



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Local Church / Community – MISSION – Y5

*Note to teachers/parents and carers.

This work comes from the *Come and See* Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that children may have come across under normal timetabling in school. We have suggested and selected a small amount of the programme. The activities aim to keep Religious Education practical and fun. They are in Year groups however, there is no harm in completing other year group work as this will help children to remember and strengthen their learning.

The first part of learning is called – **EXPLORE**. This shares your child's everyday experiences and helps them to see how the Catholic faith is lived in their everyday lives. The second part, called – **REVEAL** shares Scripture stories and Church Tradition that links to their everyday life.

This topic is part of the LOCAL CHURCH theme. The experience of community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. In normal times, the cycle of a year and the span of a lifetime contain occasions for regular celebrations as well as unexpected surprises, when people want to celebrate with family, friends and communities. The Church's celebrations are community occasions. On Sundays, the parish family gathers together. It is a time to remember how much there is to celebrate; a time to say thank you; a time to know that God's love is offered and made visible here and now in Jesus and in people. Sacraments are more formal special moments: signs of 'God-with-us', who journeys with his people; signs of strength and blessing for life.

The Church, the Christian family, is made up of smaller Christian families called dioceses. Each diocese is led by a bishop. The bishops continue the work of 'the twelve', the apostles, who continued the work and mission of Jesus. Jesus is the head of these families. He is the head of the Church. There are other Christian families which are not part of the Catholic Church. Ecumenism is the word used for promoting unity among Christian churches. One of the final prayers of Jesus was that all Christian families might be one.

YEAR 5 – MISSION – EXPLORE

The mission of inspirational leaders

Children may be able to **make links** to show how inspirational leaders affect their own and others behaviour.

Children may be able to **compare** their own and other people's ideas about questions about what inspires people in their mission.

Children may be able to begin to **show and understanding** of how their own and others' decisions in carrying out their mission in communities are informed by beliefs and values.



Tom's Mission:

Many people have heard of Captain Sir Tom Moore and admired his efforts to raise money for the NHS during the COVID pandemic.

He told the NHS workers: *"You are entering into something where you are putting yourself in danger and you're doing that for the good of all the people here. You are doing a marvellous, marvellous job."*

Tom wanted to give something back to the healthcare staff that were putting their lives at risk every day for us all and that had looked after him when he needed medical care.

He made it his mission to raise £1,000 for NHS charities setting himself the target of doing 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday. Nearly £40 million pounds later, Tom has inspired a whole nation and drawn admiration and praise from the whole world!

Carrying on his mission, Tom and his family have identified causes close to their hearts which will now benefit from the newly formed *Captain Tom Foundation*. These include:

- Combatting loneliness
- Supporting those facing bereavement
- Championing education and equality
- Supporting friends overseas



The mission is to get as many people as possible walking, talking, spreading hope, and easing loneliness. People everywhere are invited to join his 'army of hope'.

Saint John Henry Newman wrote some famous lines about everyone having a special task in life. It may seem to be ordinary and simple, but if it is done in love for God and our neighbour, it is a definite task or mission which is special to each person.

He wrote:

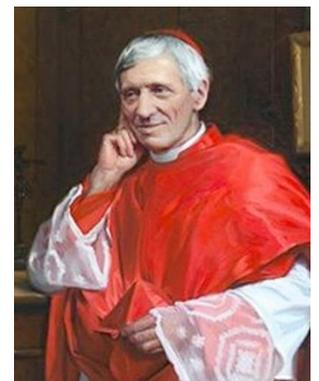
God has created me

To do Him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me

Which he has not committed to another.

I have my mission.



Some questions to answer:

How and why did Captain Tom start his inspirational mission?

What do you think are the demands and joys of such dedication?

What is the purpose of the Captain Tom Foundation?

Why do you think that Captain Tom's words, "Tomorrow will be a good day" are a good motto for the foundation to follow?

How do you think Blessed John Henry Newman's words link to Captain Tom's inspirational mission?

Activity:

- Create an action plan to begin your own charity. What is your mission? Who or what is your inspiration? What will you do and why? What demands and joys would this bring?

At the end of Exploring about **MISSION**, think about all the charities you know and support. Reflect on their mission, their inspiration, the time, energy, care, love given for others. Is there a charity that you could do something special for this year like Captain Tom did?

