

Preschool Level

Overview

Strand

Christian Faith

Strand Units

- Mystery of God
- Mystery of Jesus Christ
- Creation
- Mystery of the Church
- Eternal Life

Strand

Word of God

Strand Units

- Bible
- Sacred Scripture

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Liturgy and Prayer

Strand Units

- Prayer
 - ◇ Prayer Gestures
 - ◇ Formal Prayer
 - ◇ Mass Responses
 - ◇ Spontaneous Prayer
- Liturgical Year
- Mass

Strand

Christian Morality

Strand Units

- Human Dignity
- RSE in a Christian Context

Strand: Christian Faith

Aims

Children will:

- explore central Christian beliefs and how they relate to their own lives
- become aware of what it means to be part of the Church community
- learn basic religious words, persons, facts and concepts
- learn that life has a meaning and purpose (Ais 17).

Skills

The child should be enabled to:

Understanding:

- investigate Christian beliefs, symbols, images and persons through creative process, play, story, visual arts, poetry, rhyme, dance, drama, music, language and using information and communication technologies.

Communicating:

- discuss Christian beliefs using a range of religious words
- respond to the revelation, presence and activity of God in Sacred Scripture/Tradition, in his/her life and in all creation, through language and the expressive arts.

Developing Spiritual Literacy:

- explore, describe and record spiritual feelings, questions, experiences and concepts using words, poetry, pictures, music, sign language, braille, symbol, rhythm, number, movement, gesture, drama, art, play, and information and communications technologies.

Strand Units

Children at this level will engage with the following knowledge and concepts:

Mystery of God

- Names of the three Divine persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. Respect for these names in our speech and the use of these names in prayer (CCC 198-202, 222-27, 232-240, 253, 258-260, 261, 316, 320, 422-23, 731 733, 737).
- Christians bless themselves in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God is our loving Father and Creator (Gn 1:26-27).
- God created us to share life with him in heaven, our true home (CCC 355-84, 1691-98).
- God is good (Ps 116:1).
- God knows us and loves us (Ps 139).
- God loves us like a mother loves her child (CCC 239; Is 66:13; Ps 131:2).
- God cares for us, especially when we are sick, sad, lonely, angry or disappointed.
- God loves and cares for every family.

Mystery of Jesus Christ

- Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 1:1; Mt 16:16-17; 27; 54; Jn 20:31; CCC 422, 441-46, 454).
- Jesus is the Son of Mary (Mt 1:18; Lk 1:26-38).
- Jesus is our friend (Jn 15:14).
- Jesus loves us.
- Jesus was born on Christmas day.
- Jesus lived in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph (Lk 2:39-40).
- Jesus loves and welcomes little children (Mk 10:13-16).
- Jesus died on the cross for us, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven (Mk 15:37; 16:6; 16:19; CCC 616-17, 620-21, 623, 638-40, 656, 665).

Creation

- God created everything there is: the earth, people, stars, animals, birds, plants and trees (Gn 1; LG 2; CCC 212, 290, 325).
- God cares for all creation (Wis 8:1; CCC 303).

Mystery of the Church

- God in every home and family.
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family of Nazareth (CCC 437, 532, 534, 564, 583, 1655).
- Mary is the Mother of Jesus and our Mother (Lk 1:26-38; Gal 4:26-8; Jn 19:26-7; CCC 723, 744, 963, 967-71, 973-975; LG 53).
- Our family helps us to become friends of Jesus.
- The priest can help us to become friends of Jesus (LG 10).
- The Catholic Church as the family of God (CCC 747, 759, 777-78, 959, 1655, 2233).
- The Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.
- Saints are God's special friends who are part of the family of the Church in heaven (CCC 828, 956-57, 960-62, 1195, 2013, 2030, 2683, 2692). Saint Patrick.

Eternal Life

- God wants all people to be happy with him forever in heaven (CCC 1023).

Strand: Word of God

Aims

Children will:

- listen to, explore and reflect upon a variety of Sacred Scripture texts
- come to an understanding of the key characters, events and settings of gospel texts
- understand that Jesus is the most important person in the Bible, God's own Son.

Skills

The child should be enabled to:

Understanding:

- listen to, narrate, view and dramatise a range of Sacred Scripture texts
- recognise people, places, actions and things depicted in Sacred Scripture texts.

Communicating:

- represent ideas, feelings, and questions about Sacred Scripture texts through oral language, socio-dramatic play, improvising, moving, story-telling, music, ritual, poetry, process drama, art, and digital media.

Strand Units

Children at this level should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

Bible

- The Bible is the holy book of the family of the Church (CCC 103-8, 131-33, 135, 136-39).
- The Bible is used in church by the parish family.
- The Bible is the book in which we read about God and creation (CCC 279, 315-17, 319).

