighbours
 - are not just people that we know.

Prayer and listening to the Word of God helps me to live my life like Jesus.

Throughout the year the personal witness of the HT / staff and chaplain can be shared - something as simple as mentioning a favourite way to pray, a moment of awareness of the presence of God or mentioning a moment at Mass which was blessed is enough. Little and often.

Visits by experts - members of the parish volunteers should show that service and holiness in everyday life are often shown in small acts which taken together, build Community and the Church, the Body of Christ.

The command to keep the Lord's Day holy and to respect the name of God are joyful. The simple witness of service of St Vincent de Paul who loved the poor should inspire. A little play with simple costumes could enact this piece of core learning and be shared with the school.