

**P R I M A R Y  
R E L I G I O U S  
E D U C A T I O N  
P R O G R A M M E**

**FOR CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC PARISHES IN AOTEAROA  
NEW ZEALAND**

**CATECHIST'S GUIDE  
FOR  
SENIOR A**

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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

# 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.

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION OF SAINTS STRAND

### Senior A - Communion of Saints 3

1. The most honourable title given to Mary is Mother of God - *Te Whaea o Te Atua*. Elizabeth first greeted her as ‘*the Mother of my Lord*’ which shows she was recognised as the Mother of God. It is understood that since Jesus is God’s Son, Mary as the Mother of Jesus can also be called the Mother of God. The title Mother of God reminds people that Jesus is both God - *Te Atua* and Human - *tangata*. Mary is also called the Mother of the Church. She was the first member of the Church and is the first disciple of Jesus. In the message Jesus spoke from the cross he gave his mother Mary into the care of the apostle John. Christian people have understood that John represented all the disciples of Jesus and since then Mary has been recognised as the Mother of all the disciples who are, of course, the Church.  
Mary continued to work with the apostles to build up the Church while she lived on earth. This is why she has always held a special honour for all Christians but especially for Catholics. This is why people continue to ask her for help and protection as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church today.  
More than 150 years ago Aotearoa New Zealand was placed under the special patronage or protection of Mary. On 13 January 1838 Bishop Pompallier celebrated the first Mass in this country at Totara Point in Hokianga, Northland. The Mass was offered in honour of Mary the Mother of God. At the end of the Mass, Bishop Pompallier dedicated the whole country to Mary, using her title Mary of the Assumption.  
The title Mary of the Assumption, is a title of great hope for all Christians who like Mary are disciples of her Son and who share in his resurrection and anticipate their own resurrection. The Assumption celebrates that God has taken Mary, body and soul to heaven where she shares in the fullness of God’s Tapu and Mana. Because God has done this for Mary all Christians hope that like her they too will share in the fullness of God’s Tapu and Mana in heaven. There they will be with Jesus and Mary and all the people they love forever.

#### CATECHIST’S PRAYER

‘You are the yes to God,  
our yes to growth, our  
yes to the birthing of  
Christ in the world’

“To Mary” by Joy  
Cowley “Aotearoa  
Psalms”

#### 2. Activity 1

- Children create a calendar page for the month of August. Mark in the feast of the Assumption. Teacher explains the meaning of the feast of the Assumption and that this is when the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand celebrates Mary as their special protector who watches over them. For the illustration on the calendar children choose one of the following:
- Mary being taken by God body and soul to heaven.
- Bishop Pompallier celebrating the first Mass in Hokianga and dedicating Aotearoa New Zealand to the care and protection of Mary.
- A stylised map of Aotearoa New Zealand and Mary praying for the people of this land or create their own image which illustrates Aotearoa New Zealand dedicated to the care and protection of Mary under the title of The Assumption.

See Children’s Activity Book page 31.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise why Mary is called Mother of God - *Te Whaea o Te Atua* and Mother of the Church.
- recall that the feast of the Assumption on 15 August is the special feast on which the people of Aotearoa New Zealand recognise Mary as their protector and patroness.

## 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

Senior A - God 1

### Images of God/Atua in the Old and New Testaments.

God is like:

- A loving parent; Ps. 103:13; Isaiah 49:15.
- A gardener; Ezekiel 17:22-24.
- A mother eagle; Deut. 32:11.
- Light; Ps. 27:1.
- Water; Ps. 42:1-2.
- A potter; Jeremiah 18:5-6.

1. Invite children to sit quietly on their own. Play reflective music.  
Ask them to imagine that they are in the African jungle. Guide children to allow the image they have of the place to become clear - noticing the colour and size of things around them. Ask children to describe their image. Brainstorm
  - Ask children: How do you imagine God from what you know about God?
  - Children work in pairs with a Scripture reference on a caption card and a Bible. They locate the reference and talk about what it says about God. They illustrate the image, which is added to a class mural.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

In no way is God in man's image. God is pure spirit in which there is no place for the difference between the sexes. The respective perfections of man and woman reflect something of the infinite perfection of God. CCC370.  
Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation.