Sacred Scripture

- Gn 1-2:3. Creation story in seven days.
- Gn 6-8. Noah and the ark.
- Ex 2:1-10. The birth of Moses.
- 1 Sm 17: 1-50. David and Goliath.
- Dn 6: 16-23. Daniel in the lion's den.
- Mt 2:1-3, 7-12. The three wise men.
- Mk 10:13-16. Jesus and the children.
- Lk 1:26-38. The Annunciation.
- Lk 2:1-20. The story of Jesus' birth. The adoration of the shepherds.
- Jn 2:1-12. The Wedding at Cana.
- Jn 10:2-5, 11-16. The Good Shepherd.

Strand: Liturgy and Prayer

Aims

Children will:

- develop a concept of prayer and ritual
- recognise some signs, symbols, seasons, celebrations, sacred places and rituals of the Catholic tradition
- make connections between celebrations and the Church seasons and feasts
- develop a familiarity with prayers (formal and informal), rituals, songs, and other expressions of Christian spirituality. (Ais 22)

Skills

The child should be enabled to:

Communicating and Participating:

- pray simple formal and informal prayers
- listen to music and singing as a form of prayer
- make non-verbal gestures used in prayer.

Strand Units

Children at this level will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

Prayer

- When people pray they talk and listen to God, and get to know and love God better. (GDC 139; CCC 2653).
- God wants to talk to us (GS 18; CCC 2567).
- God always hears our prayers.
- The church is God's house where his family comes together (CCC 1180; LG 6; 1 Tm 3:15).
- God's family gathers in the parish church to pray and celebrate (CCC 1069-71, 2179).
- The church is a holy place where people go to pray and talk to God (CCC 1181).
- Prayers of blessing, thanksgiving, praise (CCC 2626, 2629, 2637, 2639; CSRE 2b).

Prayer Gestures

Sign of the cross (CCC 2157), genuflecting, prayer with movement.

Formal Prayer

Sign of the Cross, Grace before and after Meals.

Mass Responses

Amen, Thanks be to God.

Spontaneous Prayer

e.g Prayer to God who loves and protects us, prayer to Mary, prayer for parents and families, prayer for those who are sick or dying.

Liturgical Year (CCC 1168-1173, 1194-1195; CSRE 2b).

- Advent is a time to get ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas. Advent wreath.
- Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- Christmas is a time to say thanks to God for sending Jesus to us.
- Ash Wednesday is a time when ashes are placed in the form of a cross on our foreheads.
- Easter is a time to remember that Jesus is alive.
- Feasts of Mary.
- May is the month to remember Mary. May Altar.
- Although we worship only God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we can also pray to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, and to the other saints, asking them to pray for us (LG 53, CCC 2679).

Mass

- Sunday is a special day when Catholics gather together to celebrate the Mass (CCC 1167,1343).
- The parish family gathers to celebrate with Jesus and with one another.

Strand: Christian Morality

Aims

Children will:

- explore God's love as reflected in self, relationships and creation
- develop self-esteem and respect for others and the natural environment (CCC 1004; Ais 16, 17, 26)
- listen to and discuss stories that reflect Christian moral virtues and values
- develop empathy, fairness, friendship, healthy attitudes to diversity and peace-making skills (GS 82; Ais 8, 23)
- develop an understanding of rules, and of right and wrong behaviour
- learn to make choices and take responsibility for their actions.

Skills

The child should be enabled to:

Understanding:

- show respect for self and others
- identify and interpret moral situations (moral sensitivity)
- engage in rule-making and decision-making (moral praxis)
- identify Christian moral values and teachings
- explore and respect the environment.

Strand Units

Children at this level will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following knowledge and concepts:

Human Dignity

- God loves each one of us (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:10-11).
- God gave us people who take care of us and show us how to love.
- I am unique/special because God created me (Gn 1:26-27).
- God knows my name (Is 43:1-4; Is 49:15).

RSE in a Christian Context

- Life is a gift from God (CCC 2260).
- God created me (CCC 1004).
- God made me a boy/girl.
- Jesus was part of a family: I am part of a family.
- God gave me feelings.
- I can love, share, express thanks, and care for myself, for others and for creation (CCC 224).
- I can show respect and kindness.
- I can say 'sorry' when I hurt other people.
- I can help people who are poor and people who are hungry.
- Include: Stories of saints, of good vs evil, of right and wrong actions; stories that convey Christian moral values such as sharing, caring, love, forgiveness, friendship, importance of family, care of the earth.
- Stories that encourage an awareness of others and respect for difference.
- Stories which help children distinguish right from wrong and to make moral judgements about situations.