



# RERC Term 3 Planner – Primary 4



**PLEASE NOTE:** The important part of learning for this term is that children are **fully prepared to make their Sacrament of Communion**. The Holy Communion Lessons should take priority over all other learning in RERC. The other lessons included do not necessarily need to be covered, and are there as a guide/follow up when children are fully prepared. All lessons have been included in Term 3/Lent Planner, however depending on when children are making their Sacrament, the teacher may wish to split the lessons between Term 3 and Term 4 (Teacher discretion advised).

## Experiences and Outcomes

I know that through the Community of the Church, people can experience God's love and care and I have reflected on how this community celebrates together.

**RERC 1-08a**

I am exploring the Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation and I have reflected on how the Sacraments help to nurture faith. **RERC 1-09a**

I know that the Mass is at the heart of Catholic community life and I am developing an understanding of how to participate fully in this celebration. **RERC 1-16a**

I have, through liturgical experiences, reflected on an ability to respond to symbols and take part in rituals in order to worship God. **RERC 1-17a**

I have considered ways in which the Catholic Christian community works together to show care for the world and for the needs of all people. I have reflected on the implications of this for my life and that of others. **RERC 1-24a**

I know that I have been called by God to grow in love, justice and peace in my relationship with others. **RERC 1-20a**

I recognise the importance of personal prayer and communal prayer in the growth of all people's relationship with God. I know a number of traditional Catholic prayers and I have developed an understanding of the meaning of these prayers. I have participated in different approaches to, and experiences of, prayer. I can describe how prayer is an important part of the liturgical and devotional life of the Church. I have reflected on how all of these are different ways of Worshipping God. **RERC 1-14a**

I am discovering God's precious gift of life and reflect on how this reveals God's love for me. **RERC 1-01a**

I am exploring God's relationship with others and I have reflected on how people's faith has helped them in difficult times. **RERC 1-03a**

I have explored the events of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and I have reflected on the Catholic meaning of eternal life. **RERC 1-07a**

## Benchmarks

- Participates respectfully in parts of the Mass.
- Says some prayers on their own and as part of a worshipping community.
- Uses symbols and rituals to worship God.
- Describes and discusses how signs and symbols helps them understand more about liturgical celebrations.
- Expresses that it is God who asks them to love others and shares how they put into practice love of God and love of neighbour.
- Participates in discussion and reflection about how God helps them and others in life and at difficult times.
- Describes and discusses the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.
- Participates in discussion and reflection about the meaning of eternal life.
- Shares thoughts and feelings that God created and loves them and how life is a gift from God.



## Plans for Assessment

### First Holy Communion preparation

Sunday is Special; the Risen Jesus Meets us – Children know and understand that:

- Sacraments are special encounters/meetings with God which help us on our journey of faith.
- The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism and Holy Communion; Reconciliation is a Sacrament of Healing.
- This is the beginning of a time of preparation to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion and it is important to make a commitment to prepare well for first Holy Communion.
- Every Sunday Catholics gather as a community to celebrate Mass. Attending Sunday Mass is both a privilege and a duty.
- In the Mass, the Risen Jesus meets us. He meets us in each other, in the readings and prayers and in a special way in Holy Communion. This is one of the ways Jesus keeps His promise to be with us always.

Ask for God's Forgiveness and Come into His Presence – Children know and understand that:

- We meet Jesus in each other, in the readings and in Holy Communion.
- It is important that we ask forgiveness of God and others, to put our relationships right, before joining the celebration of the Eucharist.
- We have experienced asking God for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation where we received mercy, forgiveness and healing from God.
- At the beginning of Mass, we celebrate the Penitential Rite.
- In the Penitential Rite, we ask forgiveness from God and each other.
- Our teachers and other staff can show us what mercy and forgiveness look like.

