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PRIMARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

FOR CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC PARISHES IN AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND

CATECHIST'S GUIDE FOR JUNIOR B

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FOREWORD

The Church has long recognised that parents have the right and responsibility of being the first educators of their children in faith formation, as well as in other areas of life. It also recognises that parents need the support of the Christian community in this important task.

In Catechesis In Our Time (1979), Pope John Paul II wrote that the parish was 'to be the prime mover and pre-eminent place for catechesis'. The General Directory of Catechesis (1997), refers to the parish as 'the usual place in which the faith is born and in which it grows.' This new programme is designed to foster this growth in faith.

The Bishops are aware of the valuable work done by parish catechists, those responsible for the faith formation of parishioners, and encourage pastors and pastoral councils to support them with resources and opportunities for training. In this regard I draw the attention of all to the training programmes for parish catechists that are available through diocesan Religious Education offices.

On behalf of the Bishops' Conference I am pleased to welcome this new Primary Parish Programme. It will be a valuable resource for parents whose children who do not attend Catholic schools and for catechists.

May all who use it be drawn closer to him who is 'the way the truth and the life.'



† Leonard Boyle
Episcopal Deputy NCRS

Celebrating the Saints

We are called to be saints. That is God's plan. This means we have to try to listen to God everyday try to act as God would want try to love as God loves.

Becoming a saint is not easy. It was not easy even for the biggest saints. They had to work hard at trying to be holy. We have to work at being holy too. We have to do everything the very best way that we can.

1. Make a chart, "How can I Become a Saint?" Remember Jesus' first law, 'To love'. Talk about, draw or dramatise practical way of showing love at home, in school and in everyday life. See Children's Activity book, page 43.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

??? Not supplied

The saints were people who lived here on earth like us. They did all sorts of different work in life. They did all things with love. Now they live with God in Heaven. Their lives have shown us how to live in God's love.

Many saints have special days on which they are remembered - a bit like a birthday. That is the saint's Feast Day. All of us here on earth can join in the celebration of the saints day. The every best way is by joining in the celebration of the Eucharist.

2. Explore the Feast Days of some saints - those on the Saints' Tree and others. Check to see if any of the Feasts days are on dates that are already special, eg the birth dates of pupils. Make a Feast Day reminder calendar. Play a game "Name the Saint". Give clues like "She cared for the poor and sick in India."

We can pray to the saints and ask their help. They know what it is like to have to struggle to be good. We can ask the saints to talk to God for us.

3. Mark November 1 on the Calendar of Saints. Complete the Childrens' Activities on pages 41 & 42.

Even though the saints are now dead we are in touch with them and all of us here on earth and in heaven are closely in touch with God. It is like being part of a family. We call this the Communion of Saints.

There is one day when we celebrate the lives of all the Saints. That day is called All Saints Day. It is the first day of the month of November.

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise ways in which each person makes choice to become a saint
- know the meaning of the term "Communion of Saints"
- know the date of All Saints Day

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION OF SAINTS STRAND

Junior B - Communion of Saints 2

Holy People in Our Times

Saints were not born saints.
Saints grew to be saints by working hard to grow more holy every day.

Some very holy people lived a long time ago, but some lived in our lifetimes too.
We can think of people like Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

1. Have a discussion about how a person would have to live to become a saint.
Not everyone can do really hard things like Mother Teresa.
Everyone can do special and loving things every day.
Find or draw pictures of people doing specially loving things, things that lead people to be saints.

This means that they worked to grow better and better at praying, showing patience, forgiving, showing kindness, gentleness and love.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

??? Not supplied

There are many stories of special and inspiring people who lived not too long ago or are still alive.
Nelson Mandela forgave those who treated him very badly.
Maximillian Kolbe gave his life to save another prisoner. Mary MacKillop worked to help people who were poor and in need.

Holy people, saints can be any age and can live anywhere in the world. Sometimes a special holy person is made a saint at a ceremony, usually in Rome.
These people show us that we can be saints too, if we try hard enough and keep very close to God.

2. Tell the story of all or some of these people.
There are many examples of remarkable love and bravery in everyday life, like the fireman who rescued the little girl under the blazing petrol tanker, in Manukau City.
Look out for examples that are current.

There are inspiring people, people filled with the Holy Spirit, all about us. They are in our Families and parishes.
We notice them by their goodness. Their goodness inspires others.
The strength to be inspiring comes from the Holy Spirit.

3. Are there some inspiring people that you have noticed?
What makes you think that these are special people?
Can you make a list of some of the special qualities of these people? See Children's Activity book, page 40.
Are these like the qualities of the saints?

