



To Know You More Clearly

The Religious Education Directory

Reception Scheme of Work

Branch 4 – Desert to Garden

Education Department

Reception Branch 4 – Desert to Garden

Introduction

The overarching theme for Nursery and Reception is **God is Love**.

Themes

Desert to Garden Theme for Reception: This branch focuses on helping pupils develop an understanding of Jesus.

- **Creation and Covenant** – God shows his love by making a wonderful world for us all to live in.
- **Prophecy and Promise** – God shows his love by sending his son, Jesus to live with us.
- **Galilee to Jerusalem** – Jesus shows his love for us.
- **Desert to Garden** – Jesus shows his love for us.

Prior Learning – Reminder - *The Bible tells us all about God. We have to keep this in a very special place (prayer space/focus, place the book with the title Bible and the 'Word' of God) Can you remember where our special book is? Who can remember what the book is called? Remember this book tells us all about God. Would you like to hear a special story about God today?*

- Please remember to use a Good News Bible – whilst this is not an accessible read for children, they need to experience what a Bible looks like, and how it is used – just as in other religions in Christianity this is a sacred book and needs to be treated with the utmost respect and care.
- Children will see how you as an adult use the Bible – they may not understand the words but it is our job then to retell the story in as many ways as possible – through retelling, crafts, art, dance etc... etc...

General Guidance

- Please **begin with the Scripture story told from the Good News Bible at the beginning of each teaching sequence**.
- Please try to follow the sequences as they appear in the planning. This will allow for timelines and links to be made. However, in some circumstances, they may be best suited in a different order especially considering the age and stage of the children.
- Also, there may be times when you may wish to teach Believe, Celebrate and Live in a different order following Hear or together to suit the needs of the children.
- The activities within the sequences are suggested and you do not need to cover them all! Just ensure you are covering 10% of your curriculum time each week for Religious Education.

Skill/Driver words

Recognise, Retell, Describe, Wonder, Talk about, Ask, begin to make links and connections, begin to give reasons

Key Words

Enhancing the Religious Education Curriculum

Please find below a list of possible ways to engage learners...

- Previous Knowledge
- Key Vocabulary
- Timeline
- Equality
- Drama/Role Play
- Poetry
- Catholic Social Teaching
- RSHE
- Parents/ Carers
- Home/school/parish
- Parish Priest
- Parish Deacon
- Parish Catechists
- Governors
- Liturgy
- Sacramental Foundations
- Storytelling
- Liturgical Colour Boxes
- Philosophy
- Inclusion
- Culture
- Awe and wonder
- Seasons/The Natural World
- Beauty

Liturgical Events

March

Wednesday 5 Ash Wednesday

Sunday 9 1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday 16 2nd Sunday of Lent

Sunday 23 3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday 30 4th Sunday of Lent

April

Sunday 6 5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday 13 **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

Thursday 17 **Maundy Thursday**

Friday 18 **Good Friday**

Saturday 19 **Holy Saturday**

Sunday 20 **Easter Sunday Vigil | Day**

Other useful dates

March 2025

1- 30 March - Ramadan (Islam)

11 March - Mother's Day

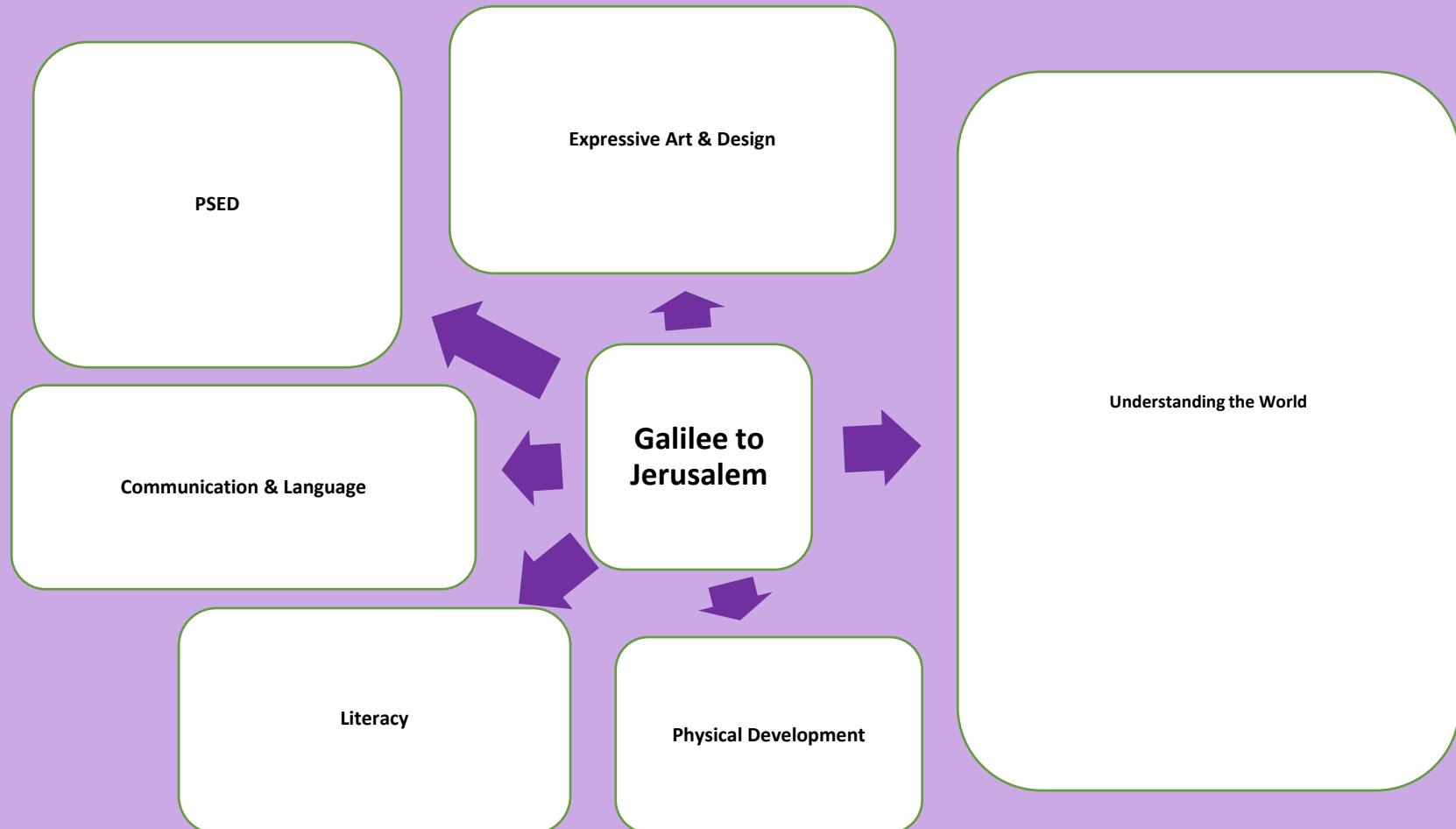
- Senses
- Music
- Art
- Dance

Cross-Curricular Links

The aim of Religious Education in the Early Years is for it to be taught as far as possible at the **heart of the curriculum**. The Branch itself can lead all learning.

Please find below the diagram of how RE is central and links to other areas of learning.