Colossians 1:15

We can have images of things from the knowledge we have even if we have not experienced them in reality. The different ways people have named and described God - Te Atua - show how they have come to know God in their own lives. In the Old Testament there are many images - word pictures that tell us something about God - Te Atua:

Jesus through his life and teaching, made a difference to the ways people in the New Testament understood God. Jesus called God Abba, which is a term like dear Father.  
(Mark 14:36)

Luke 15:8  
Matthew 23:37  
Luke 13:20-21  
John 10:1-8  
John 15:1  
Col 1:15

2.
  - Display caption cards with Scripture references and images for God in the New Testament.
  - Locate in the Bible.
  - Discuss with the children the question:-

What made the difference between the images of God the people of the Old Testament used and the images of God the people of the New Testament used?

- Lead children to see that Jesus used the same names and images for himself as he used when talking about God.

See Children's Activity Book p 2.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise that names and images of God tell people something about what God is like.
- locate Scripture passages that present different names and images for God.
- recognise that Jesus is the image of God that reveals God most perfectly.

SONG:  
"God Is"

PRAYER:  
'Our Father'

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION OF SAINTS STRAND

Senior A - Communion of Saints 2

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Luke 1:45

1. There are a number of stories about Mary - Maria - in the Scriptures that tell her life. The first two chapters of Matthew tell who Joseph was and how God - *Te Atua* - chose him to be Mary's husband, so she would have someone to care for her and the child Jesus. Most of the stories about Mary are found in St Luke's Gospel which describe the sequence of events from the Annunciation to the Presentation in the Temple. Luke says that Mary - Maria - kept all her memories in her heart.  
John in his Gospel tells the story of the Wedding Feast of Cana and Jesus' words on the cross, giving Mary and John into each others care - *manaakitanga*.  
The last mention of Mary - Maria - is in Luke's second book, the Acts of Apostles, where he says that Mary was with the Apostles at Pentecost.

Matthew Chapters 1 and 2  
Stories in Luke's Gospel  
Luke 1: 26-38 The Annunciation  
Luke 1: 39-56 The Visitation  
Luke 2: 11-20 Birth of Jesus  
Luke 2: 22-38 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple  
Luke 2: 41-52 Mary and Joseph search for Jesus  
Luke 1: 46-55 Mary's great prayer.  
Stories in John's Gospel  
John 2: 1-11 Wedding Feast of Cana, Mary asks for help  
John 19: 25-27 Jesus asks John to care for Mary  
Stories from the Act of Apostles  
Acts 1: 12-14; 2: 1-4  
In the Magnificat Mary praises God for coming with aroha-mercy for her people who were living in a world filled with poverty and injustice.

#### 2. Activity 1

- Children work in small groups with one story (reference on a caption card).
- They locate the story, read it and discuss it. Then they dramatise the story and share it with the rest of the class in chronological order.

#### Activity 2

- Pray Mary's Magnificat Children's Activity Book page 30.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify the major events in Mary's life.
- locate Scripture stories which describe the major events in Mary's life.
- recognise how Mary's Magnificat praises God for all God's greatness.



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION OF SAINTS STRAND

Senior A - Communion of Saints 1

1. Every person has a conscience - hinengaro. It is that part of a person that is their truest self and enables them to judge whether something is right - tika or wrong - hē. It helps them decide whether to choose to do something because it is good or to avoid doing something because it is sinful. We could put this another way and say that a person's true sense of identity is the basis of their conscience.

Sometimes people talk about conscience - hinengaro - as being a little voice within them telling them what to do. The conscience is not a little voice. It is the person making a judgement using their mind, their reason and their whole spiritual self to do so. The conscience could be called the working of the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu in the life of a person whose guidance must be followed when seeking to know what is tika - the right thing to do. For people to be able to use their conscience well, they need to learn how to make good judgements. This formation of ones' conscience continues all through life, for people are always learning about the truth - pono and what is good - tika. When people are faithful and true and do what is tika, what is just, right and fair they act with pono. Pono challenges and reminds people to act with tika and to show aroha - love. Pono guides a person's conscience which helps them to think and decide what is the right thing to do.