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- name some modern day saints
- recall the story of at least one of these saints
- identify how ordinary people can be inspiring

INTRODUCTION

I PHILOSOPHY

Catholic parishes in Aotearoa New Zealand assist in fulfilling the teaching mission of the Church by providing education of the whole person based on:

- * the Person and Gospel of Jesus Christ
- * the mystery and holiness of God
- * fidelity to the New Testament and the early Councils of the Church through which God is known as a community of persons in the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- * the understanding and belief that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, have been redeemed by Christ and are called to share God's own life of grace as members of the Catholic Church founded by Jesus Christ
- * the paramount importance of the living Tradition embodied in the Catholic Church
- * the necessity of making connections between life, faith and culture for all members of the parish community.

II GENERAL AIMS

This Parish Primary programme provides parishes with a systematic approach to the fulfilment of their mission of teaching and learning what the Catholic Church believes, celebrates, lives and prays.

Although the General Aims are intentionally educational, the ultimate aim is to assist children to develop a relationship with God, and to be living witnesses to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ as members of the Catholic Church, always recognising that this depends on each child's free faith response.

The General Aims of the Programme are:

- * to teach material that is theologically sound, using the resources of various cultures while allowing for each child's free faith response
- * to enable children to develop ways of integrating faith and life and culture.

III CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

The New Zealand Catechetical Directory, 'We Live and Teach Christ Jesus' published by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference, says:

'By reason of our common human heritage and our redemption in Christ, we have a right:

1. To our ancestral and cultural heritage.
2. To have our traditions, religious values, language, customs, myths and art forms used in education in faith.
3. To express Christ's teaching in terms of our own culture.'

For these reasons the programme takes seriously the need for appropriate cultural expression of faith in both the bi-cultural dimension (involving Maori spirituality and culture) and the multi-cultural dimension (involving the spirituality and culture of other groups).

IV EDUCATION-IN-FAITH

The term Education-in-Faith is used in the New Zealand Catechetical Directory. It is defined as follows:

- * All that happens in the Church to awaken personal faith. [Evangelisation].
- * The task of fostering and deepening the faith of believers including both personal acceptance of God in Christ. [Catechesis]
- * And knowledge of his teaching. [Religious Education]

Evangelisation, Catechesis and Religious Education are all part of the teaching ministry of the Catholic Church, though the setting for each approach may vary. The three are complementary, taking place within the total framework of the faith community.

V THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHING APPROACH

There are a variety of approaches which can be taken when teaching religion to children. Teaching approaches for programmes need to be chosen to meet the needs and the realities of the children and the catechists or teachers for whom they are designed. The curriculum on which this programme is based has a Religious Education approach which is best suited to the desired Learning Outcomes.

What is a Religious Education approach?

Religious Education is defined as follows:

Religious Education for Catholic primary-aged children encompasses:

- teaching and learning what the Catholic Church believes and teaches
- understanding and appreciating the ways the Catholic Church celebrates, lives and prays
- teaching children how to respond freely to God according to their gift of faith.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION OF SAINTS STRAND

Junior B - Communion of Saints 1

Saints are Holy People

Everything about God is good and holy. God's goodness is seen in the world. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. When people do good things, like being kind and helpful, we know that the Holy Spirit is helping. These people share in God's holiness. People who let the Holy Spirit help them all the time are called Saints.

1. Talk about good things that you have noticed happening or heard about. Recall that this is the work of the Holy Spirit. Notice that these Good Qualities are the qualities of Saints. Talk about the kinds of people saints must have been.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

??? Not supplied

There are many saints. Some are well known like St. Peter, St. Anthony, St. Anne, St. Teresa. Many parishes have patron saints and many people have saints names. Those big saints are no longer alive but they were ordinary people who became saints because they were so loving. They saw ways of seeing God's loving and doing loving and good things everywhere they went.

2. Make a Saints Tree, and put the names of Saints that are known on as leaves, see Children's Activity book, page 39. Put a heading or label "Saints are people who live holy lives... they are people in love with God. They are people who love others because they love God."

Many of the saints had to be very brave and strong. They had to struggle hard to be good and loving. Some, like St. Peter, were killed because they would not stop believe in Jesus. We call these saints Martyrs. Not all saints were the same. Each one tried to follow Jesus in the way that was best for their times and their place. We can read about how the saints lived in the stories of the lives of the saints.

3. Read or tell some stories of the lives of the saints. Encourage that children to ask at home and to find out about some of the saints. Draw, write or talk about a favourite saint or a patron if a child has a saint's name.