YEAR 5 – MISSION – REVEAL

Dioceses continue the work and mission of Jesus including ecumenism

Children may be able to **make links** between how Jesus undertook his mission to share the Good News and how each diocese continues that mission and work today.

Children may be able to **give reasons** why people carry out Jesus' mission in different ways through what they say and do.

Children may be able to **describe and** begin to **show they understand** how dioceses and different Christian communities continue to carry out the work and mission of Jesus and show what it means to belong to a church community. They may be able to **make links** between this and what they have read in scripture

Children may begin to be able to **show they understand** why Christians, because of what they believe, want to share the mission of Jesus and do so in different ways.

Jesus' Mission:

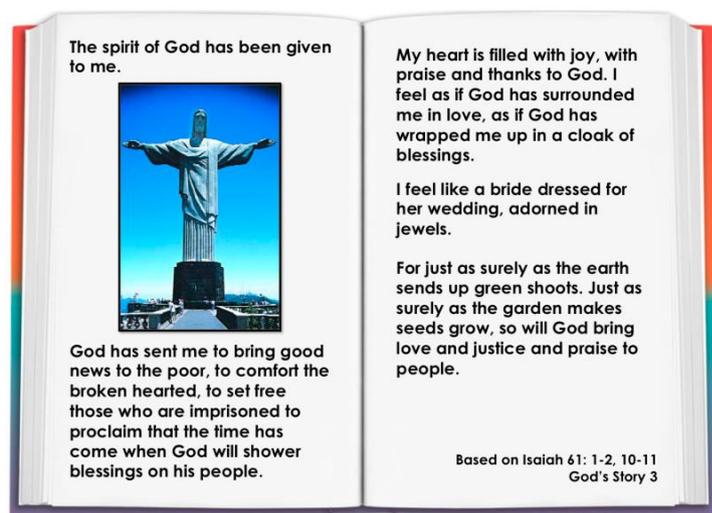
In the Gospels, we read about Jesus' mission. 'Gospel' means 'Good News'. The Good News Jesus came to make known is that God loves each of us and that living in God's Way brings love, justice and peace for the entire world.

In his Gospel, Luke shows us how Jesus chooses God's way and begins his mission. He not only preached the Good News through His words, but He powerfully demonstrated the Good News through His actions. Jesus particularly delighted in doing this among the poor, the weak, the hurting and the rejected in society. He started this when he was about 30 years old. Jesus did not carry out his mission on his own, he called people to be with him and they were inspired to work with him. He travelled through towns and villages preaching and proclaiming the Good News. He chose twelve people to be his apostles and share his mission. The twelve apostles and some women went with him.

When Jesus started his mission, he attended the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. He was given the privilege of reading from the scripture and selected a reading from the prophet Isaiah. This reading became the basis of his mission during his teaching and preaching.

Read the passage and talk about the questions below:

- Why was the Spirit of God given to Jesus?
- How does Isaiah describe God's love?
- How do you think the people felt as they listened to those words?
- Who are the people mentioned by Isaiah?
- Why did he select those people in particular?
- Where do you think we see these people today?



Activities:

- Explore the text of the hymn by John Burland's song, *Called to Change the World* (below).

Write a short paragraph which explains the links between both the words from the hymn and the message of Isaiah and say how this mission can be lived out today.

Called to Change the World:

Verse 1

We've gathered in your name
Our hearts won't we the same
We've heard your Word
A fire starts
It's time for us to go
United hand in hand
Together we will stand
One people, one body,
Called to change the world...

Chorus

Showing love for all to see
Walk by faith so we can be
The hands and feet of Jesus,
a witness in His name.
Bringing peace to every heart
Giving hope for a new start

The hands and feet of Jesus,
a witness in His name.

Just like Jesus sent them out so long ago
Go into the world and tell the Good News

Verse 2

To every land we'll go
To let all people know
God's love is there
For everyone
Just open up your heart
The Spirit guides the way
With courage for each day
One people, one body,
Called to change the world...

John Burland

- Create a 'wanted' poster to attract suitable people to share Jesus' mission. Indicate how they might be inspired to do this and give reasons for your choices and try to make links with any other scripture passages you have read.

How the mission of Jesus continues today:

We have been finding out about the mission of Jesus and how he called others, like the Apostles, to follow him. We know that the mission of Jesus continues today.

Pope Francis guides the Universal Church, but closer to home, Bishops and Archbishops look after their Dioceses or Archdioceses and priests look after their parishes.