Ways of Knowing



Planning Overview Nursery/Reception

Sequences	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE
First Teaching Sequence	Love God and love everyone (Taken from Great Commandment reading) ... Lent is a time to care for others.	Caring for others in Lent.	Simple signs of Lent – colour purple, seeds, growing.	Care for others.	The Great Commandment. <i>Lk10:25-28</i> <u>A commandment!</u> Jesus tells the story of loving one another. Loving your neighbour as you love yourself.	Listen to and talk about the season of Lent. Simple Religious symbols in Lent	The Church uses Purple and Ashes as signs of Lent. We learn the importance of saying sorry and being sorry.	Trying to help others by what we do in Lent. Please note the CST activities and shown throughout and marked with CST CST Rights and Responsibilities Every single person on earth needs these things: food, water, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor. Some people have what they need, but many people don't. Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others. Jesus wants us to take care of this.
Second Teaching Sequence	Jesus died on a cross. It is a sad time.	Jesus died on a cross.	Simple signs of Lent – colour purple, hot cross buns, seeds, growing.	Christians share signs and symbols – Hot Cross Buns, palms.	A simplified version of key events of Holy Week Palm Sunday Please note the chosen Scripture is not referenced in the RED	Continuing to remember Lent. Simple Religious symbols in Lent Palm waving Hosanna!	Representations of Holy Week ... Palms	Various cultures celebrate Lent in different ways. Palm Sunday customs around the world.
Third Teaching Sequence	Jesus was given new life by God his Father. Jesus rose and everyone celebrates.	Jesus rose and we celebrate.	Simple signs of Easter – colour white, growth, Easter Garden	Christians share signs and symbols - garden growth, Easter eggs, new life.	A simplified version of key events of Holy Week The Last Supper Please note the chosen Scripture is not referenced in the RED	Continuing to remember Lent. Simple Religious symbols in Lent The Last Supper – sharing bread	Representations of Holy Week ... The Last Supper	Various cultures celebrate Lent in different ways. The Last Supper traditions – Hot Cross Buns

					and wine – the body and blood of Jesus			
Fourth Teaching Sequence					<p>A simplified version of key events of Holy Week</p> <p>Good Friday & Easter Sunday</p> <p><i>Please note the chosen Scripture is not referenced in the RED – Please follow the guidance below</i></p>	<p>Simple Religious symbols in Lent and Easter</p> <p>Good Friday & Easter Sunday</p>	<p>Representations of Holy Week ...</p> <p>Good Friday & Easter Sunday</p>	<p>Various cultures celebrate Easter in different ways.</p> <p>Polish Easter Baskets</p>

FIRST TEACHING SEQUENCE
RECEPTION BRANCH 4

Jesus' New Rule

HEAR	BELIEVE	CELEBRATE	LIVE	WAYS OF KNOWING
<p>The Great Commandment. <i>Lk10:25-28</i></p> <p><u>A commandment!</u></p> <p>Jesus tells the story of loving one another. Loving your neighbour as you love yourself.</p>	<p>Listen to and talk about the season of Lent.</p> <p>Simple Religious symbols in Lent</p>	<p>The Church uses Purple and Ashes as signs of Lent.</p> <p>We learn the importance of saying sorry and being sorry.</p>	<p>Trying to help others by what we do in Lent.</p> <p>Please note the CST activities and shown throughout and marked with CST</p> <p>CST Rights and Responsibilities</p> <p><i>Every single person on earth needs these things: food, water, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor.</i></p> <p><i>Some people have what they need, but many people don't.</i></p> <p><i>Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others.</i></p> <p><i>Jesus wants us to take care of this.</i></p>	<p>UNDERSTAND</p> <p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear, listen and talk about Jesus' Great Commandment • Jesus tells us a rule - to love one another • Lent is a time to get ready for Easter • Recognise some of the symbols of Lent • Lent is a time to grow in love • Recognise the colour purple is used in Lent • Recognise that ashes are a sign of Lent • Recognise that in Lent saying sorry reminds us to love one another <p>DISCERN</p> <p><i>How will I discover more? What can I do now?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about and wonder about love and what it means to me. • Lent is a time to share and show love like Jesus <p>RESPOND</p> <p><i>What can I do now?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience how to show love to my friends and family just like Jesus tells us to do. • Experience how other Christians get ready for Lent

Scripture (HEAR) Good News Translation

Luke 10:25-28

A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?"

Jesus answered him, "What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?"

The man answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'"

"You are right," Jesus replied; "do this and you will live."

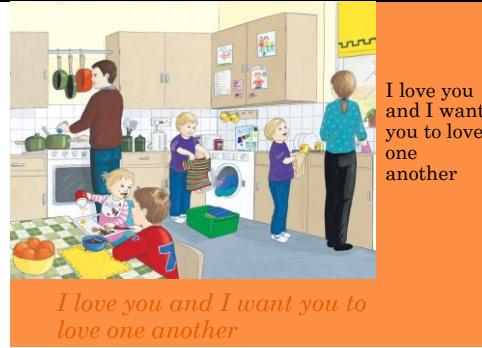
HEAR

Teacher Notes

We are not to love just because we are neighbours in any geographical sense, but we become neighbours to the man farthest from us when we love and help him. If we prove ourselves neighbours to any man by exercising love to him, then the relation intended by the word is as wide as humanity.

After Jesus says these words he tells the story of ***The Good Samaritan, (which is not for EYFS at this point)*** but this is how Jesus demonstrates what loving a neighbour can mean. Every detail is beautifully adapted to bring out the lesson that the obligation of neighbourly affection has nothing to do with nearness either of race or religion but is as wide as humanity. This reading is known as a ***commandment*** – a rule to live by directly from Jesus.

Continuous Provision	Learning activities/Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retelling the words of Jesus from the Golden Box• Use the words in the writing area• Decorate a large version of the words for display/focus• Home corner – helping one another to do the jobs – caring for one another in their family	<p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <p>Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read the Scripture as it is written from the Bible and place the Scripture back into its special place in the classroom.• Retell the story with the children to help them to understand what the words mean to them by using a variety of activities from the ideas below.• Retell using the Golden box by placing cards/words – simple version of the rule shared by Jesus. Share with the children Jesus tells us to love God – can they remember that God is Jesus' father? Jesus is sharing with us what God would like us to do. Use the words – perhaps you would like to split up the sentences and they could be used in Prayer and Liturgy as a reminder for the children. The children may want to use the words in the writing area or decorate for the focus/display area. <div data-bbox="871 647 1596 949" style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px;"><p>I love God in my heart.</p><p>I love God in my mind.</p><p>I love God with all my strength.</p></div> <div data-bbox="871 965 1596 1097" style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px;"><p>We share our love with our friends and family like Jesus.</p></div>



- Using God's Story One - Slide 17 **pp.32-33**

Talk about/Identify

What do you see? What room is this? What is the same in your house? What is different? What are the people doing? Why?

How do they feel? Do you do these things at home? How do you feel?

What was Jesus' new rule?

What would happen if his friends kept this rule?

What would happen if everyone kept this rule?

How do you think people feel when they keep this rule?

How do you think they feel when they don't keep it?

Learning activities/Objectives

How will I discover more?

What can I do now?

What if? Wonder about? Awe and Wonder, Imagining, similarities, differences, views, preferences, identify, names, experiences, creative and artistic expression

- You may have used this link before to the What's the Big Idea – Love clip from Cbeebies, you may wish to repeat this or continue to develop further understanding of what the word LOVE means to the children. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/whats-the-big-idea-love>

Songs

- You've Got a Friend in me – Toy Story https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYb2QfjKe_4
- Put a Little Love in Your Heart – sung by children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNySTUKOIWU>
- Love, Love, Love – The Beatles – sung and signed by children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOmIY23hV-4>
- Love, Love, Love – The Beatles/Beat Bugs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFFFgROJ1nQ>

Hymns

- Love is Something if you give it away – Kevin Mayhew <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Zx5iSExD9I>

Learning Activities/Objectives

What can I do now?

Talk about - feelings and experiences. Begin to make links from Scripture ...feelings, behaviour, life, live.

- HAND PAINTING: Provide children with finger paints and painting paper. Children can spread their colours of paints around the paper and then lay their coloured hands on the paper with the thumbs and pointer fingers together to form a HEART. Children could use a cotton swab or craft stick to write at the top of their hand painting - LOVING GOD, LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR, or other words of choice. You may wish to choose other ways to create hearts as below.

<https://sermons4kids.com/activities/loving-god-loving-your-neighbor-group>



BELIEVE

Listen to and talk about the season of Lent.

Simple Religious symbols in Lent

Teacher's Notes

- Lent is an Old English word for *spring*. In almost all other languages, Lent's name is a derivative of the Latin term *quadragesima* or "the forty days."
- Lent lasts for 40 days and ends at Easter. Christians are preparing for Easter during Lent. Easter is the most important time for the Christian Church.
- The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until Holy Thursday
- There are 3 spiritual practices of Lent: **prayer, fasting and almsgiving (donating money, fundraising, acts of charity)**
- In Lent, Christians remember that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and fasted in the wilderness and so Christians try to do the same – perhaps by giving up something they really enjoy like chocolate, biscuits or by doing extra acts of kindness.
- The Lenten journey of sacrifice unites Christians with Jesus

Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day

1) Shrove Tuesday is a **Christian festival** celebrated in many countries across the globe. During Lent, Christians give up luxuries to remember when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray.