At Mass We Praise God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Children know and understand that:

- During Mass we say prayers and sing hymns of praise God.
- The Gloria is a great hymn of praise to God.
- The beginning of the Gloria is based on the song the angels sang at the birth of Jesus.

God Speaks to Us and Nourishes Us with His Word – Children know and understand that:

- God speaks to us through His Word in the Bible, and we hear four readings from the Bible at Sunday Mass. These are read from the Lectern.
- The different readings reveal different aspects of God's relationship with His people.
- In the homily, the Priest helps us to understand what God is saying to us in the readings.

Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem – Children know and understand that:

- The people praised Jesus when He came among them; the people shouted, 'Hosanna' and, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'.
- We praise Him during the Mass when we pray the Sanctus and we echo these acclamations.
- The crowd turned against Jesus very quickly; within a few days they were shouting, 'Crucify him.' This was due to the jealousy of the Pharisees who turned the crowds against Jesus.



**Saved by a Meal: The Jewish Passover Celebration** - Children know and understand that:

- The Passover is a special meal celebrated by the Jewish people to remember how God rescued them from slavery.
- The Israelites (Jews) were rescued by God from slavery and death in Egypt.
- The Angel of Death passed over them because of the blood of a lamb on their door posts.
- Jews celebrate their rescue every year. Jesus and His family and friends would have celebrated Passover. Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

**The Saving Meal of Jesus** - Children know and understand that:

- Jesus shared a Passover meal with His friends on the night before He died. This meal is called 'The Last Supper'.
- This was the first Eucharist.

**Jesus Invites Me to His Supper** - Children know and understand that:

- We gather around a very sacred table called an Altar.
- Bread and wine are brought to the Altar.
- The Priest prays a very special prayer called the Consecration. In this prayer, the Priest uses Jesus' own words and the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- Holy Communion looks and tastes like bread and wine but after the Consecration it is changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- When the priest elevates the Host and the Chalice, we worship Jesus.

**We are Hungry: Jesus Gives Us the Bread of Life** - Children know and understand that:

- In the history of God's dealings with the Israelites, there are times when He has miraculously provided food e.g. manna in the desert. This is a great sign of His love and points ahead to the Eucharist.
- Manna was bread from Heaven to feed the body, but Jesus is the True Bread from Heaven which feeds us spiritually. In the same way, the feeding of the five thousand points to the Eucharist which feeds our spiritual hunger.

**One Family at the Altar of the Lord** - Children know and understand that:

- After the Consecration the Priest brings our prayer together in the Doxology.
- We come to the altar as one family, shown by praying the Our Father and the Sign of Peace.

**Preparing to Receive Jesus in Holy Communion** - Children know and understand that:

- We need to prepare our minds, hearts and bodies to receive Jesus.
- Examining our conscience helps us to follow Jesus more closely.

**Receiving Holy Communion** - Children know and understand that:

- We should receive Holy Communion reverently because we are receiving Jesus.
- The Church is a sacred place because Jesus is there.
- We genuflect before we sit down: facing the tabernacle, right knee to the floor.
- There are sacred objects in the church.

**Eucharistic Adoration** - Children know and understand that:

- We can worship Jesus in Holy Communion outside of going to Mass and this is called Eucharistic Adoration.
- Spending time in adoration of Jesus brings us very close to Him.

## **Learning beyond Sacramental preparation:**

### **Focus 1:**

Children demonstrate an understanding that they are called to follow the example of Saint Vincent de Paul in simple and practical ways.

### **Focus 2:**

Children understand that it is our duty, as Catholics, to attend Mass each Sunday.

Children know that the Gloria is a prayer of praise to God.

Children demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the Liturgy of the Word by saying or singing the Gospel Acclamation and standing to greet the Gospel.

### **Focus 3:**

Children demonstrate an understanding that during the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest offers the bread and wine to God and that this becomes the body and blood of Jesus.

Children know that at the consecration they raise their gaze and then bow their head in prayer.

Children demonstrate awareness that they can invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit whenever they pray.