The bishop's / archbishop's church in a diocese / archdiocese is called a Cathedral. This is where the bishop / archbishop, as leader of the Christian community in the diocese, has his seat and celebrates Mass. The name Cathedral comes from the Greek word '*Cathedra*' meaning chair or seat. This is a symbol of his responsibility and authority, and he takes his seat when he celebrates Mass. The Bishops are successors to the Apostles who helped Jesus with his mission. The role of the Bishop is to unite all the parish families. They visit parishes, ordain men as deacons or priests, and celebrate confirmations. They care for people like shepherds who look after their sheep.

Look at the map of all the dioceses and archdioceses of England and Wales. Talk about them. Can you find the Archdiocese of Liverpool? Can you think of a reason why Liverpool is one of the smallest, but is an archdiocese, not a diocese?

Archbishop Malcolm and Bishop Tom look after our Archdiocese of Liverpool following the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

They wear symbols to show they follow the example of Jesus.



1. A cross to show they walk in the footsteps of Christ
2. A mitre to symbolise the 2 sources of authority – the Bible and the Church
3. The crozier – to show they are like a shepherd
4. The ring to show they are faithful to God and to leading their people.

Learn more about the Archdiocese of Liverpool from the booklet, "Local Church Information 20"

Talk about and try to answer these questions:

- How does the bishop guide the people of his diocese?
- Why does the bishop wear a mitre?
- What is a crozier like and why is that symbol used?
- How is the bishop like a shepherd?



Activity:

- Imagine you are a new bishop. Try to make links to scripture and other sources as you write a letter to the parishes to tell them about your mission in the diocese. Say how the activities you are involved in help to support and shape the life of people in the Archdiocese. Show how parishes can help because of what they believe and what their responsibilities are as church communities. You could look at the archdiocesan website to help you. <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Home-Page>

Christian Unity:

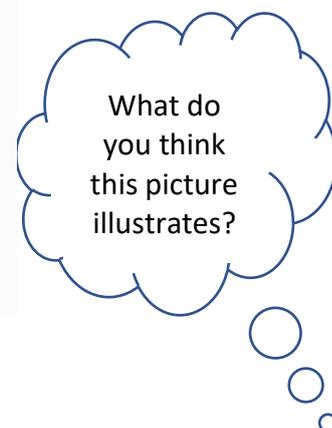
Until about 1530 the Church in England and Wales was Catholic. Then came a time of change in the world. People were beginning to have new ideas about what it meant to be a Christian. There were many arguments about religion. Many people split away from the Catholic Church because they wanted to reform it and were called reformers. A number of different Christian Churches were created.

In more recent times, Christians have tried to re-unite the Churches by emphasising what they have in common and not their differences. The Churches are united through Jesus Christ and made one by the Holy Spirit. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, all Christians are called to share Jesus' mission, but Christians carry it out in different ways.

All Christians are journeying towards God and towards unity, remembering Jesus' words that 'they may all be one.' This movement towards Christian unity is called ecumenism and all Christians have a responsibility through prayer and discussion to carry out Christ's commandment to 'love one another'. We do this through spreading the Good News and promoting justice and peace in the world in which we live. In January each year a *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* is said throughout the dioceses. (from 18th January to 25th 2021)

This is one of the prayers said during the week:

*God our Father,
you reveal to us your love through Christ
and through our brothers and sisters.
Open our hearts so that we can welcome each
other
with our differences and live in forgiveness.
Grant us to live united in one body,
so that the gift that is each person comes to light.
May all of us together be a reflection
of the living Christ.*