2) The exact date of Shrove Tuesday changes from year to year. But one thing stays the same — it's always **47 days before Easter Sunday**. And yes, you guessed it, it's always on a Tuesday!

3) The name comes from the old word 'shriving', which means to listen to someone's sins and forgive them. In **Anglo-Saxon England**, Christians would go to church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their soul. In other words, they would be 'shriven'.

4) In the **United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and Canada**, Shrove Tuesday has another name... **Pancake Day!** Traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat (some Christians continue to do so, in fact). Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them — and what better way to do so than with a delicious pancake!

5) Today, people continue to whisk up these yummy treats on Shrove Tuesday — and they add all kinds of tasty toppings, too, such as **fruit, honey, chocolate and ice cream!** But check this out; pancakes aren't only for eating during this fab festival — people race with them, too!

6) **Pancake races** are a super-fun Shrove Tuesday tradition. In this mad-cap activity, people race each other whilst tossing a pancake in a pan. Today, pancake races are often organised to raise money for charity and help those in need.

7) The tradition of the pancake race is a story goes that it originated way back in 1445, in the town of Olney in Buckinghamshire, England. A woman was so busy making pancakes that she lost track of time. When she heard the church bells ringing for the Shrove Tuesday mass, she ran as fast as she could to make it and arrived still carrying her pancake in the pan!

8) Pancakes have become such a popular Shrove Tuesday tradition that on this day, a whopping 52 million eggs are used in the UK alone! That's 22 million more than your average day.

9) In other countries, Shrove Tuesday has different names. In Germany, for example, it's called 'Fastnacht' (meaning 'Eve of the Fast') and in Iceland it's called 'Sprengidagur' (meaning 'Bursting Day'). In France and some other parts of the world, the festival is called 'Mardi Gras', from the French phrase meaning 'Fat Tuesday'. And for many people, Mardi Gras means party time...

10) Lots of cities around the world celebrate Mardi Gras with vibrant street parties featuring live bands, colourful parades, and elaborate fancy-dress costumes! Some of the world's largest and most famous Mardi Gras celebrations take place in New Orleans in the USA, Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and Venice in Italy.

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/shrove-tuesday-facts/>

Continuous Provision	Learning activities/Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring craft, growing activities Garden Centre role play Gardening role play Signs of Spring plants, animals Looking after young animals and what they are called – puppies, foals, lambs etc... Minibeast exploring 	<p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <p>Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring – this is an ideal time for children to use cross-curricular Spring activities. Spring is the season for growing, new life which reflects the Lenten season – we too are growing and learning and trying to be better people like Jesus has shown us. Introduce children to the season of Spring using crafts, gardening, planting, chicks etc...

- Home corner – imaginative play - making pancakes with the family
- Sensory Spring activities/trays/walks etc...



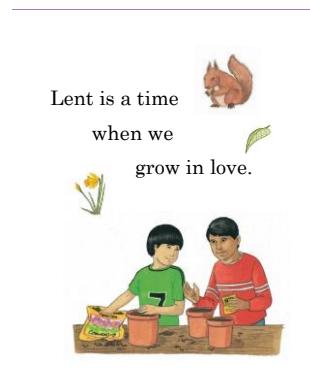
- Using Church's Story 1 - Slide 20 Pages 38-39

Spring is a time when things begin to grow.

Talk about what helps plants, animals to grow - connect to the picture

Lent is a time when we grow in love.

What kind of things could we do to grow more like Jesus?



*How will I discover more?
What can I do now?*

Learning activities/Objectives

What if? Wonder about? Awe and Wonder, Imagining, similarities, differences, views, preferences, identify, names, experiences, creative and artistic expression

Making our Lenten promises

- In Lent we try to be more like Jesus. We say prayers, we might give up having our favourite sweets etc and we try to love one another just like the rule that Jesus gave us.
- Talk together about the images from Church's Story 1



- **CST Loving/Growing Tree:** bare branches on which children can hang leaves or even hearts. Draw/write on a leaf/heart one way you will try to grow more like Jesus by loving others who might need our help this Lent. See ideas below to link with Mother's Day.



Learning Activities/Objectives

What can I do now?

Talk about - feelings and experiences. Begin to make links from Scripture ...feelings, behaviour, life, live.

- The day before Lent begins (Ash Wednesday) is usually called Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday. Many people all over the world celebrate this day. Please see the teacher's notes. Perhaps you would like to make some pancakes ...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/pancake-recipe>

<https://childrens-binary.files.bbci.co.uk/childrens-binarystore/cbeebies/cbeebies-pancake-recipe-card.pdf>

Allergy-free pancakes - <https://blog.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/2018/02/allergy-free-pancake-recipe/>

Animal pancakes - <https://blog.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/2020/02/healthy-animal-pancake-recipes-for-kids/>



- You might wish to hold some other games for **cross-curricular activities** ...

1. Have a pancake race!

Explore the age-old tradition of pancake tossing with a variety of activities! Why not set a timer and see how many times the little ones can toss their pancake? Or set a group of children in a race to flip their pancake 5 times and see who is the quickest! A great way to incorporate counting into physical development.

2. Explore measuring and counting

Maths forms a crucial element in the process of making pancakes as children measure out the different ingredients. Support the little one's learning by seeing if they can do this unassisted.

Why not turn the decorating aspect into a maths activity also? Ask your children to put 2 strawberries, 4 banana slices 5 chocolate chips etc. and see how well they can count each of these elements out.

3. Practice sequencing - Try our free Pancake Day download and cut out pictures for each step in the recipe to place in the correct order. Next, fold the recipe book and stick each image inside to create your very own recipe book!

Test your recipe using play food and Bakers Mixing Set to encourage imaginative play! Take turns to whisk the mixture and measure the ingredients!

4. Try new things! - Let's talk pancakes! Discuss the various types of pancakes with children and explore different toppings with them – do they prefer the taste of savoury or sweet toppings? What can they mix and match? Does the topping taste sweet, salty or bitter?

5. As well as real pancakes – children can engage in Pancake Day crafts. Get creative with paper circles and design the ultimate pancake with crayons, paints and stickers or practice stacking and flipping.

<https://blog.earlyyearsresources.co.uk/2016/01/eyfs-pancake-day-activities/#:~:text=Why%20not%20set%20a%20timer,incorporate%20counting%20into%20physical%20development.>

CELEBRATE

The Church uses Purple and Ashes as signs of Lent.

We learn the importance of saying sorry and being sorry.

Teacher Notes –

Why do Catholics have ashes on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday?

- Catholics begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday where they receive ashes on their foreheads to remind them of their mortality and call to repentance.
- Ashes are from burning the palms from last year's Palm Sunday service
- When receiving the ashes, the priest makes the Sign of the Cross on each person's forehead and says words such as: *Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return*, or in school the priest may say something simpler for the children to understand.

Why is the colour purple used in Lent?

- Purple is the colour of Lent as it symbolises royalty of Christ as King of all Kings and repentance.
- Before Jesus was crucified, he was dressed in a purple robe and a crown of thorns was placed on his head (see Mark 15:17). The purple colour is deliberate as Jesus was accused of declaring himself "king of the Jews." The inscription "INRI" often seen above Jesus on crucifixes, means "Jesus Christ, King of the Jews" in Latin.
- Purple dye was a precious commodity and it was painstakingly manufactured. Because of the laborious process to extract purple dye, purple cloth was expensive and worn by royalty and nobility, often the only people who could afford to purchase it. Kings and emperors would dress entirely in purple to emphasize their wealth and power. Therefore, dressing Christ in a purple robe was a symbolic act, even if intended to disrespect him.
- When we see the purple color, we are reminded that we too have disrespected Christ through our sins, and we are called to repent (say sorry) and ask forgiveness.