People must always follow what their hinengaro - conscience tells them is tika - right. For this reason it is very important to develop a strong conscience that is well informed.

The conscience could be likened to the body in that it needs to be given food and exercise so it will develop properly. Then people will be able to follow an informed conscience. The food the conscience needs is prayer - karakia and reflection on the Word of God - Te Kupu a Te Ariki. It also needs to listen carefully to what the Church, parents, teachers, wise friends and grandparents teach is right - tika and wrong - hē.

## 2. Activity 1 Making Decisions

- Using the suggested scenarios and questions to ask when using ones' conscience - hinengaro.
- Lead the pupils through the process (Making Decisions teachers' note is a helpful tool)

### Activity 2

See Children's Activity Book p 28 & 29

## Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- define the meaning of conscience.
- recognise how conscience is formed.
- identify what enables people to follow an informed conscience.
- identify hindrances to following one's conscience.

## CATECHIST'S PRAYER

'A person without a conscience is like a person without a rudder, that is without guidance, lacking knowledge of the real values of life and knowledge of the purpose of life.'

Pope Paul VI

When people listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and make good choices because it is tika and pono they grow in God's grace in that their tapu and mana increases. They become more like Jesus in their aroha - love for God and for the people who share in their life journey - Te Wa.

There are many things that help people form a strong conscience - hinengaro. In the formation of a Christian conscience people learn what is right and good from the Ten Commandments, Jesus and the Gospels, the Church, the good advice of parents, grandparents, teachers and wise people who are important in their lives. There is a wonderful rule in the bible called the Golden Rule that always applies when people are using their conscience to make a decision about what to do. It originated in the Old Testament in the Book of Tobit 4:15, but it is also found in Luke 6:31 and Matt 7:12. It says 'Do to others as you would have them do to you'.

In the letter of James 4:17 it says, 'Anyone who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin'. People must not act against their conscience - hinengaro. Nor may anyone force someone to do something against their conscience. To do that would be to make someone go against their truest self. Matthew 18:7 tells people in very dramatic language that it is wrong to lead others astray from good.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOD STRAND

Senior A - God 2

## Christians come to know God through Jesus and respond through the way they live their lives.

## CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Jesus said, "Have I been with you so long and yet you do not know me Philip?" "He who has seen me has seen the Father."

John 14:9.

Which person proved a good neighbour? The one who showed mercy. Go and do likewise Jesus said.

Luke 10:36-37.

Through Jesus calling God "Abba", He was saying that God is near, showing a loving concern for all. It is important to realise that the best way Christians come to know God is through what Jesus taught as recorded in Scripture.

1.

- Children listen to the story "Grandad tell me about the moon", see p 8. Help children to name the connections they see between people coming to know about the moon and God revealing God's own self to the world.
- Help children to create a chart to show how God revealed God's own self to the world.
- Help children to create a chart to show how God revealed God's own self through Jesus' life and teachings:

eg. Jesus cared for all people

- God is loving and caring.

Jesus stood against injustice

- God is just.

Jesus respected the dignity of all

- God gives people mana and tapu.

Jesus forgave people

- God is a forgiving God.

In a second chart write people's images of God today from the teaching of Jesus, including:-

- God is near.

- God's love is constant and unconditional.

- God is in all that is good.

- God forgives.

Read and discuss John.

As Christians, our faith in God influences the way we live our lives. When Christians gather to worship God, they hear God's Word. They know that God asks them to live it. In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us the importance of reverencing human dignity. That means respecting the tapu and dignity of everyone, and helping those in need.

## SONGS:

"Brother, Sister, let me serve you."

"God is like a Father and Mother to us."

2.

- Invite children to read Scripture reading in their small group. Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke:10-29-37.

Ask children:

- What was so surprising about the main character in the story?
- If you had been present what affirmation/praise would you give to the Samaritan?
- Encourage children to think about the categories of priest, levite, Samaritan - Ask who might "fit" these categories in Aotearoa New Zealand to day.
- In pairs work through p 3 & 4 Children's Activity Book.

## Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise that it is through Jesus that Christians come to know God.
- identify what Jesus made known about God through his teaching and his life.
- explain the meaning of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan.
- relate the message of the Good Samaritan to life situations today.
- recognise that Christians respond to God in Faith in the ways they live their lives.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOD STRAND

Senior A - God 2

### Grandad, Tell Me About the Moon

Rachel loved looking at the moon. She would lie in her bed by the bay window and watch its big round face shining down on her. She liked it when it was full best of all. Somehow when it was just the sliver of a new moon or a quarter or a half it was like it didn't really want people to know it was there. It was like it was shy and was trying to hide itself away from the earth. Rachel's Grandad shared her love of the moon. It's good when you find someone who loves the same things you do - that makes them easier to share. Rachel and her Grandad would sit for hours on quiet nights looking at the moon. One night Grandad said, "You know Rachel, when I was your age I thought the moon was made of cheese." Rachel laughed. "Nobody really knew what it was made of and it seemed so remote and strange to us. We used to say a man lived in it. I kept asking who he was, but no one could tell me. He's the man in the moon they would say!" Rachel often wondered what life would be like on the moon. She would whisper, "Grandad tell me about the moon. Tell me what you think it is like up there." "Well," said Grandad slowly, thinking as he spoke. "To begin with people knew very little about the moon. They knew it changed shape at different times of the month. They knew it shone brightly on clear nights but on cloudy nights it sometimes didn't appear at all. They thought it might be like their planet earth but it was so far away that they could only guess what it was really like. Then the telescope was invented and suddenly people could see things on the moon's surface. They looked like mountains and craters and even seas - but even though they knew a bit more about it they still weren't sure. But people became more curious to discover the deepest secrets the moon held. They believed the only way they could get to know it better was to actually go there and land on it and see for themselves. This curiosity began what was called the Space Race. It became a huge race between scientists from Russia and America to get to the moon first. They worked night and day to invent a rocket to take their astronauts to the moon. All the world watched to see who would win the race and they had many trial runs before they got there." "Who got there first Grandad?" Rachel asked. "It was an American called Neil Armstrong who first landed his rocket on the moon. His were the first human feet to touch the moon's surface. I can remember that day clearly. At last the mysteries of the big cheese ball in the sky were mysteries no more. I looked at the moon the night after the landing and said to it - "We are strangers no more!" This great remote world in space which people had wondered about for thousands of years was now like a neighbour we could get to know. We have certainly learnt a lot about the moon, Rachel, but there is still so much more for us to learn." Grandad sat staring up at the moon with a contented expression on his face. "But not tonight! It's time you were in bed, Rach. Off you go and I'll come and put out your light." Grandad came and sat on Rachel's bed. "Grandad I've been thinking. Coming to know about the moon is a bit like coming to know God. To begin with, people didn't know God and had to imagine what God was like. God was showing little bits of God's self but people didn't really know what God was like. And then Jesus came and he helped people to know what God was really like." "That's right," said Grandad. "Because Jesus said if you have seen me you have seen God. Seeing and touching something helps you to come to know it better." "Just like the moon eh, Grandad?" "Yes," said Grandad, "sometime in the future it will be possible for people to know all there is to know about the moon. That's where it's different - we will never know all there is to know about God. That's what is so great about the mystery that God is." Rachel could hear her Grandad's voice fading away and she could see the moon shining down on her as she drifted gently off to sleep.



Anne Kennedy

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Senior A - Sacraments 3

### UNFORTUNATELY ...BUT FORTUNATELY!

**A game you can play with your class or group.**

Somebody begins with a doom-laden statement such as:  
"I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but the ship is sinking."

The next person adds a sentence beginning, "Fortunately..."  
eg "Fortunately, there is another ship close by".

The next person adds on a sentence beginning, "Unfortunately..."  
eg. "Unfortunately, it is flying the skull and crossbones".

And so on, around the class.

Similar stories might start: "I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but..."

- there's a plague sweeping the country
- there's a mouse in your soup
- a dog just ate your playlunch

I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but - your teacher is probably going to make you write out the story when you've finished, and turn it into a wall mural!

Adapted from a story by Diane Perham.



