



Catholic Schools Week 2025

# Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ

19–25 January 2025

First and Second Class/P3 and P4





## Strand Units – Level 2

### CHRISTIAN FAITH

#### Mystery of God

- God sent Jesus to show us how much he loves us and to teach us how to love others.
- God our Father sent his son, Jesus, to tell us the Good News.
- Christians bless themselves in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God is our loving Father and Creator (Gn 1:26-7).
- God is good (Ps 116:1).
- God knows us and loves us (Ps 139).
- God is my friend.

#### Mystery of Jesus Christ

- Jesus showed his love for God his Father by praying to God, by his actions and by his preaching of the Good News.
- Jesus had many friends.

#### Mystery of the Church/Kingdom

- The way of life of the parish involves caring, sharing, and praying together (CCC, 2179; *Revised Core Syllabus for Religious Education [CSRE]*, 2a).
- The church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.
- Our family helps us become friends of Jesus.
- The priest/teacher helps us to become friends of Jesus (*Lumen Gentium [LG]*, 10).

#### Creation

- God created everything there is: the earth, people, stars, animals, birds, plants and trees (Gn 1; *LG*, 2; CCC, 212, 290, 325; *CSRE*, 1b).
- God cares for all creation (Wis 8:1; CCC, 303).
- God's creation is good (Gn 1:31; CCC, 299, 339; *CSRE*, 1b).

### WORD OF GOD

#### Sacred Scripture

- John 13:34-35
- John 11:1-44
- John 4:5-30
- Luke 19:1-10
- Matthew 26:17-30
- Luke 1:46-50
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
- Ephesians 1:4-5



## LITURGY AND PRAYER

### Prayer

- God calls us to prayer and we respond (*Gaudium et Spes*, 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)

### Formal Prayers

- Sign of the Cross
- Glory be to the Father ...
- Our Father

## CHRISTIAN MORALITY

### Human Dignity

- Christian Morality.
- Human Dignity.
- God loves each one of us (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:10-11; *CSRE*, 3a).
- I am unique/special because God created me (CCC, 1004; Gn 1:26-7; Ps 137:14).
- I am called to love God and to love others (Mt 22:36-40).
- Every person is special in the eyes of God (CCC, 225, 356-61, 369, 1604, 1700-1, 1944-6, 2319, 2334; *CSRE*, 3a).



## Monday: Life to the Full in Our Community of Friends

‘Friendship is a generous, self-giving love, which leads us to seek the true good of our friend. A friend accompanies, encourages, shares with and helps the other person to grow, since one’s capacity for self-giving increases.’ (Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, 151)



### Background for Teacher

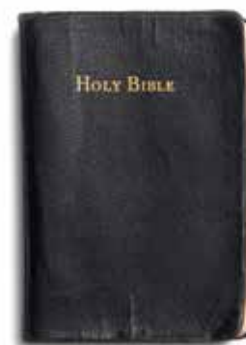
The purpose of our lives is to live as fully as possible. The school community is an important place of social learning for young people; it is one of the most important places for children to learn safely how to get along together and how to be their best selves as created by God. School provides the environment where all may try new experiences and learning; where relationships are tested as well as enjoyed; where love, trust and forgiveness are shared and modelled in the example of Jesus.



### Connecting with *Grow in Love*

*Grow in Love: First Class/Primary 3:* Theme 2, Lesson 5; Theme 5, Lessons 1-3.

*Grow in Love: Second Class/Primary 4:* Theme 2, Lessons 4 & 5; Theme 5, Lessons 1-3.



### Connecting with Scripture

‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’ (Jn 13:34-35)



## Consider

How to model and nurture our friendships through the example provided by Jesus.

## Explore

Kalem was sent to the kitchen to help his sister Leah with her homework while Mum was preparing the dinner. Kalem didn't really want to help Leah because he wanted to go out to kick a ball before it got dark. Leah was ready to start crying as she was tired after her day in the junior class. Kalem took her book and instead of helping Leah to do the work, he did it for her, matching the words to the pictures. Leah wasn't happy with this as she wanted to do it herself so she was getting upset. Kalem felt sorry for Leah and rubbed out the work that he had done in Leah's book. He then showed Leah how to match the first word to a picture by sounding out the word first.

Next day, when Kalem was in his class, the teacher from Leah's class came to his classroom and asked him to go to Leah's class. Leah was standing waiting for Kalem. Kalem thought he was in trouble. Then Leah's teacher said to Leah: 'You may start now, Leah.' Leah walked over to Kalem and took his hand and said to the class: 'Kalem is my show and tell. I want to show my brother to you because he helped me with my homework yesterday.' Kalem was very happy and very proud. He bent down and gave Leah a hug while everyone clapped.