### **Focus 4:**

Children know the prayers learned in P1 - P3.

Children can pray the Nicene Creed.

Children develop an understanding of the beliefs contained within the Nicene Creed.

Children know Mass responses.

Children show awareness that there are different approaches to prayer.

Children show understanding that prayer is an important part of the liturgical and devotional life of the Church.

Children have participated in different types of prayers and know these are different ways of worshipping God.

Children can participate prayerfully in some liturgical events through gesture, word and song.

### **Focus 5:**

Children know that God created the earth, sun, moon and stars.

Children demonstrate awareness that Christ is the head of all creation.

### **Focus 6:**

Children demonstrate understanding that God is merciful, just and full of compassion.

Children demonstrate understanding that they can trust God's love when experiencing difficult times.



The children will recall the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and its connection to the 'Sanctus' during Mass.

The children will actively take part in a discussion about the crowd's reaction to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and how different it was to the response from the crowd at his arrest.

The children will understand what is meant by a Psalm.

The children will be able to reflect on what they have heard and write a relevant diary entry from the point of view of Barabbas.

The children will understand that when people die in friendship with God they live in Heaven.

The children will know that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday.

**Focus 7:**

Children know that incense is used during some liturgical celebrations.

Children understand that incense symbolizes the sacredness of the event and its participants and that it also reminds us of our prayers rising to God.



## **Sequence of Lessons**

### **First Holy Communion:**

The Sacrament of the Eucharist preparation - please see 'Teacher Notes & Class Activities' and 'Family Workbook' for lessons.

- Lesson 1 - Sunday is Special; the Risen Jesus Meets us
- Lesson 2 - Ask for God's Forgiveness and Come into His Presence
- Lesson 3 - At Mass We Praise God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Lesson 4 - God Speaks to Us and Nourishes Us with His Word
- Lesson 5 - Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
- Lesson 6 - Saved by a Meal: The Jewish Passover Celebration
- Lesson 7 - The Saving Meal of Jesus
- Lesson 8 - Jesus Invites Me to His Supper
- Lesson 9 - We are Hungry: Jesus Gives Us the Bread of Life
- Lesson 10 - One Family at the Altar of the Lord
- Lesson 11 - Preparing to Receive Jesus in Holy Communion
- Lesson 12 - Receiving Holy Communion
- Lesson 13 - Eucharistic Adoration

### **Learning beyond Sacramental preparation:**

#### **Focus 1:**

- I have had opportunities to listen to how my Class Teacher, Head Teacher, and School Chaplain, as members of the Catholic Church, have shown care for the world and the needs of all people.
- I have developed my understanding of what it means to be part of my local Catholic Church by listening to members from different parish groups explain reasons why they serve and care for the world and the needs of all people e.g., The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP), Children's Liturgy Leaders, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Music Groups

## **Suggested Activities**

#### **Focus 1:**

- Class Teacher should revise that as Christians and followers of Jesus Christ, we have an obligation to follow the example of Jesus by showing care for the world and for the needs of others. Recap the role of Class Teachers, Head Teachers, and School Chaplains in caring for the needs of others. A 'question and answer' session may take place involving each of these members of the Catholic community and children could write a report, reflecting on the answers given by those who were asked how the care for the world and the needs of all people.



- **GLP** - I am growing in my ability to be caring and to act fairly, when living, working and playing with others
- I have reflected prayerfully on the life of St Vincent De Paul, on his love for the poor and know that he modelled himself on Jesus. I know that I am called to follow this example in simple and practical ways

### **Focus 2:**

- I recognise that the Church sets aside Sunday as the Lord's Day and that this is a sign of Jesus' Resurrection
- I know that, during Sunday Mass, (except during Advent and Lent), we sing or say the Gloria which is a prayer of praise to God.
- I can show my understanding of the importance of the Liturgy of the Word by saying or singing the Gospel Acclamation and standing to greet the Gospel
- I can respond in word and gesture to the invitation to greet the reading of the Gospel