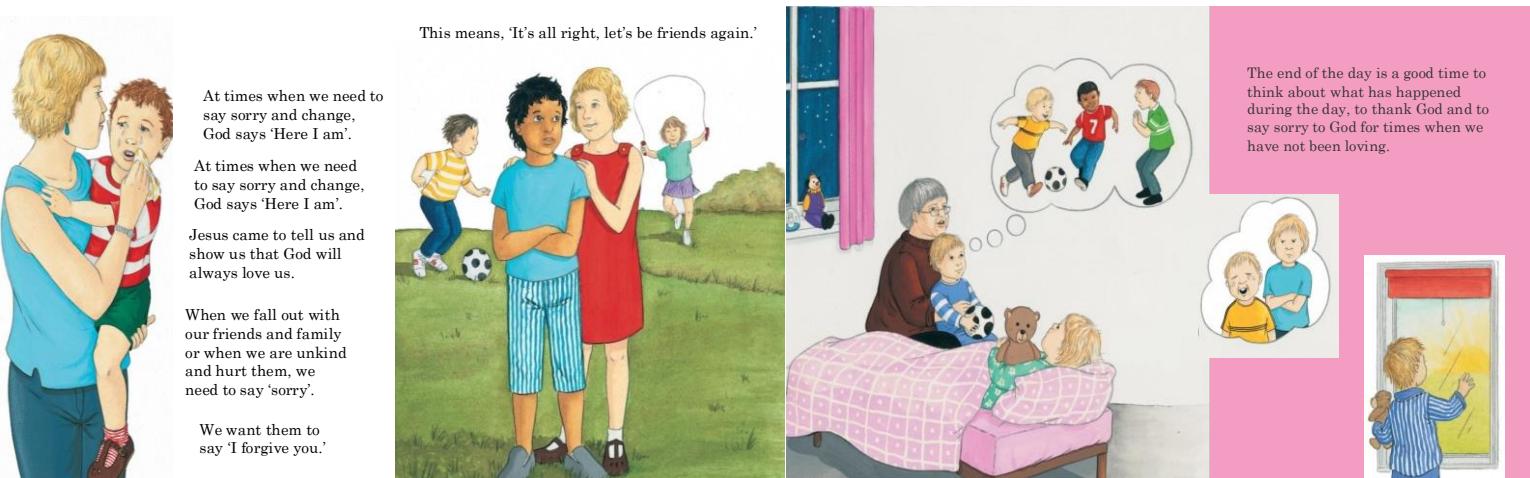
The importance of saying sorry and being sorry

Teacher's Notes

It is difficult for young children to feel remorse or understand the consequences of their actions until they can feel empathy. Empathy is the ability to put oneself in another person's place; being empathetic means that you can sense and identify with what another person is feeling. The ability to take the perspective of another, as well as to understand the relationship between cause and effect, is not fully supported cognitively and emotionally until at least age six or seven.

Saying sorry at this young age can be a knee-jerk reaction and something they have copied from adults and/or one another. For the RED Curriculum and teaching in a Catholic school, we have a role to play in children getting ready for their Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is a time when we learn to say sorry because we have done something on purpose, we then try not to do it again but equally important is that you are forgiven by God.

Children in Early Years settings are still learning and understanding about their actions towards others and how this might make them feel. Adults in EYFS are merely laying the groundwork for reconciliation. It helps to talk with children about something they have done on purpose without realising how this might affect their friend/adult. By simply asking children to think about what happened and after calming down are they ready to say a more meaningful sorry.



Church's Story 2 explains this in a little more detail for teachers to understand the beginnings of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

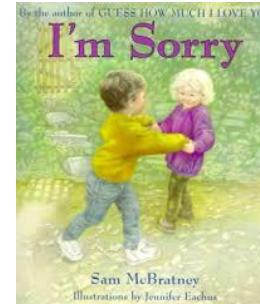
Continuous Provision	Learning activities/Objectives
	<p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <p>Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort</p>

- Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. There will usually be a liturgical service in school where children and adults will be marked by ashes on the forehead. In 2025 Ash Wednesday will be on ***Wednesday 5th March***. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. We make the sign of the cross with ashes to show that we want to grow more like Jesus.



- Using images from Ash Wednesday service and from Church's Story 2 – talk about what will happen when Ashes are crossed on our heads. It will remind us about Jesus and his rule to love everyone.
- Please read the teacher's notes above about young children saying sorry.
- When we don't follow Jesus' rule - sometimes we might not follow his rule to care for everyone or to not listen to our friends or family - we can say we are sorry and try not to do it again.
- Recognise and talk about times when we have said sorry. How did it make us feel?
Read a story about saying sorry – this is a simple story you may wish to use or another story you are familiar with – *I'm Sorry* by Sam McBratney

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J08K8jbe60M>



Teacher Notes –

Trying to help others by what we do in Lent. Please note the CST activities and shown throughout Hear, Believe Celebrate and Live and marked with **CST** - please see activities labelled with CST above.

CST Rights and Responsibilities

Every single person on earth needs these things: food, water, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor.

Some people have what they need, but many people don't.

Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others.

Jesus wants us to take care of this.

Mother's Day Cards

- As part of CST Mother's Day is celebrated on 11th March 2025 perhaps you would like to link with the Lenten activity Loving/Growing Tree: growing more like Jesus – helping mum at home – a promise for Lent. Some children may wish to write a card to their families. Perhaps make some felt hearts for **promises in a pocket!** (Might put this idea on Etsy! :))

Ideas for promises below and more on ... - https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Y03qLgu8L49wYexbcT4ocbu-8y_48CfeaKPpkB7Yn0/edit?tab=t.0

- Give someone a smile and hug today.*
- Read a book with a grown up.*
- Play quietly in my room and clean up when I'm done.*
- Help with dishes.*
- Water the plants or flowers*
- Clean up my room.*
- Draw a picture for someone.*
- Help someone with a special chore.*
- Ask Mum if she had a good day.*
- Ask Dad if he had a good day.*
- Help put away my clean clothes.*
- Pick a toy I don't play with anymore to give to another child.*



Assess Pupils'...WAYS OF KNOWING	Informal / Formal Assessment Comments
UNDERSTAND <i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear, listen and talk about Jesus' Great Commandment • Jesus tells us a rule - to love one another • Lent is a time to get ready for Easter • Recognise some of the symbols of Lent • Lent is a time to grow in love • Recognise the colour purple is used in Lent • Recognise that ashes are a sign of Lent • Recognise that in Lent saying sorry reminds us to love one another 	
DISCERN <i>How will I discover more? What can I do now?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about and wonder about love and what it means to me. • In Lent we share how to show love like Jesus 	
RESPOND <i>What can I do now?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience how to show love to my friends and family just like Jesus tells us to do. • Experience how other Christians get ready for Lent 	

SECOND TEACHING SEQUENCE
RECEPTION BRANCH 4

Palm Sunday

There are 3 short readings which tell the story of Holy Week. They follow one after the other.

This is a great opportunity to use a timeline with the children to aid the sequence of events.

HEAR & BELIEVE & CELEBRATE		LIVE	WAYS OF KNOWING
<p>A simplified version of key events of Holy Week</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p><i>Please note the chosen Scripture is not referenced in the RED – Please follow the guidance below</i></p>	<p>Continuing to remember Lent.</p> <p>Simple Religious symbols in Lent</p> <p>Palm waving Hosanna!</p>	<p>Representations of Lent in different ways.</p> <p>Palm Sunday customs around the world.</p> <p>Palms</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND</p> <p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday. • In Holy Week Christians hear about Palm Sunday. • People shouted Hosanna and waved palms when Jesus came to see them. • Palms are decorated and waved in other countries/cultures <p>DISCERN</p> <p><i>How will I discover more? What can I do now?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians wave palms to remember Jesus on Palm Sunday. • People waved palms and sang Hosanna to Jesus because he cared and helped others. • Palms are used to decorate prayer tables/statues or in the home to remember the story of Palm Sunday. <p>RESPOND</p> <p><i>How will I find out more?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about the loving, caring feelings of the people waving the palms. • Talk about how Jesus might have felt when people waved palms and sang to Him.

Scripture (HEAR) Good News Translation

People shouted Hosanna because they loved Jesus.

Matthew 21:8-9 Good News Translation

⁸ A large crowd of people spread their cloaks on the road while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds walking in front of Jesus and those walking behind began to shout, “Praise to David’s Son! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise be to God!” **Some people shouted “Hosanna!”**

HEAR & BELIEVE

Teacher Notes

- Hear the story of Palm Sunday
- Christians believe the people loved Jesus and wanted him to save them so they shouted Hosanna!
- Christians believe that Palm Sunday is a time to share in their remembrance and love for Jesus.
- Representations of Holy Week ... Palms. Christians celebrate Palm Sunday at the beginning of Holy Week.