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise some qualities of the saints
- name some qualities of the saints
- name some well known saints and recall some facts about these saints
- identify how people become saints

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Junior B - Sacrament 3

Symbols and the Rite of Baptism

1. Have on display symbols of Baptism
 - oil of Chrism
 - water
 - white garment
 - a candleLook at the alternative of having this lesson in the church around the baptismal font

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

In Baptism we use your gift of water, which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this Sacrament.

Roman Missal, Easter Vigil 42

Baptisms are very special celebrations. We want to remember them. That is why we have photographs and certificates and other special gifts to keep.

2. Invite children to share items they have brought to the lesson about their own baptism, eg photos, godparents' names, date and place of Baptism etc. Look at the symbols use flash card for word Symbol and explain meaning of word.

During all Baptisms the same symbols are used. Symbols can be special objects or actions. Symbols help us to understand the meaning of what is happening.

Symbols of Baptism Chrism - a perfumed oil. We are blessed with oil at Baptism. We call blessing with oil - anointing. Anointing means to pour or rub oil or ointment on people to strengthen them and protect them. In olden times special people like priests, prophets and kings were anointed to make them strong. We are anointed at baptism for the same reason - to be strong followers of Jesus. The word Christ means "Anointed One".

The white garment is a sign that the newly baptised person has put on Jesus and wants to live as he lived. People feel very special when they wear white clothes.

The lighted candle used in Baptism is a symbol of Jesus who said "I am the light of the world". It reminds people to walk in the light. That means to do what is right and good.

3. Look at symbols in turn explaining how each is used in the rite and talk children through the rite...
 - oil
 - water
 - lighted candle
 - white garmentWords "I Baptise you in the name of....."
Complete Children's Activity, page 38.

In everyday life water is a life-giving thing. It is used in Baptism as a symbol of how God gives life to his children. The Baptism water is holy because it has been blessed.

SONG:
"A Welcome Song"

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise and name the symbols of Baptism
- recognise the rituals within the Baptism rite
- recall the words of Baptism
- recognise they are holy because they share in God's Tapu and love through Baptism

VI FAITH AND THE PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILD

Catholics acknowledge that faith is a gift of grace, given to each person, who, with the help of the Holy Spirit responds in his or her own unique way. The process of faith development is closely linked to the stages of human development. This process is often referred to as a faith journey.

As with all aspects of human growth, faith develops and changes as people grow through, and are challenged by, the events of their lives. It is faith that helps people make sense of their lives.

The Religious Education curriculum aims to help children make meaningful connections between faith and their lives. The term "faith" is used in a dual sense - the faith by which we believe (God's gift), and the faith in which we believe (i.e. the Catholic faith).

Children in the primary school years from five to thirteen are at a particular stage on their lifelong journey in faith. There has been much research done in this area which identifies some of the characteristics that are evident in this stage. This research has been considered during the preparation of the material in the Religious Education curriculum for primary schools on which this parish programme is based.

It is important to keep in mind that this Programme is for Primary aged children. It is not appropriate, or possible, to include everything that the Catholic Church believes and teaches. Children must have the opportunity to continue their Religious Education.

VII PRACTICAL POINTS FOR CATECHISTS

The material for each session follows a set pattern.

A suggested procedure for catechists is contained in the numbered boxes. The most important section is highlighted so that a catechist can organise the session to make sure that this material is covered.

Surrounding each numbered box is information for the catechist relevant to that part of the process.

Also included are:

- * Scripture or other texts for catechists to reflect on before the session
- * A list of songs and other useful resources - These are from the Primary School Religious Education Programme and may be purchased from Tablet Colour Print, PO Box 1285, Dunedin.
- * A list of Learning Outcomes - these are a guide to what children should learn.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOD STRAND

Junior B - God 1

Signs of God's Love - Creation - Me - People

Everything our gracious God creates tells us something about God. Our Gracious God means 'Our kind and loving God', who "spoils" us with Gifts.

1. Sit in a circle. Ask: When people give gifts to each other what is the giving a sign of? Sow a caption Gracious Ask children to draw their face and a word balloon from each child. Child writes.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

When I look at the heavens the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them?

Ps 8:3-4

A very special gift God has given us is the gift of ourselves. When we grow to be the best we can, God is delighted, and it is the best way we show Gratitude to God.

2. Have a shoe-box with a mirror in it. Pass it round the circle. When the box comes to you life the lid. Ask: What is the precious gift of God that you see in the box? Don't tell anyone - it's a secret. Show a large sheet of paper with caption: "Every Person is a Gift of God." Invite children to write their name round the caption. Complete Children's Activity, page 2.

People are God's best gift of creation, and God's best gift because they can love.

3. Ask children:
 - name people who care for and love you
 - how do people show love for each other?
 - how can people speak in a loving way? Use loving actions? Co-operate with others? Encourage others?