- Children should research Parish Groups that can be formed to support the local Catholic community and then find out which groups are on offer at the local Parish. CT should then divide the class into discussion groups and reflect on the different parish groups that serve the local Catholic Church and how they show care for the world and the needs of all people.
- If possible, invite those responsible for the Parish groups into the class to explain more about what they do to serve the community. This could be a representative from SVDP, UCM, Youth group, Children's Liturgy.  
Individually or in groups, research the life of St Vincent De Paul and report back in a creative way (poster, video, pod cast, PowerPoint) to describe.  
[Home - SSVP Scotland](#)  
[St. Vincent de Paul - Teaching Catholic Kids](#)
- Discuss how, in this new year, we could follow the example of Saint Vincent de Paul e.g. by being kind and helpful, putting other first, raising money for charity. (See Resources for fact sheet/recording sheet)
- Complete New Year Resolution sheet based on the work on SVDP (See Resources)

### **Focus 2:**

- Discuss why Sunday is a special day of the week for the Church. Discuss the resurrection and remind that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Explain that when we celebrate Mass, the Priest and the congregation proclaim that Jesus is risen. Discuss our obligation to attend Mass although do so sensitively as some children have no one to accompany them although they would like to attend Mass)
- The Gloria is a prayer of praise to God. Discuss the Nativity story and the angels who sang Glory to God in the highest. Display the words of the Gloria and discuss how it begins with the same words as the choir of angels who praised the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Which words are





### **Focus 3:**

- I know that during the Eucharistic Prayer the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- I know that, at the Consecration, as the priest raises the Body and Blood of Jesus, I raise my gaze and then bow my head in prayer.
- I know that during Mass, the Priest invokes the presence of the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit inspires us to pray.

used to praise God and what are we praising Him for? CT should explain that the Gloria is not prayed during Advent and Lent because these are penitential seasons. Children to become familiar with the words of the *Gloria* (See Gloria resource)

- Explain that at Mass we say or sing the Gospel Acclamation and stand to greet the Gospel. Discuss the importance of the Liturgy of the Word. Ask questions such as, have you ever stood before someone enters a room? Why do we do this? Is the Gospel important? We do we stand to 'acclaim the Gospel' and what does this mean? Then, read the words of the Gospel Acclamation and the children should become familiar with the responses. (See liturgy of the Word resource)
- Provide the opportunity to celebrate Mass and respond in word and gesture.  
(Mass response card is available online beside the planners)

### **Focus 3:**

- Explain during the Eucharistic Prayer, the Priest offers the bread and wine to God and that this becomes the body and blood of Jesus. Read the words of The Eucharistic Prayer and the children should become familiar with the responses. (See Resources)
- Explain that at the Consecration the Priest raises the Body and Blood of Jesus. Remind the children of the Last Supper and how Jesus took bread and wine and transformed it into His body and blood. Read the words of the Consecration and explain that during this time at Mass, the congregation raise their gaze towards the altar and then bow their head in prayer. Children practice these gestures. (See Resources)
- For supplementary resources and information, follow the link: [Parts of the Catholic Mass for Kids and Printable Activities!](#) • [Cultivating Catholics](#)
- Explain to the children that during Mass, the Priest calls upon the Holy Spirit. Write a personal prayer to the Holy Spirit. (See Resources)



**Focus 4:**

- I know several traditional Catholic prayers and I have developed an understanding of the meaning of these prayers.
- I know the prayers I learned in P.1 - P.3 and I understand why I should pray them frequently.
- I know the Nicene Creed, all Mass responses, and The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.
- I have participated in different approaches to, and experiences of, prayer.
- I can describe how prayer is an important part of the liturgical and devotional life of the Church.
- I have reflected on how all of these are different ways of worshipping God.