• Please add in the Scripture reading **Some people shouted Hosanna.** Hosanna means Save us! This was because they had seen how Jesus cared and helped others.

This reading is also known and celebrated in the Church as **Palm Sunday (Sunday 13th April 2025)**

The Palms are blessed by the priest before the Palm Sunday Mass.

Six hundred years before the Palm Sunday event, a prophet named Zechariah stated that a king would come into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowds celebrated Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem. They laid down their coats, waved palm branches and declared him to be their king, who would free them from the Roman occupation and restore Israel. However, Jesus, riding on a donkey, had come for a different kind of fight – not with the Romans, but with sin and death. He would conquer not by force, but by sacrifice and love.

- **This short 2 minute clip from the Bible Society website is good to use for subject knowledge and perhaps share with staff -**
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/bible-trek/jesus-enters-jerusalem-bible-trek-easter-series-01>

Continuous Provision

- Golden Box – small world play with peg people, donkey, cloaks and branches
- Making palms to decorate the outdoor play area for reenacting Jesus coming on a donkey – children may wish to dress as the disciples (and you may find the donkey headdress that you may have used previously in Advent!)

Learning activities/Objectives

What will I see and hear to help me understand?

Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort

- Sharing the first Holy Week story with the children. Explain to them that Holy Week is the last week in Lent and lots of special things happened. One of the stories tells us about Palm Sunday which is the last Sunday before Easter. Christians go to Church and wave palms to celebrate how much they love Jesus – just as we can hear in the story.
- Retell the story from Scripture in a variety of ways and by using the Golden Box to reenact the events.
- Using God's Story 2 image (see below) retell the Scripture Story using these words or similar...
Lots of people loved Jesus. He rode on a donkey into the town. People spread their cloaks on the road. Some cut branches and waved them. The people were all shouting, "Hosanna! Praise God!"



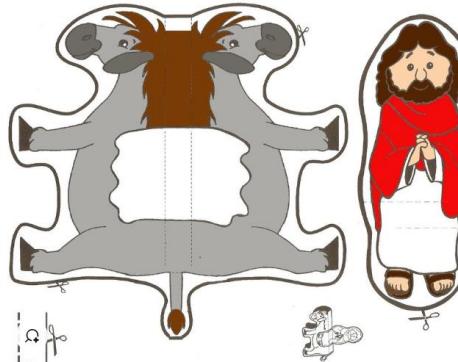
Hymns

- The traditional version of Sing Hosanna – generally used in UK schools- traditionally children make palms and wave them when they sing Hosanna! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yno7LNhiL_E

Making Palms

- <https://www.bakerross.co.uk/craft-ideas/kids/palm-sunday-handprint-palm/>
- <https://www.livewellplaytogether.com/palm-sunday-crafts-palm-leaf-craft-two-ways/>
- Decorating the word, Hosanna!





Learning Outcomes/Expectations

- Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday.
- In Holy Week we hear about Palm Sunday.
- People shouted Hosanna and waved palms when Jesus came to see them.

Learning activities/Objectives

How will I discover more?

What can I do now?

What if? Wonder about? Awe and Wonder, Imagining, similarities, differences, views, preferences, identify, names, experiences, creative and artistic expression

- Re-enact the story together or in groups – sing Hosanna and wave palms they have made. Schools usually hold a special Holy Week liturgy, and the children may be able to take part in this with the whole school.



- Wonder about why people waved and shouted Hosanna! What were the people celebrating – can you think of things that Jesus did in other stories you have heard that help you to see why the people love him? Talk about stories they remember – *Jesus and the little children and Feeding the 5000* from the previous branch.

Learning Outcomes/Expectations

- Christians wave palms to remember Jesus on Palm Sunday.
- People waved palms and sang Hosanna to Jesus because he cared and helped others.
- Palms are used to decorate prayer tables/statues or in the home to remember the story of Palm Sunday.

Learning Activities/Objectives

What can I do now?

Talk about - feelings and experiences. Begin to make links from Scripture ...feelings, behaviour, life, live.

- Talk about the experience of waving Palms like the story they have heard. From perspective of the crowd gathered and Jesus' point of view.

Why do you think they waved Palms? What do they think Jesus thought? Etc...

Learning Outcomes/Expectations

- Talk about the loving, caring feelings of the people waving the palms.
- Talk about how Jesus might have felt when people waved palms and sang to Him.

Teacher Notes –

- Various cultures celebrate Lent in different ways - Palm Sunday customs around the world.

Polish Easter traditions: Easter palms (palmy wielkanocne)

In Poland Christians celebrate The Easter “palm.” This is a symbolic twig prepared before Easter in memory of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. The palms are blessed in churches during the celebration of Palm Sunday (Niedziela Palmowa) – just as they are here too.

Polish palms are long bunches of **young tree twigs, herbs, and flowers**. Traditionally, they should include **willow twigs** – a symbol of life and resurrection – the first green signs of spring in Poland. The palms are also decorated with **ribbons and dried or artificial flowers**.

Different regions of Poland have various techniques and patterns for making Easter palms. Competitions for the most beautiful and enormous palms are held every year. The pictures below show traditional Polish Easter palms in Kraków.

Traditionally in Poland, ‘palms’ were often symbolically ‘planted’ on crop fields to ensure a good harvest in the upcoming year. In some regions they were also used for blessing of the cattle or houses with sprinkled water. Later they are **included among Easter decorations of the houses, often put on tables for the Easter breakfast, and in the past they used to be attached to religious paintings as an adornment throughout the later spring months**. It was not considered a good thing to throw away an ‘Easter palm’. This is also how they are treated here too. Palms in Poland and England are often stored in the house when a new blessed Easter palm was brought home. In England they are burnt for ashes for Ash Wednesday the following year.

Why are the Palms so decorative?

- Polish communities try to use and celebrate crops/wheat etc grown in their own country. The palms are made very tall in some areas and competitions are held for the tallest and most decorative palms.



<https://kidsinthecity.pl/easter-traditions-in-poland/>

<https://blogs.transparent.com/polish/beautiful-easter-palms-in-poland-and-history-behind-them/>

Continuous Provision

- Ribbon weaving
- Cutting palm leaves
- Paper flowers

Learning activities/Objectives

What will I see and hear to help me understand?

Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort

- Polish Palms are highly decorative and usually made very tall because of competitions held in Poland. However, a more child friendly version could be made simply by decorating the palms children have already made or have some simple green leaves cut ready to decorate. Children could add to them using flowers to glue onto the leaves and adding ribbons. This may be used cross curricular for fine motor skills with weaving or tying ribbon and or adding paper flowers the children could make.



<https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/365213851010688338/>



Ribbon weaving <https://www.howwemontessori.com/.a/6a0147e1d4f40f970b02a308e14aef200c-pi>

(It is actually a fish – with the tail cut off – looks just like a palm! 😊)



<https://www.mykidstime.com/things-to-do/15-easy-paper-flowers-crafts-for-toddlers-preschoolers-and-bigger-kids/>

Ideas for paper flowers – you might wish to recreate the tall polish palms on the wall of the classroom.

Learning Outcomes/Expectations

- Palms are decorated and waved in other countries/cultures

Learning activities/Objectives

How will I **discover** more?

What can I do now?

	<p>What if? Wonder about? Awe and Wonder, Imagining, similarities, differences, views, preferences, identify, names, experiences, creative and artistic expression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about how you might use the decorative Palms made. In Poland they are used to place near statues, prayer tables - included among Easter decorations of the houses, often put on tables for the Easter breakfast, and in the past, they used to be attached to religious paintings as an adornment throughout the later spring months Ask the children their ideas of how to use them to remember the story of Palm Sunday. <p>Learning Outcomes/Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palms are used to decorate prayer tables/statues or in the home to remember the story of Palm Sunday.
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Assess Pupils'...WAYS OF KNOWING	Informal / Formal Assessment Comments
<p>UNDERSTAND</p> <p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday. • In Holy Week Christians hear about Palm Sunday. • People shouted Hosanna and waved palms when Jesus came to see them. • Palms are decorated and waved in other countries/cultures 	
<p>DISCERN</p> <p><i>How will I discover more? What can I do now?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians wave palms to remember Jesus on Palm Sunday. • People waved palms and sang Hosanna to Jesus because he cared and helped others. • Palms are used to decorate prayer tables/statues or in the home to remember the story of Palm Sunday. 	
<p>RESPOND</p> <p>How will I find out more?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about the loving, caring feelings of the people waving the palms. • Talk about how Jesus might have felt when people waved palms and sang to Him. 	