SONG:
"Every Person is a Gift from God"

PRAYER:
Litany of Thanks

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify God's gift of Creations as a sign of God's love: compose a prayer in Litany form.
- develop an appreciation of the gift of life: express positive feelings about themselves
- recognise they are the people God wants them to be
- identify people in their lives who are gifts of Our Gracious God.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Junior B - Sacrament 2

Baptism Welcomes People into the Church

Its great to be made welcome. We like it when people smile and greet us. We feel as though we belong. Different groups have different ways of welcoming people.

1. Sing 'Welcome Song'. Share ideas about how we welcome people to our homes, classroom or to our schools. Listen to greeting words in other languages. See Children's Activity book, page 35. Share greeting gestures.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

...Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

One of the ways our church welcomes people is when they are baptised. Usually the family brings the baby along to the church and one of the first words is "Welcome! Welcome to our church and our community."

2. Return to baptism picture of previous lesson. Talk about how we are welcomed into our church family:
 - Welcome
 - Names
 - Special
 - We belong

We usually call our first name our baptismal name or our Christian name. This is because we received that name when we were baptised.

You belong to the Catholic Church community by your baptism. All Christian Churches accept each others' baptism.

Our name is special because it is what we are known by. God knows us by our name. We are precious and holy because we share in the Tapu of God - Atua.

Important! Make sure children complete Activities on pages 33-34 before next week.

3. Introduce children to quote form Isaiah 43:1 (Write on board or have on poster) If possible speak to each in turn putting the child's name into the quote. Make each child feel special. Listen to the song "I have called you by Name" Begin Children's Activity, page 36

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise baptism as a way of welcoming people into the part of God's family we call Church.
- recall God's words from Isaiah "I have called you by name, you are mine."

SONG:
"A Welcome Song"

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Junior B - Sacrament 1

The Sacrament of Baptism - A Special Meeting with Jesus

1. Have children gather as a group and read the short story "Georgie's Gran", See Children's Activity book, page 32
 - discuss the story and their special relationship.
 - encourage children to share something about their special friends ie who they are; what they share.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

2. Give the group a selection of pictures of ceremonies and celebrations that includes a picture of a Baptism
 - In pairs have children choose a picture or talk or ask questions Share around group.
 - Focus on Baptism Picture in Children's Activity book, page 37

Hoa korero: a friend we can talk to and who will listen to us.

In our church we have 7 sacraments. A sacrament is a special meeting with Jesus. We celebrate them with people in our family-whanau parish community in our church.

3. Teacher writes the word Sacrament on board/flashcard. Baptism is a sacrament - a special meeting with Jesus. We celebrate our relationship with Jesus.
 - Teacher explains the meaning of hoa korero. Relate this to Jesus and the story of Georgie's Gran.
 - Complete Children's Activity, page 37

When you were baptised Jesus met you in a special way. You became a part of God's family which we call the church. We get baptised only one, but some sacraments we can receive many times. Its important to remember that you are baptised into a community. You are part of the Catholic Church community by your baptism.

SONG:
"A Welcome Song"

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify sacraments as special meetings with Jesus
- recognise Baptism as the first sacrament which is celebrated in our family-whanau parish church.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOD STRAND

Junior B - God 2

God's Greatest Gift - Jesus, who tells us about God, his loving Father - Matua, who He calls Abba

Children are people's most precious gift. God's only Son is Jesus. God gave his only Son, Jesus, to the world so that people would come to know God.

1. How would you name your parents' most precious possession?
 - Why are people more precious than things?
 - Ask children to name God's Gifts to us.
 - Show a beautifully prepared card: God's greatest gift to us is Jesus

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16

Jesus' name for God is Abba. It means dear or loving Father. Jesus used stories - parables - to teach us about God's Love for us. Parables are like fables - they teach us important lessons.

2. Invite children to share how they 'name' their Mother/Father
 - Show children the name Jesus calls God - "Abba"
 - Introduce one or both parables:
 - The Lost Sheep - Luke 15:3-7
 - The Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-10
 - Dramatise.
 - Complete Children's Activity, page 4.

Jesus wanted to teach us how forgiving God, his Abba, is. When we forgive people we restore their tapu and our tapu too.

3. Introduce the story of the forgiving Father. Luke 15:11-24
 - Discuss with the children the times when we need to forgive and be forgiven. Ask children to work in pairs to tell each other how the forgiving Father is like God our Father
 - Complete Children's Activity, page 6.

SONGS:

"What God is Like"
"Our Father Song"

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify that God's greatest gift to People is Jesus, who came to reveal God to people
- identify "Abba" as the name Jesus called God
- recognise the Our Father as the prayer Jesus taught his disciples
- demonstrate a loving and forgiving attitude.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOD STRAND

Junior B - God 3

People are called to Respond to God's Gifts

God has given everyone special gifts. We know we have these gifts, and other people recognise them too.