Peoples Lives are Blessed and Broken

To talk about people's lives being blessed and broken refers to the experiences people have in life. Some are happy and fill them with joy and gratitude. Others are hard, bringing suffering, pain and grief. Sometimes human error or sin causes suffering. Or it comes through sickness or from natural disasters without apparent cause. Any sickness or hurt brings suffering to people because their tapu and mana are diminished, which weakens their feelings of well-being - hauora. Sometimes people mistakenly think God is punishing them during their times of sadness and struggle and rewarding them during their happy times.

1. Teacher reads Journal Story Pt4 No 2 1983 "Fortunately ... but Unfortunately" to begin this topic in a light-hearted way - see page 37 and 38.  
Explain that experiencing painful events in life doesn't feel so funny. Most people's lives have both blessed and broken experiences. Ask children for alternate words that describe the meaning of BLESSED and BROKEN.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

God did not say: You will not be troubled, you will not be laboured, you will not be disquieted; but (God) said: you will not be overcome.

Julian of Norwich - Showings

2. Children work in small groups with a chart headed Blessed and Broken. Write examples of the kind of blessed and broken experiences young people can have - remember ordinary things can be blessed experiences!  
Share with whole group. Look at the ways we can find God in these experiences. With the eyes of faith people can be aware of God in both the good and the difficult times of life. Review Children's Activity Book page 24.

Jesus coming into the world as a human being shows that God is with people in all their experiences, those that feel blessed and those that feel broken. As with all human lives, Jesus experienced joy he also struggled with suffering. He rejoiced when his seventy disciples returned from a wonderful experience of ministry and praised God for the blessings of the occasion. However on the cross he felt so alone and in pain, he cried out to God "Why have you abandoned me?"  
When Jesus promised to be with his followers always, he meant in good times and in bad. Both the blessed and broken experiences of peoples lives can be a time of sacrament, when something of the mystery of God is made known to them.

Learning Outcome

The children will be able to:

- relate how through faith - whakapono people can experience signs of God's presence in the blessed and broken experiences of their lives.

Creation: is Graced by God - Te Atua and must be respected and cared for by all.

1.
- Ask children to bring to the group a symbol of Creation.
  - Begin by inviting children to share ideas on what they understand by grace.  
From ideas create a definition eg. grace is the gift of God's life; God's presence and action in the world, offered freely to people.
  - Invite children to share how they are aware that creation is graced by God and shows God's glory eg. the variety of life in all forms; the enormous number of good things; the wonder of a sunset; etc.
  - With reflective music playing, invite all to sit with symbol, and the ways they see it has been graced by God. Place symbol in central focus.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

"By means of all created things without exception the Divine assails us. God reveals God's Self everywhere. God is the ultimate point on which all realities converge."

Teilhard de Chardin.

Creation is graced by God, even though all things are not in the state of perfection that God planned for them. By being graced by God, all creation is tapu and shows the glory and goodness of God.

In the book of Genesis the creation story tells how in the beginning there was only God. God reached out and created the world and everything in it. Then people were created to live in this world and enjoy it, and share in God's Tapu and Mana.

2.
- After a little quiet time, lead children in a discussion on how knowing that all creation is graced by God our attitudes to creation are affected including:-
  - showing concern for people, because they share in God's Tapu and Mana.
  - being aware and speaking out about situations related to the care of people and the land.
  - becoming involved with groups which promote care of creation.
  - read story "Where Our Ancestors Walked" (Part 4 No 2 1990 School Journal). See Children's Activity Book p 5 & 6

SONG:

"Care for Life"

PRAYER:

Prayer of St. Francis

The use of holy water to bless.

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- explain what it means to say creation is graced by God.
- recognise that creation shows God's glory and goodness to the world.
- demonstration awareness of the need to care for creation.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESUS STRAND

Senior A - Jesus 1

### Children will be able to: develop an understanding that Jesus is the Son of God and that he revealed to the world that God is Abba, Father, Matua

1. Have the children discuss what it means for people in the Church to be called a son or daughter of God. Include the following - being loved by God, having a close relationship with God, living as part of the family of God, being cared for by God. Explain that in the Old Testament when the people of Israel as a nation are called God's first born son, it means that God loved each person as a son or daughter.

In Old Testament times, people were called "sons of God" or "children of God" to show they had a special relationship with God.