THIRD TEACHING SEQUENCE
RECEPTION BRANCH 4

Maundy Thursday – The Last Supper

HEAR & BELIEVE & CELEBRATE		LIVE	WAYS OF KNOWING	
<p>A simplified version of key events of Holy Week</p> <p>The Last Supper</p> <p><i>Please note the chosen Scripture is not referenced in the RED – Please follow the guidance below</i></p>	<p>Continuing to remember Lent.</p> <p>Simple Religious symbols in Lent</p> <p>The Last Supper – sharing bread and wine – the body and blood of Jesus</p>	<p>Representations of Holy Week ...</p> <p>The Last Supper</p>	<p>Various cultures celebrate Lent in different ways.</p> <p>The Last Supper traditions – Hot Cross Buns</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND <i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday. • In Holy Week Christians hear about The Last Supper. • Jesus shared a special meal with His friends. • Jesus asks people to remember him. • Hot Cross Buns remind us of Jesus on the cross. <p>DISCERN <i>How will I discover more? What can I do now?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians share bread and wine to remember Jesus. <p>RESPOND <i>How will I find out more?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the story of the Last Supper and how Jesus and His friends were feeling.

Scripture (HEAR) Good News Translation

Luke 22:19-20 *Good News Translation*

Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.” In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is God’s new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you.

HEAR & BELIEVE & CELEBRATE

Teacher Notes

Covenant means God’s promise

Story Overview:

After the events of Palm Sunday, Jesus knew his popularity was great. There were, however, some who did not like or agree with him and thought that he was acting against the law. Jesus knew he was going to die so he called his friends together for one last meal.

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus celebrated one last **Passover meal** with His disciples. Remember that Jesus was a Jew and traditionally ate the meal annually to celebrate God’s deliverance from Egyptian rule. On this particular night, Jesus used elements of the meal to institute a **new remembrance**, bread to remember His body and wine to remember His blood. From this time forward, the followers of Jesus would celebrate God’s deliverance from sin through Jesus.

Background Study:

This would not be the first Passover meal for Jesus and his disciples. It was an extremely important event; these men would have celebrated it yearly since they were children. This time was different, however. Jesus knew this was the last time He and the disciples would be together to celebrate before He was crucified and then returned to heaven after the resurrection.

The setting of the meal is bittersweet. On one hand, Jesus was excited to eat this last meal with the men who were close to Him. On the other, one of the men, Judas, had already secretly met with the Pharisees and decided to betray Jesus. Jesus knew this, but the other disciples did not.

There was a strict schedule for the Passover feast. The Passover lamb was sacrificed at a specific time on the fourteenth day of the first month on the Jewish calendar. In this case, it was on Thursday of Passion Week. We will later learn that Jesus was crucified on Friday.

It seems Jesus had planned and had already made some arrangements for where the celebration would take place. He sent Peter and John ahead to meet a man who would show them to a large upstairs room where they would eat together. Preparations would involve gathering the key traditional food items that were familiar to all Jews.

Unleavened bread: Flat bread made without yeast. Originally this was eaten during the Passover because the Jews left Egypt so quickly that the bread did not have time to rise. The unleavened bread was to be eaten at specific times during the meal.

Lamb: Killed at sundown and roasted. The blood of the lamb was to be given to the priest to pour on the altar. They were to eat the whole lamb during the meal.

Bitter herbs: These were eaten to remind the Jews of the bitter times in Egypt.

Wine: This was to be drunk at four specific times during the Passover meal.

In the famous **Leonardo Da Vinci painting of the Last Supper**, Jesus and the twelve apostles are depicted sitting at a table on one side facing the viewer. It is more likely that the table was very low, with those participating reclining on cushions. This would have been the custom of that time.

God's story began long before the New Testament. Much of what Jesus said and did relates to what God planned and did in the Old Testament. Adults and children alike need to see the Bible as one beautifully connected story. It is in the reading of this history that the full meaning of the purpose of Jesus becomes clear.

The first Passover had been celebrated hundreds and hundreds of years earlier on the last night that the Jews were captive in Egypt (Exodus 12). The Jews who followed God's instructions and placed lamb's blood on their doorposts were able to celebrate the meal safely inside their homes while the Angel of Death passed over them. Jews continued to celebrate the Passover as a reminder of God's salvation (rescue from Egyptian slavery). Jews continue to celebrate it today.

Everything that is known about the history of God's people and the celebration of Passover brings fuller meaning to what Jesus did during this meal. At communion people receive Jesus in Holy Communion. The sacrament of the Eucharist brings us closer to Jesus and to one another. The sacrament of the Eucharist is a sacrament that people receive often. **The Church believes that Jesus is truly present because of what he said. His words about the bread and wine are Jesus saying to us 'This is my living presence, this is myself, it is me'. Catholic's believe that the bread is Jesus' body and the wine is his blood.**

The importance of The Last Supper

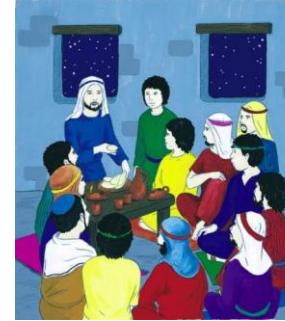
In a Catholic school as well as creating the foundations for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, we are also preparing children for the **Sacrament of Eucharist**. Whether the children will make these Sacraments with the local parish or not, as teachers in a Catholic school, we take opportunities through Religious Education to help children find out and discover more about these Sacraments.

Any child or adult making their Sacrament of Eucharist will be supported by their parish. This Sacrament is also known as First Holy Communion or First Eucharist. The Church family gathers together to share in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Eucharist means thanksgiving. With Christ the Church comes to give thanks to God. The Eucharist remembers and celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Children in Early Years settings will be building the foundations for understanding what Catholics believe about the bread and wine at Mass. The sharing of food and drink is a great opportunity to role play what happens at Mass, to know that sharing a meal together is a happy time when we come together and share with friends/family – at home, in school, at sack time etc...

Building in time for children to share simple food such as biscuits, cakes etc and some juice at opportunities after Prayer and Liturgy help children to see that sharing food and drink after prayers brings a bond of togetherness and community – just as the parish is a community.

Continuous Provision	Learning activities/Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golden Box – retell the story• Sharing meals together in the Home Corner• Rules for sharing• Role play and dressing as friends of Jesus and as Jesus	<p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <p><i>Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind the children that we are in a special week before Easter Sunday. This story tells us all about Jesus sharing a very special meal with his friends.• Retell the story from Scripture and then in a variety of ways and by using the Golden Box, reenact the events.• Using God's Story 2 image (see below) retell the Scripture Story using these words or similar... <i>The night before he died, Jesus and his friends went to celebrate a special meal together. Jesus took some bread blessed it, broke it and shared it out among his friends. Jesus said, "Do this in memory of me."</i>



- Retell the story together or in groups – share some bread and juice – pass it around and reenact the story of Jesus' meal with his friends.
 - Ask the children questions such as –
 - *Why do you think Jesus shared the bread with his friends?*
 - *Have you shared food at home with your family? Talk about meals together at home and in school*
 - *He said 'Do this in memory of me – what do you think this might mean – leading to ...we can remember Jesus when we share, care for one another.*
 - *Why should we do things to remember Jesus?*



Hymns

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=do+this+john+burland&&mid=00F1C3520D5919EEEA2600F1C3520D5919EEEA26&mcid=7F9E3297207F4E43A3A5353156BB0EDA&FORM=VCGVRP>

- Do this in Memory of Me – repetitive chorus throughout for children to hear and sing the important words Jesus shared at the Last Supper

Learning Outcomes/Expectations

- Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday.
- In Holy Week Christians hear about The Last Supper.
- Jesus shared a special meal with His friends.
- Jesus asks people to remember him.