We know our lives are gifts from God.

We know we are precious and tapu, because God shares his life with us. God has given us these gifts to help us grow as people. When we share our gifts this gives us man and our tapu is increased.

We can thank God every day. The best way we can do this is at Eucharist, when we join our prayer with Jesus' prayer of thanks to God.

1. Sit in Circle:
Discuss ways people respond to gifts:

- thank you
- trying the gift out
- showing excitement, surprise
- showing disappointment

Read "A Quilt for Kiri"
Why do people give us gifts?
Talk about Kiri's gift
What do we do with our gifts?

ALL are God's gifts to us. We need to remind ourselves to say thank you, and to show we are grateful. We need to do this for the people who are gifts to us. We also need to give thanks to God, who is the giver of all gifts. When we live with grateful hearts our tapu is increased because we know we share in God's Tapu - we share in God's goodness and love.

2. Identify the gifts of the person on right; leader starts off.
How can I make sure I'm responding to and using my gift?
Talk with children of the many ways we may say prayers of thanks to God:
eg - We give you thanks O God for...
- Thanks be to our gracious God for...
Introduces the first six lines of:
The Gloria and Holy, Holy, Holy

SONGS:

"God's Great Love"
"Every Person is a Gift of God"

STORY:

"A Quilt for Kiri"

PRAYERS:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"
"Gloria"

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Give thanks, the Lord is good,
God's love is forever!
Now let Israel say,
God's love is forever.

Learning Outcomes

Children will demonstrate ways to:

- recognise that gifts are given for different reasons
- recognise different ways people respond to receiving gifts
- identify each person's gifts
- demonstrate appreciation for their gifts, demonstrate appreciation of the gifts of others.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Junior B - Church 3

Family/Parish - Privileges and Responsibilities

1. Welcome the children.
Sing "We Are the Church" - See Children's Activity book, page 26
Write the privilege and responsibilities on board.
Discuss their meaning with the children.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

As sharers in the role of Christ the Priest, the Prophet and the King, the laity have a active role to play in the life and activity of the Church.

Vatican II - Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, n. 10)

2. Invite the children to
 - a) share some of the privileges they have being part of a family-whanau
 - b) share some responsibilities they have as members of their families.
 Record on board/chart.
Encourage sharing on experiences of times when people use their privileges but forget their responsibilities as family-whanau members. What can be the consequences of these situations?

3. Invite the children to form small groups.
Use Situation Cards - See Children's Activity book, pages 27-28. Ask the children to read and discuss the privileges and responsibilities involved in each situation.
Report back to main group.

4. In groups or whole class invite children to name privileges they have as members of the parish (sharing in celebrations, children's liturgy, etc)
Record on board/chart
Say: Remember the parish is our Church family and we have responsibilities as well as privileges.

5. Brainstorm ways the children and their families can be responsible in their parish (refer back to Session 1:3 - ministries within the parish.)
Read "The Desert" See Children's Activity book, pages 29-30. What does this story tell us?
Complete Home Activity - Children's Activity book, page 31.

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise what is meant by privilege and responsibility
- identify the privileges and responsibilities of belonging to a parish
- recognise that we show love - aroha and respect for the people of God's family when we help with work in the parish.

When our Parish Gathers and Celebrates, it is a Sign of God in the World

1. Welcome the children. Recap from previous session
 - a) meaning of parish
 - b) we are all members of the one (same) church
 Sing "We Are the Church" - See Children's Activity book, page 26

2. Brainstorm reasons why people - family-whanau/friends come together
What sort of things do they do when they come together? See Children's Activity book, page 25 (welcome, talk, listen, remember, sing, eat, drink)
List responses.

3. Invite the children to name times when their parish gathers (weddings, funerals, fairs, Sunday Eucharist). Relate list to what we do when we gather for Eucharist -
We are welcomed - opening blessing
We talk - in response to and prayer to God
We listen - to the Word
We remember - our story/what God has done for us
We sing - response, hymns etc
We eat and drink - in Communion.
Say: Gathering and Celebrating at Eucharist is a special sign that brings about God's presence and love in the world.

4. Have the word SIGN displayed on board. If possible have some different signs displayed as well.
Invite the children to share examples of everyday signs.
Discuss why signs are necessary - they help us, they lead us in the right direction, they warn us of danger, etc. Can people be signs? How?
Give examples of people who are signs and what they are signs of, eg police, fire, ambulance officer.
Was Jesus a sign? What was Jesus a sign of?