The People of God chose to be God's very own became a nation called Israel. God's love for the people of Israel is so great that they are called God's first born son (Exodus 4:22).

When Jesus lived on earth many people recognised that he was a very special person who was very close to God. However only a few people realised that Jesus as God's own son meant something much deeper and different than the way the words had been used before.

2. Have the children locate Matthew 16:16-17 and follow the text as it is read to them. Discuss with the children why there are capital letters for the words Son of God when referring to Jesus and how Jesus is different from people who become adopted sons and daughters of God through Baptism. Highlight that Peter only knew that Jesus was God the Son because God the Father revealed it to him. See Children's Activity Book p 7.

3. Have the children suggest names that families use for parents, grandparents and relations that show love. Have the children state what Jesus' name for God, Abba, tells them about God. Read Luke 15:11-24 and talk about all the father does in the story, such as: - looks out for his son to return, feels aroha - love and compassion when he sees the sorry state he is in, runs to meet him, hugs and kisses him, show his forgiveness, gives his son sandals, a robe and ring. See Children's Activity Book p 8.

Children call their parents Mum and Dad. They have names like: Nana, Granny, Kui, Kuia, Poppa, Koro or Koroua for grandparents and moko or mokopuna for grandchildren. These names are used only when there is a close relationship within the family.

Jesus had a special name he called God - "Abba". Abba means "Dear Father", a name given to a loved and loving parent. No one but the Son of God - Tama a te Atua would have dared to use such a name for God.

4. Have the children make and decorate work plaques that describe what Jesus was revealing about God when he called him Abba such as: God is near, God is a loving Abba, God is full of compassion, He tino aroha Te Atua, God is patient, God is a forgiving Matua, God watches out for me.

#### Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- recognise that people are called sons or daughters of God to show that they belong to God.
- locate Matthew 16:16-17 and recognise that the title Son of God used by Peter means that Jesus is God the Son.
- recognise that by speaking of God as Abba, Jesus was revealing that God loves people as parents love their children.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

God's parental tenderness can also be expressed by the image of motherhood that emphasises God's immanence, the intimacy between Creator and creature. CCC 239

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Senior A - Sacraments 2

### The Rite and Purpose of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Remind children that people become full members of the church when they have received the three sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The sacrament of Confirmation is received only once. It confers the full gift of the Holy Spirit and increases the grace of Baptism. It focuses on the responsibility to spread the Gospel of Jesus which was part of the commitment made at Baptism.

1. Start with Children's Activities Book page 25 to revise the sacraments of Initiation. Create a mind map with the children, tracing all the things that people confirm such as plans, bookings, travel plans, tickets and name what it means when we say something is confirmed. Discuss what does it mean then when as Christians we say we have been confirmed? Record responses.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and their guide. Give them understanding, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.

Prayer from the Rite of Confirmation.

2. Teacher explains that through the Sacrament of Confirmation people:
  - receive the Holy Spirit as the first Church community did after Pentecost
  - are 'marked' by the Holy Spirit
  - are offered grace to witness to Jesus in all they do and say and spread his Gospel message of love
  - receive an increase of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be wise and courageous and to understand how to live for God
  - receive the power - mana Atua of Te Wairua Tapu to act with tika, pono and aroha.

3. Children read chart of the rituals and symbols of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Discuss the meaning of the laying on of hands as an action of calling down the Holy Spirit on the person and the anointing with oil as being strengthened by the Holy Spirit to witness to Jesus and carry on his work.

Mime the actions of each with a partner and state what each gesture means in the rite of Confirmation. See Children's Activity Book

The bishop or priest lays his hands on the heads of all those who are being confirmed by extending his hands over them. At the same time he prays that the Holy Spirit will come down upon them to strengthen and guide them and give them the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as wisdom, understanding, courage, and wonder in the presence of God. The person is anointed on the forehead with the Holy oil of chrism. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. As the sign of the cross is made on the forehead the words "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" are said. This anointing sets people aside to serve God to proclaim their faith in God publicly as witness to Jesus in all they say and do. The Holy Spirit which people receive at Confirmation is the same Spirit who filled the first followers of Jesus at Pentecost and enabled them to go out and spread the good news to everyone. The Sacrament of Confirmation has the same effect - it is "pentecost" for each person who receives it.

