



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Local Church / Community – COMMUNITY – YEAR 4

*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 bible stories that links to their everyday life.

The experience of community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. 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 Christian life is about journeying with Christ and sharing his way of life. The Church's year celebrates the key elements of Christ's life.

In the local church, lay people of all ages are called to undertake various roles called ministries by virtues of their Baptism and Confirmation. They help to build up the local community of the parish.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – YEAR 4 – Local Church COMMUNITY

EXPLORE: Belonging to a community

COMMUNITY

What is a Community?

Community is a group of people who share the same things, such as: where they ...

- ✓ live
- ✓ work
- ✓ play.



It is also a place where people solve problems together.



Each one of us belongs to several different communities, e.g. our family community, the school community, the parish community or the area where we live (our neighbourhood) etc. If you are part of a team or a member of a group then they too are another community that you belong to.

During the past year we have all seen the effects of the global Coronavirus pandemic. You will have heard about lots of ways in which communities have worked together to help and support each other. You might have done something yourself like collecting food for the local foodbank or you may have written to people in hospital or a care home to show that you are thinking about them. You may have also taken part in 'clapping for carers' to show how much we appreciate the work that they do to help us in our communities.

Think about your own 'class community'. What makes it function well? What are the ways in which individuals help make the class community a happy one?

The Castleford estate where Jack and Holly lived had a good community. Sister Christine who lived there was always thinking of good ideas to bring people together and help them take responsibility.

There were after school clubs to help children with homework, a rota for visiting the housebound people, a football club, a pre-school group where parents and carers could meet and talk. Sometimes, there were outings. Sister Christine organised a residents' committee which had responsibility for running the various activities and everyone who wanted to, had a part to play. The estate was a happy place to live.

One day a new family came to live on the estate. They had a little boy called Alfie who was deaf. Alfie went to a different school from the other children on the estate, so he did not know anyone. Jack saw him coming home from school and told Holly about him. They had not seen him at any of the activities. So, they decided to go and visit him...

Read this story about the Castleford community:

- Q What do you think are the advantages of being part of a community?
- Q What do you think are the demands of being part of a community?
- Q What helps to build up community?



Choose Activities

- What do you think happened next in the story about Alfie? Write your own ending showing how Jack or Holly and the community could help him.
- Make a chart with the headings

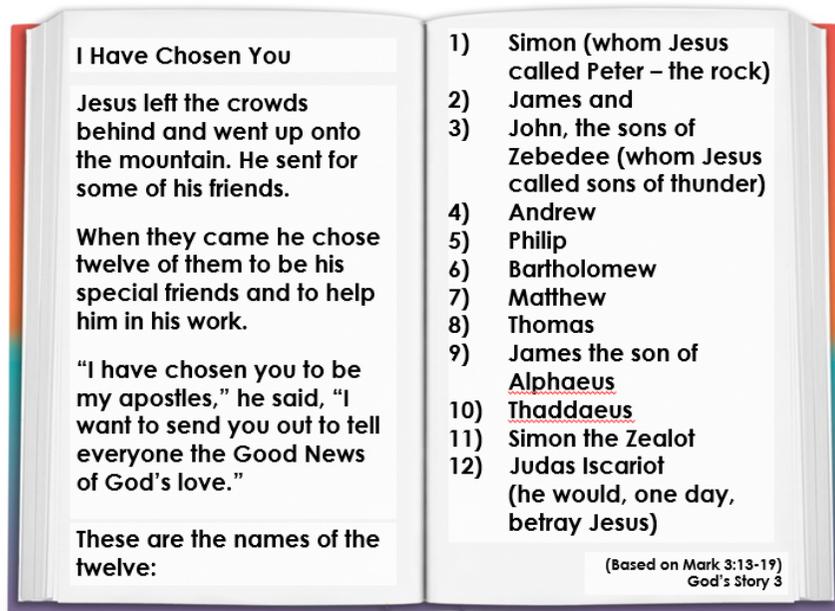
The community	The jobs people do	Commitment	Why they do it
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List as many of the jobs you know that people in the/your community do to help it run smoothly and what that commitment entails and why people do it.

REVEAL: The life of the local Christian community

Jesus proclaimed God the Father's love by what he said and did. People who followed Jesus Christ in the early Church began to be called Christians. They formed a Christian community called the Church. At the beginning of his ministry on earth, Jesus chose certain people to follow him and share in his work. They were to be apostles and would be sent out to spread the Good News. God chooses people to serve him today through their parish communities.

Share this bible reading:



Q How do you think the apostles felt when Jesus chose them to help him in his work?

Q Why do you think he chose people to help him?

Q What do you think the Good News is?



Choose an activity:

- Using the scripture passage Mark 3:13-19 write a diary entry as if you were one of the apostles being chosen. Share what it is you think you were called to do and say how being chosen made you feel.
- Design a 'Code of Conduct' of how to live as an 'apostle' of Jesus and give reasons for your choices.

Christians today are called, as they were in the time of Jesus, to be with him and to share in his mission. The Church has teachers and guides who, like 'the Twelve' in the time of Jesus, are called to be close to him, to help the whole Christian family to carry on the work of Jesus. They are called to proclaim the Good News of God's love by what they say and what they do.



A priest guides the Christian community in a parish through leading the celebration of the Sacraments and serving the parish family – the people, families, the school, care homes and often the local hospital.

Some parishes have a deacon who is ordained to care for and serve the people of the parish community. Lay people (those people who have not been ordained) also work with the priest. They, too, serve the parish and below are some of the people who serve the community by helping in Church.



These are some of the parish cleaners. They usually work together in small groups to help to keep the Church clean and tidy before and after any of the services held within it.



These people are called the greeters or welcome. They stand just inside the porch and welcome people into church as they arrive. Sometimes they hand out service sheets or hymn books. If you are new to a parish they will help you to find your way around.



This is one of the flower arrangers. It is their job to keep the church decorated in flowers throughout the Church year both on and around the altar and sometimes at the feet of statues. If the flowers are fresh then they water, dead head and look after them. Some churches use artificial flowers, so the job of the flower arrangers is to maintain their arrangements by dusting them and keeping them looking nice and clean. They sometimes make arrangements for weddings, funerals and baptisms.



This person is called the Sacristan and he has a special job to do. Before Mass starts he works in the Sacristy – usually a small room next to the altar. He helps the priest by getting out all the vessels which are used during Holy Communion. He also puts the Missal on the altar and makes sure that the priest and readers have everything that they need. In some churches the Sacristan also prepares the vestments which the priest, deacon and altar servers wears. Not all churches have a deacon or altar servers.

Choose an activity:

- Write a thank you letter showing appreciation for someone who serves the parish in some ministry. Say what you want to thank them for and tell them what a difference they make in the parish.
- Find out some of the things your parish priest does and how he serves the community where you live.