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- explain simply what we mean by Church
- explain what people do when they gather and why
- explain how the Church is a sign of God's presence in the world.

5. Invite the children to close their eyes and think about the people within their parish.
Reflection
What are these people SIGNS of and why
Explain to the children that the people in our parishes show by what they do for others that they are a Sign of God's presence and love in the world.
Say: God wants to share his love with us. The Church (the people) are a sign of God's love. The people show their love of God and each other through their words and actions.
Complete Word Find - See Children's Activity book, page 25

6. Ask the children to name how people are signs of God's love within the parish, eg visiting the sick, looking after children etc.
Invite the children to reflect on how they can be SIGNS at home, school and in the neighbourhood. See Children's Activity book, page 24.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

And they went out and proclaimed the Good News everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Mark 16:20

SONG:

"We Are the Church"

Jesus Showed Love and Respect for People in Different Ways

When it was time for Jesus to begin his work of teaching and healing, he needed some people to help him. It was time for him to invite people to be his followers. He called them to be with him, with God and with others.

Another way that Jesus showed love and respect for people is by sharing meals with them. Our families do this too. When people share food, this means they like each other and want to spend time together to share food and talk.

Sharing food with people is a good way to show love and respect for them. Meals are part of our lives each day. We can use meals to make special times happy and enjoyable.

Another way Jesus showed his love and respect for people was by touching and healing them. There are many stories in the scripture that tell us about times when he did this.

4. Look at the pictures of Jesus healing and touching in the Children's Activity book page 9. Ask: Who is Jesus with? What is Jesus doing? What might Jesus be saying?
Teacher reads the scripture texts that match the pictures.

1. Begin by reading John 1:35-39. After the reading, comment about Jesus' invitation to "Come and see".
Look at the invitation in the children's See Children's Activity book, page 8. Explain how this invitation is like Jesus'. They don't know what will happen. Have the children share ideas about how this feels and why people give invitations.

2. Discuss with the children the sort of meals they share, including: barbecues, dinners, banquets, parties, snacks, breakfasts, afternoon teas, pot luck tea, hakari. Refer to the Children's Activity book, page 8 and read the scripture readings. - Luke 10:38-39 and John 21:9-14. Ask:
 - 1 What are the names of the characters in the stories?
 - 2 What happening in the stories?
 - 3 What did Jesus say or do that showed people he loved and respected them?

3. Have the children share ideas about what extra things are part of a meal for a special event including: flowers, tablecloths, drinks, music etc. Refer to **Children's Activity???**. Read John 2:1-10. Dramatise this story by putting the class into three groups:
 - 1 Mary and her friends
 - 2 Jesus and the disciples
 - 3 The servants
 - 4 The bride, groom and guests**Teacher** reads the story again while the children dramatise.

Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- recognise that giving an invitation to someone is a sign of respect and love for them
- recognise that Jesus invites people to be friends with him and live his way
- identify similarities in the variety of meals Jesus shared with friends and the signs of his love and respect.
- retell the story of the wedding at Cana
- identify some of the healing stories of Jesus.

Jesus taught people what to do by showing them and giving them the inner strength, the grace of the Holy Spirit, to enable them to do it.

Sometimes we get invitations too. It is exciting to get an invitation especially if it is a surprise. Jesus invited the people in the Gospel story to "Come and see". He didn't tell them what they were being invited to or what would happen. He just said "Come and see."

Each week we receive an invitation to the Eucharist which is a meal with Jesus. Jesus enjoyed eating with friends. He used these times to talk to them and teach them, about how to live God's way.

Jesus enjoyed these meals too. Jesus' first miracle was at a special meal - a wedding. Through the power of God Jesus changed the water into wine. When he worked this miracle, he showed great love and respect for all who were there.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

"and Jesus said to them
"Come and See.""

John 1:39

INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESUS STRAND

Junior B - Jesus 2

The Ways People Show Love

We need to think about how we must live to follow Jesus. This way the love of Jesus can continue to be seen in the world today through the love of his followers.

1. Use the Children's Activity on page 10 to review some Gospel stories that tell about how Jesus showed his love. Hand out a large circle of card to each child to illustrate and complete each sentence. On one side of the circle have: Jesus' way of showing love... On the other: My way of showing love...

When we read the Bible stories about what Jesus did we discover what Jesus was trying to teach people about his way of living each day. These stories show us the way that we must live if we are to follow Jesus.

When people are made to feel they are worth nothing and are not wanted their tapu is lessened. We must try to build up their tapu by sharing our love with them and letting them be our friend.

Jesus showed us the best ways to make friends. He showed us how to invite others to be friends. We have read the Gospel stories about how Jesus spoke gently to people, touched and healed them as a sign of his love for them. He showed us how to mend friendships when they became broken.