#### SONG:

"Everyone Moved by the Spirit."

#### Learning Outcome

The children will be able to:

- explain the purpose of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the significance of the gesture of the laying on of hands and the significance of being anointed with oil.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Senior A - Sacraments 1

## The Church is to be the Sacrament of Christ

The risen Christ continues to live in the world today through the Holy Spirit, Just as Jesus was sent to be a sign or sacrament of God, so the Church is to be a sacrament or sign of Christ in the world now.

The first community of the Church were filled with the Holy Spirit and were able to begin the work of the Church.

1. Children share what happened in the first community of the Church after the Ascension including: Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu upon them at Pentecost Filled with the Holy Spirit they were able to begin the work of the Church - the work that Jesus had begun while he was on earth. See Children's Activity Book pages 23 & 24.

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, Baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.**

**Matthew 28: 19-20**

Some of the ways children can share in this work is by forgiving those who hurt them, by sharing their love, by being peacemakers, by offering to help, by being just and honest in all they do. Each time the sacraments are celebrated, the Church becomes a visible sign of Christ present in the world, bringing new life - tapu and mana, healing, strength and love to all people.

2. In groups if possible. Give each group a large piece of paper. On the paper have each child write with help if necessary an answer to the question written on the page. 'What does Jesus want the Church, the body of Christ, to do?'  
eg
  - lead people to God
  - teach others what Jesus taught
  - bring tika, rangimarie and aroha
  - be honest and true

3. Write and read caption - Jesus wants the Church to be a sign that people can see, of God's love for everyone, just as he was a sign of God's love for everyone.

Each member of the body has different gifts so that the Church can carry on the mission of Jesus.

4. Have children make a large collage of a candle, each child has a section of the Candle on which to draw how the Church community is to be a sacrament or sign that Christ is present and active in the world today. Christ is the flame-the light that shines into the world. The Church which is the Body of Christ - like to body of the candle is to allow Christ's light to shine in the world.

### Learning Outcome

The children will be able to:

- recognise how the Church which is the Body of Christ is to be a visible sign of Christ's presence and action in the World today.

**PRAYER:**  
St Teresa's Prayer

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESUS STRAND

Senior A - Jesus 2

**Children will be able to: develop an understanding that Jesus offers people the grace of the Holy Spirit, invites them to turn from sin and to enter a life of faith, hope and love which is expressed in worship of God and in Christian action.**

1. Have the children read the text from Mark 1:15 "The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news." With the children, write a definition of the word repent and discuss how Jesus invited people to turn away from sin to follow his way of love.

Jesus, the Son of God was sent to the world by his Father with a very clear mission. In carrying out his mission he revealed who God is and began the Kingdom or Reign of God on earth as in heaven. He also called people to turn away from sin. Jesus called turning away from sin and feeling deep sorrow - repenting.

Jesus not only asked people to turn away from sin, he showed them that God forgives sin when people repent and are sorry and come back to God.

To turn away from selfishness and live a life of love for God and others is not something that people can do on their own. Even to desire this they need the help of God's grace. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit dwelling within them would help them.

2. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in enabling people to change their lives. Have the children think of ways in which people can turn away from their sin and why Jesus calls them to do so. Include in this discussion - that it is with the help of the Holy Spirit that people can turn away from sin and Jesus calls people to turn away from sin to live his way of love. See Children's Activity Book p 9.

3. Place three overlapping hoops on the floor. In the centre intersection place a caption card with the word God on it. In each hoop place a faith, hope and love caption card. Have the children work in twos for threes and write captions naming what living with faith in God, hoping in God and loving God means. Include responses such as:
  - believing in God's love
  - worshipping God
  - living according to God's laws and commandments
  - living with tika, pono and aroha
  - trusting that God will care for them
  - trusting in God's goodness
  - trusting in God's help when things are hard
  - hoping one day to see God in heaven
  - loving God and others
  - caring for people who are needy
  - serving others with love
  - respecting and increasing the tapu of people.
 Have the children place the captions in the appropriate hoops. See Children's Activity Book p 10.