**Focus 4:**

Revises all prayers the children learned in P1-P3 by making regular use of them through the day:

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Glory be to the Father
- Hail Mary
- Morning and Night Prayer
- Grace Before and After Meals (Veritas)
- Act of Sorrow (Veritas)
- Eternal Rest
- Confiteor
- Gloria

Children are encouraged to learn these prayers by heart and to continue to develop a deeper understanding of these prayers. CT should discuss the words contained within the prayers and how it is important to think about the words and their meaning as we use them in prayer.

- Explain that a creed is a statement of your beliefs, and this prayer was written a long time ago by followers of Jesus at a place called 'Nicea' which is in Turkey. Over a period of time, the children will pray the Nicene Creed in class during prayer times. (See resources - teacher and pupil version)
- CT discusses each section of the Nicene Creed; this has been divided into five sections in the form of a workbook (See Resources). Through these discussions, the children will develop an understanding of the beliefs contained within the Nicene Creed. Children will complete the *Nicene Creed Workbook* over five lessons or whatever is possible.
- Teacher explains that there are many ways to pray. (In a group, as a family or on your own. Also by simply talking to God in your own head or aloud, singing hymns, talking part in school assemblies or reading from the Bible) Children could create a poster demonstrating different ways in which to pray. (There is also a worksheet - See Resources)
- Allow the children the opportunity to practice all Mass responses. (See *The Order of Mass*- New English Translation resource)



### **Focus 5:**

- I know that God created, loves, and keeps everything, both visible and invisible, in being.
- I know that God created the earth, sun, moon and stars and the angels, and I can appreciate their beauty and harmony.
- GLP - I can hear, read and recall the poetic presentation of God's creation of the Heavens and the earth:
  - The first account of creation
  - Wisdom as creator
  - The glories of creation
- I recognise God's joy and playfulness in creating, which illustrates God's absolute goodness, holiness and love.
- I know that, just as the earth has seasons, which are influenced by the sun and moon (see Genesis 1: 14), so too the Church's year is divided into seasons, which we call the liturgical year: Advent, Christmastide, Ordinary Time, Lent and Eastertide.

- Throughout the liturgical year, we dedicate special prayers to feast days and celebrations e.g. Stations of the Cross, May Devotions and Advent Services. There are special prayers that we pray at particular services, and Sacraments e.g. Act of Sorrow at Reconciliation and Hail Mary when saying the Rosary. Discuss why prayer is an important part of our lives and how it can make us feel.  
Give opportunities to experience different approaches and experiences of prayer by praying as a class, praying individually, singing hymns, participating in school assemblies, participating in Holy Mass, etc. Also, to experience silent Meditation, drawing nearer to God, experiencing His presence, and having more awareness of peace and joy in our daily lives. This may be teacher-led to begin with before becoming an independent activity.

### **Focus 5:**

- Read Genesis Chapter 1 and discuss with the class. In groups, children take a part of the story and dramatise it to retell the story in sequence.
- Read Ecclesiasticus 43: 1-17 and explain that this scripture reading is praising God's creation and, in particular, the glorious heavens. Ask the children to name all the different things being praised and makes a list of them on the whiteboard. Divide the class into groups and each group should choose a part of the reading to illustrate using paint, charcoals, tissues paper, etc. This artwork, with suitable quotes from scripture, could be displayed around the class altar.
- Discuss the liturgical calendar and show the different seasons in the Church's year.