All of Jesus' life was spent showing people how to live as the loving people God wants them to be. Jesus wants us to live as loving people in friendship with everyone.

2. Use the "Friendship Checkpoint" sheet, see Children's Activity, page 11 and explain that it is a way of looking at our friendship so that we can know how to be better.

Love and respect are two-way things. We give them and we receive them. We give love and respect to others and we receive love and respect from others. This is the way it should be.

3. Invite the children to name the people who showed us love and respect at home e.g.... My mother shows me love by... My brother/sister shows me respect by... Have the children complete the Word Find, see Children's Activity, page 12.

We need to say loving and respectful words everyday to our families-whanau. This is what Jesus wants us to do. This shows that we recognise that people are made in God's image and therefore must be treated with honour and dignity.

Sometimes people are not loving and respectful and this causes pain and hurt. There are many people in our lives who love and respect us. Showing respect for people or things is a special way of loving and caring. It means we treat them as we would like to be treated.

Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- identify ways Jesus showed love for people and the stories which tell about this
- recognise ways they can show love for people as followers of Jesus
- reflect on ways we can be good friends.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Love is the one things that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to everyone of the commandments.

Romans 13:10

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Junior B - Church 1

This is Our Parish

1. Welcome the Children
Say My name is..... and I belong to St..... Parish in.....
Write Parish on the board. Invite each child to give their name, the area they live in and the parish to which they belong. Discuss - what is a parish? Who belongs to a parish?
Explain that although there are many different parishes - they are all part of the Catholic Church.

2. Write on the board/chart
family - community - whanau
Brainstorm meanings with children (record significant words on chart/board).
Invite children to listen to scripture. Read John 15:15-17.

Jesus said, "I call you my friends now, because I have told you everything that God has told me. You did not choose me, no I chose you, to be part of the family of God."

Discuss - What do YOU think it means to be part of a parish family? (Link if to words from family/community/whanau exercise) How parishes are linked together by the Bishop (name him) and the role of the Bishop as leader of all parishes in the diocese. (Explain diocese).

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

As shares in the role of Christ the Priest, the Prophet and the King, the laity have an active role to play in the life and activity of the Church.

Vatican II - Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, n. 10

3. Invite the children to name people who minister within their parish community. (NB - If possible, invite 1 or 2 people from the community to talk to the children about their ministry - minister of the Word/Eucharist - parish secretary - an altar server form a senior class).
Discuss
Who are they?
What do they do?
Why do they do it?
Where do they do it?
(Church/office/presbytery/hall)
Complete Children's Activity, page 23.

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- explain simply what a parish is
- name their parish
- name their parish priest(s) and their Bishop
- name the people and places in their parish

SONG:
"The Parish is My Family"

4. Read Romans 8:28-29

Dear Friends, God is helping things to get better all the time. Everyone who loves God is known by God and is given a job to do. This means they work with God. God wants us all to become more like Jesus because Jesus is God's Son and our eldest brother in the family of God.

Invite the children to draw a picture /map with The ... family belong to the Parish of St... and We are all part of God's family

Include church
presbytery
office
hall (if applicable)
members of the parish family

Sing The "Parish is My Family" - See Children's Activity book, page 23 (to the tune of 'London Bridge')

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Junior B - Holy Spirit 3

The Holy Spirit is Present in the Prayers of the Church

When people pray the Holy Spirit is present. There are many prayers which call upon the Holy Spirit. The Sign of the Cross is a special way we often start and finish our prayers.

1. Together revise the Sing of the Cross. Practice actions in pairs.
2. Ask children to recall any other prayers that call on the Holy Spirit eg Glory Be To The Father - See Children's Activity book, page 20.
3. Litany for a Spirit Filled Planet - Juliet Planet. (Music and Words Included)

At Mass we say a special prayer together as God's people. It is called the Creed and in it we say all the things that we believe.

2. Read through Nicene Creed together. See Children's Activity book, page 22. Point out all the things we say we believe in. The word 'Creed' means what we believe. On a sheet head up title "We believe in..." and get children to write down. (Use Creed as reference).

The Holy Spirit leads people to spread the Good News in words and actions and this helps make God's Kingdom come here in the world.

3. Name people in our family/parish who serve others. Discuss how they help to spread Good News. Draw pictures of these people - name them, draw them. Think of anyone in the world you have heard of eg, Sister Teresa.

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify some prayers which call upon the Holy Spirit recognise some of the things we believe, as named in the Nicene Creed
- name people in the Church who spread the Good News words and actions eg people in parish - people in world, eg Sister Teresa.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matt. 18:20

INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESUS STRAND

Junior B - Jesus 3

The Bible is the Church's Special Book which includes stories of Jesus

The Bible is different from other books because it is God's Word which was written down by people who had the Holy Spirit within them, guiding them.