## Discuss

- How do you feel when you are asked to do something for someone else when you want to go and play?
- Who needed help in Kalem's house? (Leah and Mum)
- Why did Kalem rub out the work he had done?
- What difference did his kindness make to Leah?
- How would you feel if that happened to you?
- How could you do something like this in our class?
- How can you help others to do and be their best?
- When did you last tell someone in your class that you thought that they had done something well or kind?

## Prayer

**Hymn:** 'Circle of Friends' (*Grow in Love: First Class/Primary 3 Teacher's Manual*, p. 84, and *Grow in Love: Second Class Teacher's Manual*, p. 44)

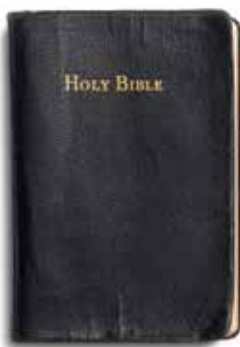
Let us pray to God, our Father: Our Father ...



## Tuesday: Life to the Full in Our Faith Community

### Background for Teacher

Family is the first place where children learn their values and where faith is chosen as a gift for them. Faith in Jesus is lived in community as Jesus always called people together to pray and support one another. Our parish community is the place of belonging, of prayer and of support for all who have chosen to follow Jesus. We need one another to live as followers of Jesus. It is important that we all connect with the parish community if our friendship with Jesus is to grow as we grow. Children will learn that they are important in their parish and that they have a role to play that will make a difference.



### Connecting with Scripture

*Adaptation of 1 Corinthians 12:12-26*

‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

### Consider

What do you know about your parish?

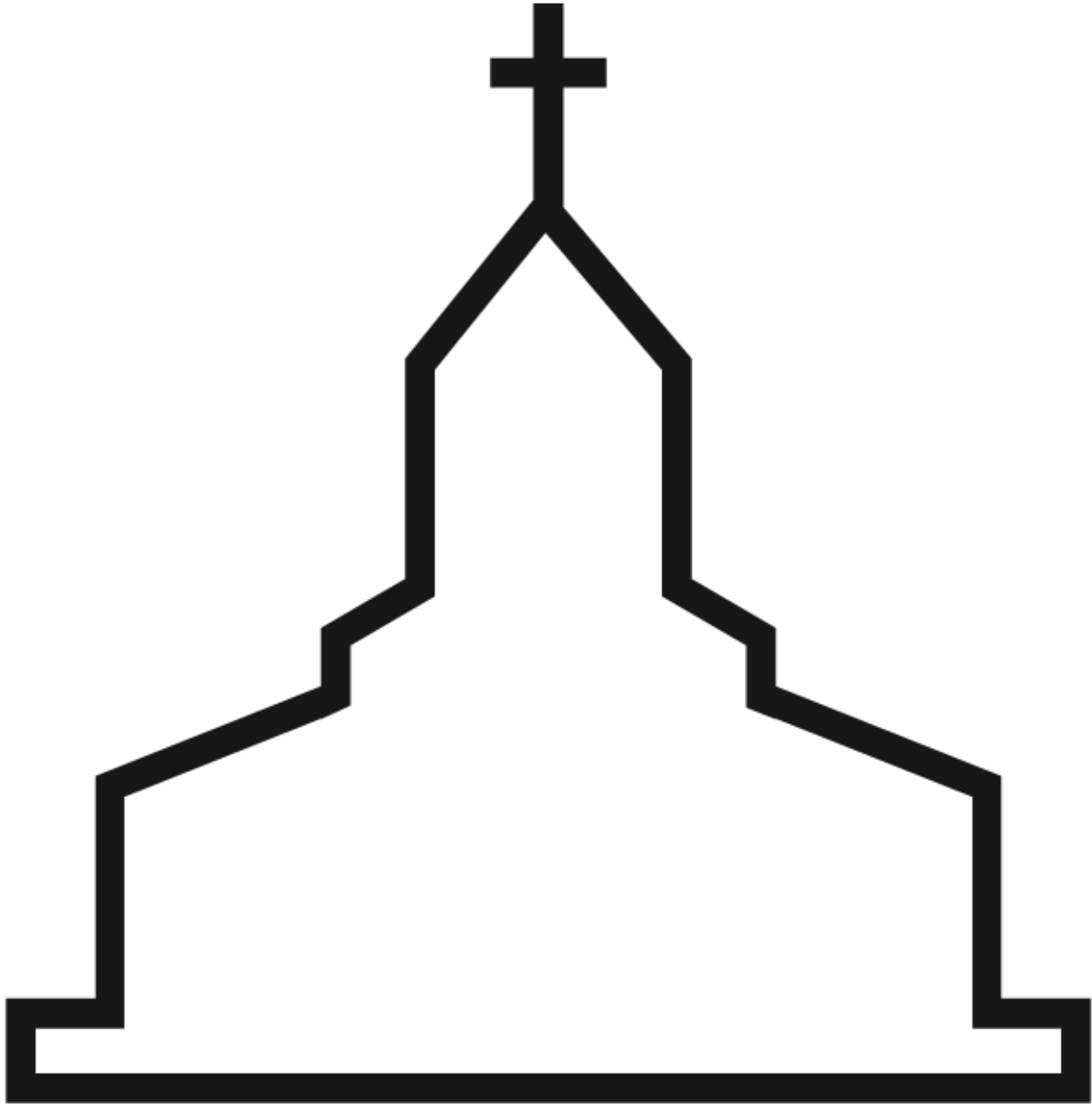
### Explore:

- Who are the people who work in the parish? (Priest, sacristan, altar servers, choir, cleaners, etc.)
- Could you visit the church with the class and interview someone who works in the church/or invite them into the school to talk with them?
- When was the first time you were brought to the church? (Probably baptism.)
- What do we do when we go to the church? (Light candles, sit and pray, listen to stories about



God from the Bible, see the bread and wine being changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus through the actions of the priest, see people receiving Holy Communion or receive a blessing if we have not made our First Holy Communion yet, etc.)

Draw a picture (in the outline below) of something that you like to do in the church.



## **Prayer**

*Sign of the Cross*

**Hymn:** 'Gathering Song', (*Grow in Love: First Class/Primary 3 Teacher's Manual*, p. 85, and *Grow in Love: Second Class/Primary 4 Teacher's Manual*, p. 88.)

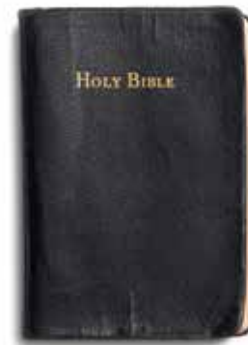
*Sign of the Cross*





## Wednesday: Life to the Full in Our Families

“The Lord trusts that young people, through their relationships with the elderly, will realise that they are called to cultivate memory and recognise the beauty of being part of a much larger history. Friendship with an older person can help the young to see life not only in terms of the present and realise that not everything depends on them and their abilities. For the elderly, the presence of a young person in their lives can give them hope that their experience will not be lost and that their dreams can find fulfilment.”  
(Pope Francis, *Message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*, 23 July 2023)



### Background for Teacher

Today we celebrate the gift of each member of our family, with a particular focus on grandparents and the grandparenting generation. We give thanks to God for the gift of grandparents and ask God's blessing on them, particularly in their role in handing on the gift of faith. Grandparents are often the people who can help nurture the soul place of spiritual being – the connection with our divine purpose in God who is at the heart of each one of us.

### Connecting with Scripture

‘And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.”’ (Lk 1:46-50)

### Consider

Grandparents have a special role to play in sharing friendship across generations. They find common ground that all can enjoy. They encourage children to be their best selves through love shared and time given.





## Story

Grandpa Billy was looking forward to seeing his grandchildren after school. They always had lots of fun in Grandpa's house. Grandpa Billy's house was beside a big river where the swans and ducks swam by each day. Grandpa Billy often told the children about how he swam in the river when he was a boy. Leena and Jeevan loved to hear Billy's stories and to help him when he was building their playhouse or shelves for their books or toys.

When they were with Grandpa Billy, Jeevan loved to tell him about his day in school, about who he played with in the yard and what he made in art. Leena liked to go down to the river with Grandpa to skim stones and sing songs as she pretended to row a boat and watched the canoes go by. The children both learned how to fish, to help fix furniture and to know the names of the many different plants in Grandpa's beautiful garden.

Grandpa Billy helped in his parish church. Leena and Jeevan often went with him when he was fixing furniture or doors in the church and helped carry the tools for him. They usually lit a candle with Grandpa's help when they were there.



## Discuss

- What did the children do with Grandpa Billy?
- What is your granny/grandad's name?
- What do you like to do with them?
- What is special about your granny or grandad?
- What do you learn from your grandparents?



Teachers should use their discretion in relation to these activities if pupils have recently lost grandparents or are not in contact with grandparents. All classes can engage with the following activities at different levels.