Learning activities/Objectives

How will I discover more?

What can I do now?

What if? Wonder about? Awe and Wonder, Imagining, similarities, differences, views, preferences, identify, names, experiences, creative and artistic expression

- Using artwork talk about and wonder about what it would have been like to be with Jesus sharing a meal



<https://deepwellbiblestudies.com/2020/03/15/the-lords-passover-2/>

- *Wonder about why they are sitting on the floor? Who are the friends listening to? What do you think Jesus is saying to them? Do they look happy? Do you think something will happen after the meal?*



- Say to the children that this is a very famous painting of Jesus' meal with his friends. It is called the Last Supper. (explain the word supper to the children if they are not aware of this) In this painting, the friends and Jesus are sitting down.
- Ask the children to try and notice things in the painting – who can they see? What is behind them? Who is in the middle – allow children to come to their own conclusions about the painting and perhaps some are ready to say which one they like and say why. Perhaps – why do you think the painting called The Last Supper?

Learning Outcome/Expectations

- Christians share bread and wine to remember Jesus.

Learning Activities/Objectives

What can I do now?

Talk about - feelings and experiences. Begin to make links from Scripture ...feelings, behaviour, life, live.

- Using the paintings above or/and photographs of the children gathered sharing bread and juice/lunchtime/snack time – write/scribe using emotions How do they feel when sharing with friends? How did the friends of Jesus feel? Etc...

Learning Outcomes/Expectations

- Respond to the story of the Last Supper and how Jesus and His friends were feeling.

Teacher Notes –

Various cultures celebrate Lent in different ways. The Last Supper traditions – Hot Cross Buns

Buns with crosses on have been around for a very long time. In pagan times they were made in celebration of spring and the goddess of dawn, Eostre, with the cross symbolising the 4 phases of the moon. Then, according to English folklore a monk in St Albans, Thomas Roccliffe, developed a recipe for Alban buns which he distributed to the poor on Good Friday. The buns were said to have 'become holy' and in 1592 Queen Elizabeth 1 decreed they must be baked at no other time than on Good Friday or Christmas or for funerals! The first recorded reference to them, however, was in the early 1700's with the words to this hot cross buns song: 'Good Friday comes this month, the old woman runs, with one a penny, two a penny, hot cross buns!' Tradition has it that if you hung a bun from the rafters in your kitchen it would not go mouldy all year. Supposedly it would enhance friendships, prevent fires and if taken on a voyage it would stop that ship from being wrecked! Brother Thomas Roccliffe, a 14th century monk at St Albans Abbey made buns to feed the poor on Good Friday.

In Ireland, the UK and as far abroad as New Zealand, Australia, Canada and India, Hot Cross Buns are eaten every Good Friday the day after the Last Supper to remember his last meal and his death on the cross in Christian communities.

They are symbolic of this significant day in the Christian faith when Jesus was crucified.

Each bun is decorated with a cross made from flour paste, which represents the cross on which Christ died.

The spices in hot cross buns are said to represent the spices that were used to embalm Christ after his death.

There is a song/verse which reminds Christians of Jesus and what happened on Good Friday.

**Flour for the bread at Our Lord's Last Meal,
 Sultana's for the wine,
 A Cross to tell of his Holy Death,
 Spices prepared for His tomb.**

For children at this age it is enough for them to take part in the tradition of Hot Cross Buns in Holy Week – eaten on Good Friday. You may wish for them to sing the traditional Hot Cross Buns Rhyme too.

Continuous Provision	Learning activities/Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playdough Hot Cross Buns 	<p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <p><i>Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort</i></p>



- Hot Cross Buns – look at the shape of the cross on top of the bun. This reminds us that Jesus was going to die on a cross. People make them every year to remember Jesus. Have you seen some in the shops/home?
- You might wish to make Hot Cross Buns – easy recipe (see SharePoint for recipe suggestion) or decorate some sweet ready-made buns with an icing cross.

Assess Pupils'...WAYS OF KNOWING	Informal / Formal Assessment Comments
UNDERSTAND <i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday. • In Holy Week Christians hear about The Last Supper. • Jesus shared a special meal with His friends. • Jesus asks people to remember him. Hot Cross Buns remind us of Jesus on the cross.	
DISCERN <i>How will I discover more? What can I do now?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians share bread and wine to remember Jesus. 	
RESPOND <i>How will I find out more?</i> Respond to the story of the Last Supper and how Jesus and His friends were feeling.	

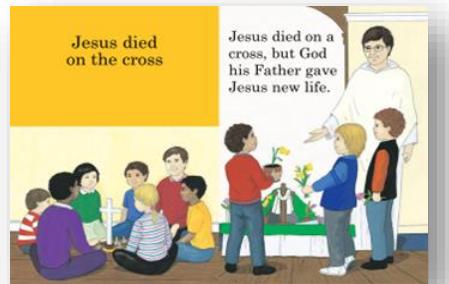
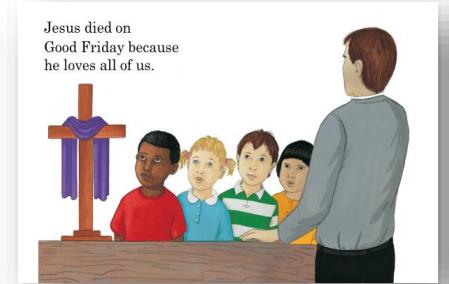
FOURTH TEACHING SEQUENCE
RECEPTION BRANCH 4

Good Friday and Easter Sunday

HEAR & BELIEVE & CELEBRATE			LIVE	WAYS OF KNOWING
<p>A simplified version of key events of Holy Week</p> <p>Good Friday & Easter Sunday</p> <p><i>Please note the chosen Scripture is not referenced in the RED – Please follow the guidance below</i></p>	<p>Simple Religious symbols in Lent and Easter</p> <p>Good Friday & Easter Sunday</p>	<p>Representations of Holy Week ...</p> <p>Good Friday & Easter Sunday</p>	<p>Various cultures celebrate Easter in different ways.</p> <p>Polish Easter Baskets</p>	<p>UNDERSTAND <i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday. • In Holy Week Christians hear about Good Friday. • Easter Sunday is celebrated at the end of Lent • Jesus died on the cross. • God gave Jesus new life. • Easter baskets are made in other countries/cultures to celebrate the Easter Story. <p>DISCERN <i>How will I discover more? What can I do now?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about and respond to the events of Holy Week • Talk about and wonder about the events of Holy Week <p>RESPOND <i>What can I do now?</i></p>
Scripture (HEAR) Good News Translation				

Jesus died on the cross. But this was not the end of the story!

Please use the images from God's Story 1 instead of Scripture read directly from the Bible and retell the story of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please follow the instructions in Teacher's Notes to share the symbols of Good Friday and Easter with children and the images from God's Story.



What do you see?

Where is the cross? Why do you think they have candles? (Make a link to lighting a candle when listening to God's Word.)

What do you think the people are doing?

Jesus died on a cross. When he was dying, he saw Mary, his mother and his best friend standing near. He said to them, "Take care of each other." And they did.

Good Friday is a special day. It is a sad day because people remember that Jesus died on a cross.

It is a good day because people remember how much Jesus loved us all.

The cross is special because it helps us to remember Jesus' great love.

Help children to learn to make the sign of the cross.

But God his Father gave Jesus new life.

What do you see? (Easter garden, cross, flowers, empty tomb)

What are the children doing?

What is the priest wearing? (white vestments - white is the Church's Easter colour. 'Alleluia' is the special Easter prayer.)

What do you think the people are doing?

Easter Sunday is a happy day. The priest wears white vestments. White is the special Easter colour. Some churches have an Easter garden to help people remember that Jesus died and was buried, but God his Father gave him new life. Spring flowers are a symbol of new life. Easter is the Church's celebration of new life for Jesus and for everyone.

Teacher Notes

It is important for teachers to read the notes below and not to focus on the death of Jesus but the new life of Jesus. It is important to tell the stories Good Friday and Easter Sunday together.

God's Story 1 Notes

It is enough for young children to know that Good Friday celebrates the day on which Jesus died.