### Focus 6:

- I have reflected on the narrative of the Repentant Thief (Luke 23: 39-43) and I can recognise that Jesus shows us a God who is merciful, just and full of compassion.
- I have listened to Psalm 62 (Hope in God alone) and know that I can always trust in God's love when I experience difficult times.
- I can read and recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (e.g., Matthew 21: 11; Mark 11: 1-11; Luke 19: 28-40) and I recognise that we pray the same words as the crowd when we pray the Sanctus (Holy Holy) during Mass.
- I can compare and contrast the crowd's reaction to Jesus during the entry into Jerusalem with the responses to his arrest (e.g., Matthew 27: 15-26; Mark 15: 6-15; Luke 23: 13-25)
- I have reflected on the narrative of the Repentant Thief (Luke 23: 39-43) and I know that when people die in friendship with God, they will live happily with him in Heaven.
- I know that, on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead and that, at his Ascension, He promised to be with us always (Matthew 28: 16-20)

### Focus 6:

- Revise the story of the Repentant Thief: Luke 23: 39-43. Pupils can dramatise the story or write and illustrate the following words of Jesus, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."
- What is a Psalm? <http://www.psalmsforkids.com/> explain that in the Old Testament, there is a book of Psalms which is the Hymn book and prayer book of the Bible. Read Psalm 62 from the Bible and discuss, explaining that a Psalm is like a song or a prayer. Ask the children to describe other people or places that make them feel safe. (See Psalm in resources)  
[Psalm 62 ICB - Trust Only in God - For the director of - Bible Gateway](#)
- Read Luke 19:28-40 from the Bible and discuss:
  - What did Jesus tell two of His disciples to do? (*Go to a village and get a colt.*)
  - What did the people lay down in Jesus' path? (*coats and palm branches*)
  - What did the people shout as Jesus passed by? (*"Hosanna! Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"*)
  - Did the people understand that Jesus was going to die on a cross? (No)
- As a class create a display with the word 'Hosanna' on the board. Ask the children what they think it means. (*It is a Hebrew word meaning 'save now' and it is used also to express joy and praise. Ask the children to reflect on the Mass. Can you think of a time when we say 'Hosanna' during Mass. (Holy, Holy)*)  
See Resources for a worksheet.
- The children should make their own palm crosses. If possible, ask the Church to supply some, if not strips of yellow card can be substituted. The priest could be invited to the school to bless the children's palms. (See Instructions to make a Palm Cross Resource)
- Tell the story of what happened after Jesus was arrested. Explain that Jesus was taken to Pilate. He was the Roman Governor in Judea at the time of Jesus. Read Matthew 27:15 - 26. Discuss the reaction of the crowd in this scripture reading. How does it differ from the other?



### **Focus 7:**

- I have been given opportunities to celebrate liturgy as part of my class, my school and my Parish.
- I know that incense is used during some Liturgical celebrations.
- I understand that incense symbolises the sacredness of the event and its participants.
- I know that incense reminds us of our prayers rising to God.

The children should imagine that they are Barabbas and write a short diary entry of the day when he was saved by Jesus. (See Resources)

- During Lent we reflect on past mistakes and sins that we have committed and make time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Revise the story of the Repentant Thief Luke 23:39-43 and discuss the phrases, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."
- Children to write a prayer of intercession for someone they know who has died.

### **Focus 7:**

- During Lent and Easter, the children will have opportunities to celebrate liturgy as part of their class, their school and their Parish.
  - Children will receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, visit the Church to pray the Stations of the Cross and celebrate Mass
  - Class discussion about incense and its use in the Church.
- The following links may be used to provide information/initiate discussion.

["Smells and bells" - Teaching Catholic Kids](#)

[Why Do We Use Incense? - Holy Rosary Catholic Church \(holyrosarychurchmphs.org\)](http://holyrosarychurchmphs.org)

*Note to teacher: Incense is a substance made from trees and plants. It has a sweet- smelling perfume and produces high-ascending smoke when burned. A thurible is a metal container holding burning charcoal in which incense is sprinkled. It is suspended from chains and is swung by the priest to incense the altar, the word of God, priest and people or the dead. Incense is used during special masses.*

Children work in groups to design and create their own 3D thurible.

- Discuss the rich smell of the incense symbolising the sacredness of the liturgical event itself and those participating in it. The rising smoke reminds us of our prayers rising to God.



## Evaluation

## Next Steps