## Prayer Card

Decorate the prayer card and draw a portrait of grandparent inside the card.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>God, our Father, Thank you for our grandparents. Thank you for the love they share with us. Please give them all the blessings they need. Amen.</i></p>
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## Thursday: Life to the Full, for and with Others

### Background for Teacher

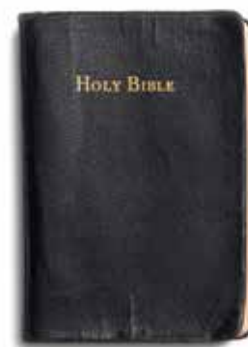
We share our world with people of all nations who live all around the world and in our own country. We have many differences, and these differences challenge us to become better and more understanding people. Our many differences add a variety of experiences and opportunities to learn from one another. As followers of Jesus we are called to value every person as a unique creation of God with a great purpose, wherever they or we are right now. We are called to open our hearts to be inclusive of all regardless of their abilities, skin colour or country of origin in the same way that Jesus welcomed Samaritans and those cast out by the people of his time. All are welcome before God, and as we are a part of God, we must also be welcoming. The classroom is a place where justice, inclusion and diversity are cherished and nurtured.



### Connecting with *Grow in Love*

*Grow in Love: First Class/Primary 3:* Theme 9, Creation.

*Grow in Love: Second Class/Primary 4:* Theme 9, Creation.



### Connecting with Scripture

'Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.' (1 Cor 12:4-11)



## Consider

Take time to consider how diversity makes our school a better place and brings the world into our classrooms.

## Explore

Take note of the diversity in your own classroom.

## Discuss

- How many languages are spoken by children in your classroom?
- How do you say **Hello** and/or **Welcome** in each of these languages?
- Take time to allow every person to name one thing that they are really good at.
- What difference does it make when we are all good at different things?
- What would it be like if we were all exactly the same?
- What is good about us all being different from one another?

## Activity

Make a poster with the word **Hello** or **Welcome** written in each language spoken by children in the classroom.

## Prayer

*Sign of the Cross*

**Guided Meditation** (use quiet music in background at a level that is just audible)

Close your eyes.

Feel your breathe without changing it or making any sound. (pause)

You are breathing in cool air and breathing out warm air. (pause)

Go into your heart space where God is waiting for you.

Perhaps you can see or feel God with you or just know that God is there.

Be with God.

Using your quiet inner voice, tell God how you are feeling right now.

Tell God about anyone who has shown love to you today.

Thank God for each person you have been with today.

Just be with God.

Now feel your breath again, notice the sounds in the room.

Bring yourself back into the classroom and open your eyes.

*Sign of the Cross*



# Friday: Life to the Full for the Common Good of All

‘To safeguard our common home and cultivate our common home, protecting it from the exploitation of its resources and adopting a more sober lifestyle marked by the use of renewable energy sources and respect for the natural and human environment.’ (‘7th Commitment’, *Global Compact on Education*, p. 16)



## Background for Teacher

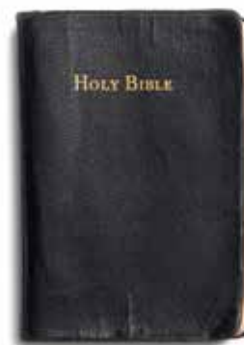
The Green Schools work has engaged children very actively in how to care for their environment and how to realise that the efforts of each person makes a big difference. The created world is ours to sustain, to improve and to use well in the present and is a gift to be passed on to generations in the future. God has entrusted the care of the earth to us as co-creators so that its resources can be used well by all who dwell on the earth at any one time and can belong equally to all of us. The world is a global village for which we all share responsibility.



## Connecting with *Grow in Love*

*Grow in Love: First Class/Primary 3:* Theme 9, Creation.

*Grow in Love: Second Class/Primary 4:* Theme 9, Creation.



## Connecting with Scripture

‘For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.’ (Rm 1:20)



## Consider

How to increase plant diversity and pollen sources in the school environment.

## Story

God created a beautiful world with all that we need for food, shelter and heat provided for us. God has given every person and every creature special jobs to do in the world. Bees are one of those creatures with very special and important jobs to do in the world! Let's hear what Berta Bee does.

Berta Bee loved the bright sunny day as she buzzed from flower to flower in the garden. She flicked her tongue into centre of the flowers and took out the nectar to make honey. The pollen got stuck on her body as she moved from flower to flower. The sticky pollen rubbed off on other flowers. Berta loved to spread the pollen, as she knew that the spreading of pollen would make more flowers grow. Berta and all her bee friends need lots of flowers to make enough honey and keep the world full of beautiful flowers and plants. Bees are really good friends and gardeners for people. People need Berta and her friends to do their job spreading pollen so that there will be enough plants to provide food and enough flowers to keep our world bright and beautiful.

## Discuss

- Who created the world for us?
- What kind of world did God make for us?
- Name some animals that God created?
- Name some flowers and plants that God created?
- What did Berta like to do?
- What did she do with the pollen?
- What does the pollen do?
- What can we do to provide more flowers and plants for Berta and her friends?

## Activity

Sow some wild flowers in the school garden, or in containers, to increase the food and pollen sources for the bees in summer time.