The Bible is divided into 2 main parts. We call the first part the Old Testament. It has 46 books in it. The second part we call the New Testament. It began when Jesus was born and has 27 books in it.

When people read the Bible, they are helped by the Holy Spirit to hear the message that Jesus wants them to live out today. This is what makes the Bible such an important "living" book for Christians and for our Church.

When the Gospel is finished at Mass, the priest says, "The Gospel of the Lord". We say in response, "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ". It is a very important part of the Eucharist when God's people listen to the Bible together.

1. Seat the children in a circle with a few different children's Bibles and a lighted candle as a focus. Lead a discussion on the Bible including: why we respect the Bible as a holy book, different versions of the Bible, the 2 main sections (Old and New Testaments), the names the Bible is called - the Scripture, the Good News, the Gospel, why it is called the "Good News", why Christians read the Bible when they gather, demonstrate appropriate handling of the Bible. Using a Bible with large print, show the children how to do the Bible Search game in Children's Activity book, page 14. Teach the children how to locate texts using Chapter and Verse.

2. Ask the children to name times when the Bible is read: at prayer time, at school, at home, at Eucharist. Ask, how do we respond when we hear the Gospel read at Mass? Standing up, making Gospel crosses on head, lips and heart, oral response. Explore the significance of the Gospel Crosses.

3. Have the children complete the Bible Quiz, see Children's Activity book, page 13. Have Bibles available for the children to explore. If time allows visit the Church and discuss the Bible and its place on the Lectern. Let the children read a short passage from the lectern and use appropriate conclusion and response.

The New Testament was written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John who wrote the Four Gospels, and others who wrote the other books.

We make Gospel Crosses on our heads - so we can understand the message of the Gospel, on our lips - so we can speak the Gospel and on our hearts - so we can love the Gospel.

The Bible is in a special place in the Church. It is kept on the lectern or Table of the Word.

Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- recognise the Bible as an inspired book.
- recognise that Jesus is the centre of the New Testament.
- recognise times when the Church uses the Bible.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding peoples lives and teaching them to be holy.

2 Timothy 3:16

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Junior B - Holy Spirit 1

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Love, Joy and Peace

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of love, joy and peace. It helps us to have these in our lives too.

- 1. LOVE**
The Holy Spirit of God is working in me when I do kind and loving things for others. Discuss things you do that show love in your heart. Use Children's Activity book, page 15.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Psalm 27:13

The Holy Spirit helps us to be peaceful people. When we care and help one another we are showing that the Holy Spirit is living in us. We can be the hands of God in the world by being peaceful people.

- 2. PEACE**
Draw hands by tracing around your own and cutting it out
Complete the word find in Children's Activity book, page 16.
Discuss how we can be peaceful people by healing and sharing at school and at home
Write these on your hands with your name.

We can see many signs around us which show that all creation is full of joy and the life of the Holy Spirit. It wants out, so you have to let it out and share with others.

- 3. JOY**
Discuss the idea of joy when we feel joyful.
Children do the "enjoy yourself" trampoline in the Children's Activity book, page 17.

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of love, peace and joy
- demonstrate love, peace and joy in your life
- show how we can share these gifts with others.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Junior B - Holy Spirit 2

The Holy Spirit is Present in the Church Through the Eucharist

The Holy Spirit is present in people all the time wherever they are. But when the people of God, the Church, gather to celebrate the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit brings about the presence of Jesus in four special ways.

- 1.** Discuss what happens at Eucharist including people gather, sing, listen, pray, share food and drink. Show children pictures then they can colour in their own, see Children's Activity book, page 18
Explain how each one of these is a special way the Holy Spirit brings about the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

All life, all holiness, comes from you, through your son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer II

The Holy Spirit helps people to understand the Scriptures and the messages in them. The Holy Spirit helps people to remember what Jesus has done.

- 2.** We need to listen carefully to the messages Jesus gives us. Read 2 or 3 Bible stories from a Children's Bible. Have 2 sets of caption cards; one with name of story, one with message. Children match up story with right message. Act out the message and let others guess what it is.

The people of the Church are 'us'. The Holy Spirit unites all children of God through Jesus, into one family even though we are all different.

- 3.** Children complete a Holy Spirit headband to remind them of the presence of the Holy Spirit within them. Instructions in Children's Activity book, page 19.

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise the Holy Spirit is present in the Church in special ways in the people gathered
bread and wine which becomes body and blood of Jesus
in the priest
in the Scriptures