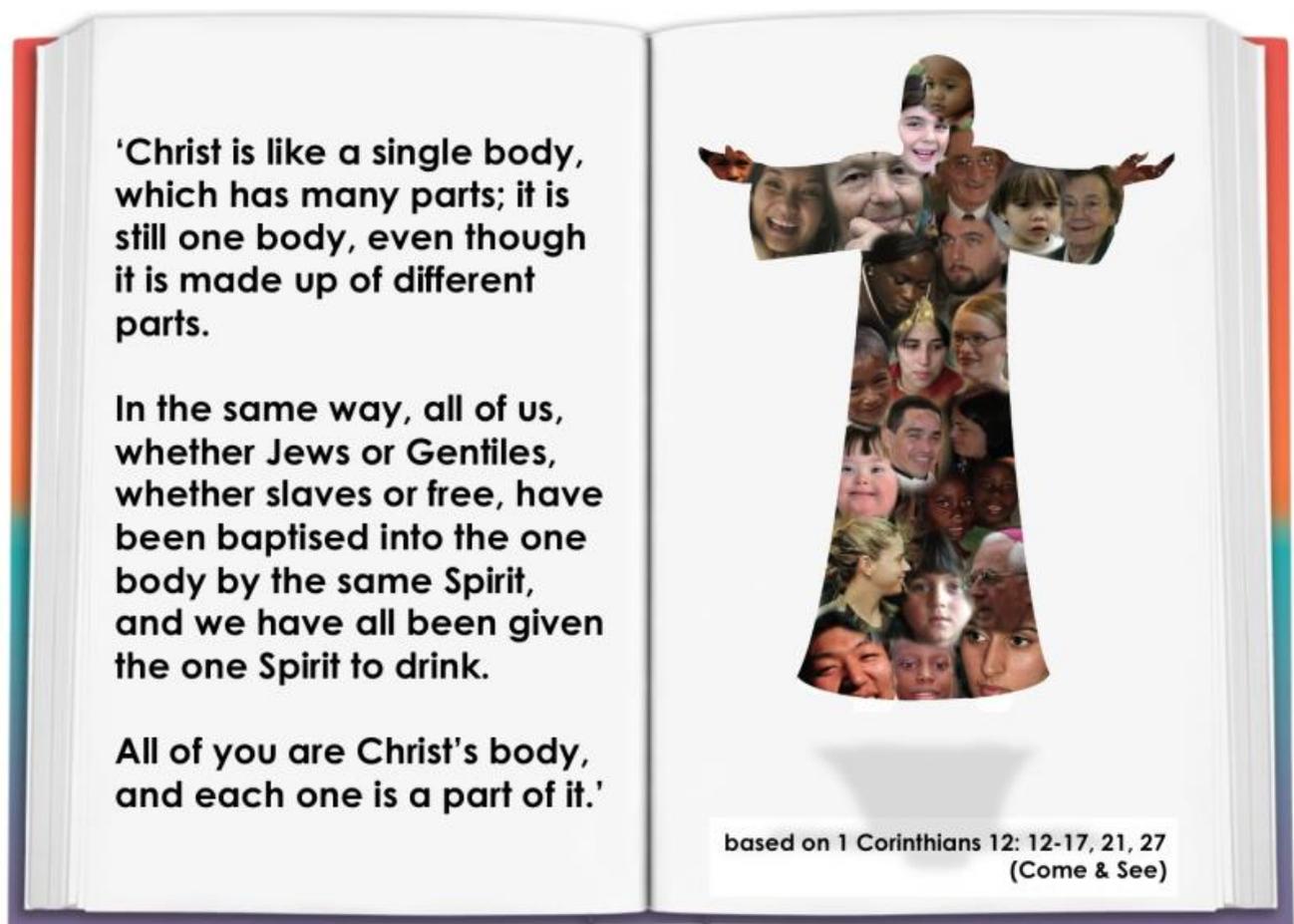
Activity:

- Research different Christian denominations e.g. Methodist, Baptist, Anglicans and Pentecostal. Ask the questions:
 - When did this Christian denomination begin?
 - Who is its leader? Who leads the worship?
 - What do you notice that is special or different about it?
 - How do people worship?
 - What do they believe?
 - What is the same?
 - What is the mission?

- Create a collage to celebrate the mission that all Christians have in common.

At the end of all the work you have done on **MISSION**, you might like to think of how we are called to carry on Christ's work today and how you can live out Jesus' mission in a simple way each day. Perhaps you could write your own prayer to ask God's help to do this.

As a family, gather and read the scripture below:



Say this prayer together:

We pray for all those who carry on the work of Jesus and for inspirational leaders who do great work in the service of others.

We thank God for all Church leaders and the work they do leading Christians towards God and towards unity.

We pray that Pope Francis may continue to lead the Catholic Church following the example of Peter.

We pray for Archbishop Malcolm and Bishop Tom who lead our Archdiocese, that they may continue to guide all our parish families.

We pray for all priests and deacons who lead our parish families

We pray for all Christians, remembering that we are all one in Jesus Christ. AMEN!

You may also like to say together the prayer that you wrote.

Remember during Christian Unity week (January 18th – 25th) to pray for unity among Christians everywhere so that we can all live out Jesus' mission together.