By placing a cross in a place of honour, with growing plants or flowers and lights, we may begin to lead young children to recognise the cross as special, to be honoured with love and respect.

They will begin to have a sense of death and life and 'life through death'. The focus here is on how younger children can participate in the celebration of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The Easter Garden (p.35) is a symbol for them of the Easter events.

Good Friday is a special day. It is a sad day because people remember that Jesus died on the cross.

It is a good day because people remember how much Jesus loved us all.

The cross is special because it helps us to remember Jesus' great love.

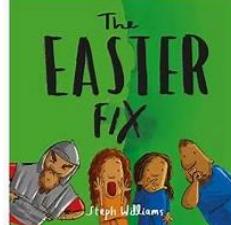
From a purple cloth to a white cloth - The colour reflects the season, so that for instance in Advent purple is used, a colour of royalty because we are preparing to welcome the coming of a king. Purple is used again in Lent because it also symbolises suffering and pain.

At Christmas and Easter, the colour changes to white or gold, both bright optimistic colours for festivals, times for joy and celebration. Between the festivals green cloths symbolise all living things, renewal and promise of new life. And finally, red is the colour of fire, used in churches to celebrate Pentecost and saints' days.



Easter Sunday is a happy day. The priest wears white vestments. White is the special Easter colour. Some churches have an Easter garden to help people remember that Jesus died and was buried, but God his Father gave him new life.

Spring flowers are a symbol of new life. Easter is the Church's celebration of new life for Jesus and for everyone.

Continuous Provision	Learning activities/Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Box – small world play and reenact the story of Good Friday and Easter Sunday Sort pictures from the Easter Fix images. Use small world items/symbols from the Golden Box to organize the four events they have heard from Holy Week - signs and symbols – purple, Lenten prayers, ashes, palms (branches) Children to identify Easter – White, cross, flowers, garden, eggs, lambs, chicks etc which bring New Life just as Jesus did. Spring Crafts Easter Cards <p></p> <p>Fingerprints</p>	<p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <p>Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind the children that Holy Week is special week. We have heard two stories – Palm Sunday and The Last Supper – show on a timeline. The next two stories we will hear are about Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please follow the words given above from God's Story and instructions for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Retell the story using the focus table as shown in the images above. You may wish to retell using these items from the Golden Box and let children use them for their small world play later. Retell the story using the Easter Fix children's story https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mvmow7vvml Sequencing/sorting/retell/sentences using the slides on the PPT or PDF images – see SharePoint for resources. <p><i>The Easter Fix by Steph Williams</i></p> <p></p> <p>Can be bought also from -</p> <p>https://www.eden.co.uk/shop/search.php?products%5Bquery%5D=the%20easter%20fix</p>

 <p>https://leesfieldprimary.co.uk/curriculum/religious-education/religious-education-gallery.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tissue flowers • Tissue to add to the large cross for display 	<p>Hymns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Burland https://johnburland.net/videos/new-life/ hymn with lyrics and movement <p>Learning Outcome/Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday. • In Holy Week Christians hear about Good Friday. • Jesus died on the cross. • Easter Sunday is celebrated at the end of Lent. • God gave Jesus new life. <p>Learning activities/Objectives</p> <p><i>How will I discover more?</i> <i>What can I do now?</i> <i>What if? Wonder about? Awe and Wonder, Imagining, similarities, differences, views, preferences, identify, names, experiences, creative and artistic expression</i></p> <p>Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using images - recognise the events of Holy Week – how they happen in order. Talk about and remember with the children – talk about the feelings of people involved and Jesus throughout the week. How do they feel about the events? You may have other events throughout this branch such as growing chicks, growing flowers, planting etc – use all of this to celebrate new life.
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Making an Easter Garden

- A lovely way to celebrate the good news of Good Friday is to share the new life of Easter Sunday and combine this with the season of Spring.
- You might wish to send this idea home for children to make with their families
- As the garden or brought from home ask the children to retell the story – ***what have they included? Do they know why? What are they wondering about?***
- Use the Easter Garden tutorial and you may wish to pause at certain times for children to make the garden however, this can also be used for teacher subject knowledge. The downloaded version is on the SharePoint but you can download also from here <https://request.org.uk/resource/restart/2017/02/23/make-an-easter-garden/>



- Growing Cress in egg shell - <https://www.sunhatsandwellieboots.com/2021/03/grow-your-own-easter-garden-in-egg.html>

Decorating crosses for new life

- You may wish to decorate the focus table or outside the classroom.
- Make a large cross for children to add bright spring colours in tissue paper or similar.
- Or make stained glass crosses for the windows/parish church to display at Easter using bright Spring colours.



Learning Outcomes/Expectations

- Talk about and respond to the events of Holy Week
- Talk about and wonder about the events of Holy Week

Teacher Notes –

Various cultures celebrate Easter in different ways.

Polish Easter Baskets - Easter Saturday

Swieconka(sh-vee-en-soon-kah) is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday. The basket is traditionally lined with a white linen or lace napkin and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (bukszpan), the typical Easter evergreen. Poles take special pride in preparing a decorative and tasteful basket with crisp linens, occasionally embroidered for the occasion, and just enough boxwood and ribbon woven through the handle.

Poswiecenie Pokarmow - Blessing of Food

The Blessing of the Food is a festive occasion. The three-part blessing prayers specifically address the various contents of the basket, with special prayers for the meats, eggs, cakes & breads.

Prayer for the Blessing of the Breads and Holiday Baked Goods

The blessing addresses the Bread of Life who died and rose for the life of the world, invoking Him to bless the bread and holiday baked goods in memory of the Bread which is offered at the Priest's hands which becomes His Body.

Prayer for the Blessing of the Meats and Sausages

The blessing addresses the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. The Lamb is invoked and asked to bless the meats and sausages, which will become the holiday meal in memory of the Paschal Lamb, as He gave to the Apostles at the Last Supper.

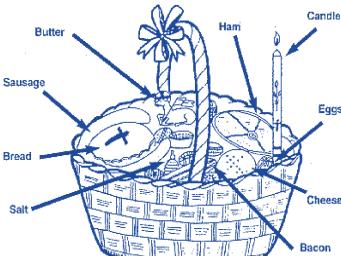
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Holy Saturday: The Polish community bring in the food they are going to eat on Easter Sunday for a blessing of the baskets.

The day before Easter Sunday – the Saturday activity is the preparation of Easter baskets.

Lined with a white linen or lace napkin and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (bukszpan), the baskets contain a sampling of Easter foods:

pisanki, a piece of sausage or ham, salt and pepper, bread, a piece of cake and an Easter Lamb made of sugar or even plastic. They are brought to church to be blessed.



<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Polish-Easter-Saturday-blessing.pdf>

<https://www.polishamericancenter.org/SwieconkaBasket.htm>

Continuous Provision	<p style="text-align: center;">Learning activities/Objectives</p> <p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <p>Recognise - name, remember, recall, label, identify, match, sort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polish Easter baskets are a great way to end Lent by sharing the abundance of food Christians may have given up over Lent. Please read the Teacher's Notes for some subject knowledge. • There are a few ways they can be celebrated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Make a class basket to share with the local foodbank</i> - <i>Make group baskets to share with the church/parish for blessing before taking to the Foodbank</i> - <i>Ask the parish priest or deacon to bless the baskets you have made</i> - <i>Invite parents in to celebrate with food inside the basket (class made Hot Cross Buns/Easter egg cakes etc)</i> - <i>Make individual baskets using paper plates decorated by the children.</i> <p>Adapt the food inside the basket to suit your class and how you are going to share them.</p> <p>Learning Outcome/Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter baskets are made in other countries/cultures to celebrate the Easter Story.
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Assess Pupils'...WAYS OF KNOWING	Informal / Formal Assessment Comments
<p>UNDERSTAND</p> <p><i>What will I see and hear to help me understand?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week is a special week before Easter Sunday. • In Holy Week Christians hear about Good Friday. • Easter Sunday is celebrated at the end of Lent • Jesus died on the cross. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gave Jesus new life. <p>Easter baskets are made in other countries/cultures to celebrate the Easter Story.</p>	
<p>DISCERN</p> <p><i>How will I discover more? What can I do now?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about and respond to the events of Holy Week • Talk about and wonder about the events of Holy Week 	