The gift of faith makes it possible for people to believe in God and to come to know and love God even though they can't see God. By the gift of faith people believe in God's great love for them.

The gift of hope means longing for good and believing and trusting in God's goodness and love. Hope is God's gift and it means that people can trust in all the promises that God has made.

The gift of love, given by the Holy Spirit is sometimes called charity. It is through charity that people love God above all things and are also able to love their neighbour as themselves.

### Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- explain the meaning of a scripture passage where Jesus calls people to turn away from sin.
- recognise that it is the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu that enables people to turn away from sin.
- identify that Jesus calls people away from sin so they can live his way of love - aroha.
- explain what it means to have faith, hope and love.

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

**Just as God courteously forgives our sin after we change our ways, so also does God want us to forgive our sin.**

**Julian of Norwich**



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESUS STRAND

Senior A - Jesus 3

### Children will be able to develop an understanding of Jesus as Saviour and Liberator through his life, death and resurrection - te aranga

Jesus lived his whole life as a total gift of himself to God and to people. He walked with people, listened to them, forgave them, healed them, taught them and loved them.

After meeting Jesus people were changed. They found they were healed, accepted, loved and liberated from injustice. They became aware that when Jesus forgave their sins it was God's forgiveness they received.

1. Refer to the activity in the Children's Activity Book p 10, and using the Gospels of Mark 1:13 and John 1:12 have the children research three people to whom Jesus was important. Do the first example together and then have the children work in small groups. Explain that when Jesus touched the lives of some people they wanted to become his followers - his disciples (Matt 8:14-15 and Luke 8:38-39).

In the Gospels there are many stories that show how Jesus saved people, restored their tapu and brought about a change of heart in them or a change in their life circumstances.

2. Have the students work in groups and create a T-chart to identify what it looks like and sounds like for young people to be followers of Jesus today, eg.

Being followers of Jesus today

*Looks like*

*Standing up for*

*those who are put down*

*Owning up*

*Sounds like*

*It's not fair to say that to him*

*I'm sorry I did that*

Or create a poster showing how students their own age can be active followers of Jesus.

Some of the people who were saved accepted Jesus' invitation to become his followers and live the message he was proclaiming.

At the end of the many stories of healing, Jesus invites those who were healed to go and tell others about him and what has happened to them.

After Jesus' death the first Christians realised that Jesus' offering of his life to God on the cross was made out of love. The power of this love was stronger than the power of sin. By his death, Jesus broke the power of sin and through the gift of grace brought people back into a loving relationship with God in the communion of the Church, and healed and restored tapu.

3. Use the additional resources and have the students listen to the story of an inspiring person who was put to death such as Fr Francis Vernon Douglas or Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

Discuss and summarise orally:

- Who as he?
- What was his cause?
- Who did he upset and why?
- How did his work of love lead him to death?

Explain how like Jesus, Francis Douglas, or Maximilian Kolbe lived their lives for God and wanted to lead people to God. They chose the cause of people who were powerless or marginalised. See Children's Activity Book p 11.

Jesus did not stop bringing his saving love to people even when it meant he had to suffer. It was because of his love for God and for people that Jesus was put to death.

#### Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- recognise ways people experienced Jesus' saving love during his life.
- identify way those whom Jesus saved responded as disciples.
- recognise that by his death Jesus overcame the power of sin and brought people back into a loving friendship with God.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Freedom is the outlook proper to the believer, an outlook born of Christ who by drawing aside the veil enables us to understand the work of God in a new light.

Gutierrez

- The God of Life p 31

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Senior A - Church 3

### Paul's Missionary Journeys

- The first passage was made with Barnabus and started in Antioch in Syria. They sailed to Cyprus and then on the Attalia and travelled around the country that we know today as Turkey.

- Antioch in Syria
- by sea to Salamis and Paphos in the island of Cyprus
- by sea to Attalia in Asia Minor
- from Attalia to Antioch in Pisidia, to Lystra and Derbe and back to Attalia
- back to Antioch in Syria

- The second journey also started in Antioch in Syria and with Silas headed overland to Lystra and across Asia to Troas. While Paul was in Troas he met Luke and they became good friends. It is from Luke's record of the Acts of Apostles that people today know about the actions and journeys of Paul.

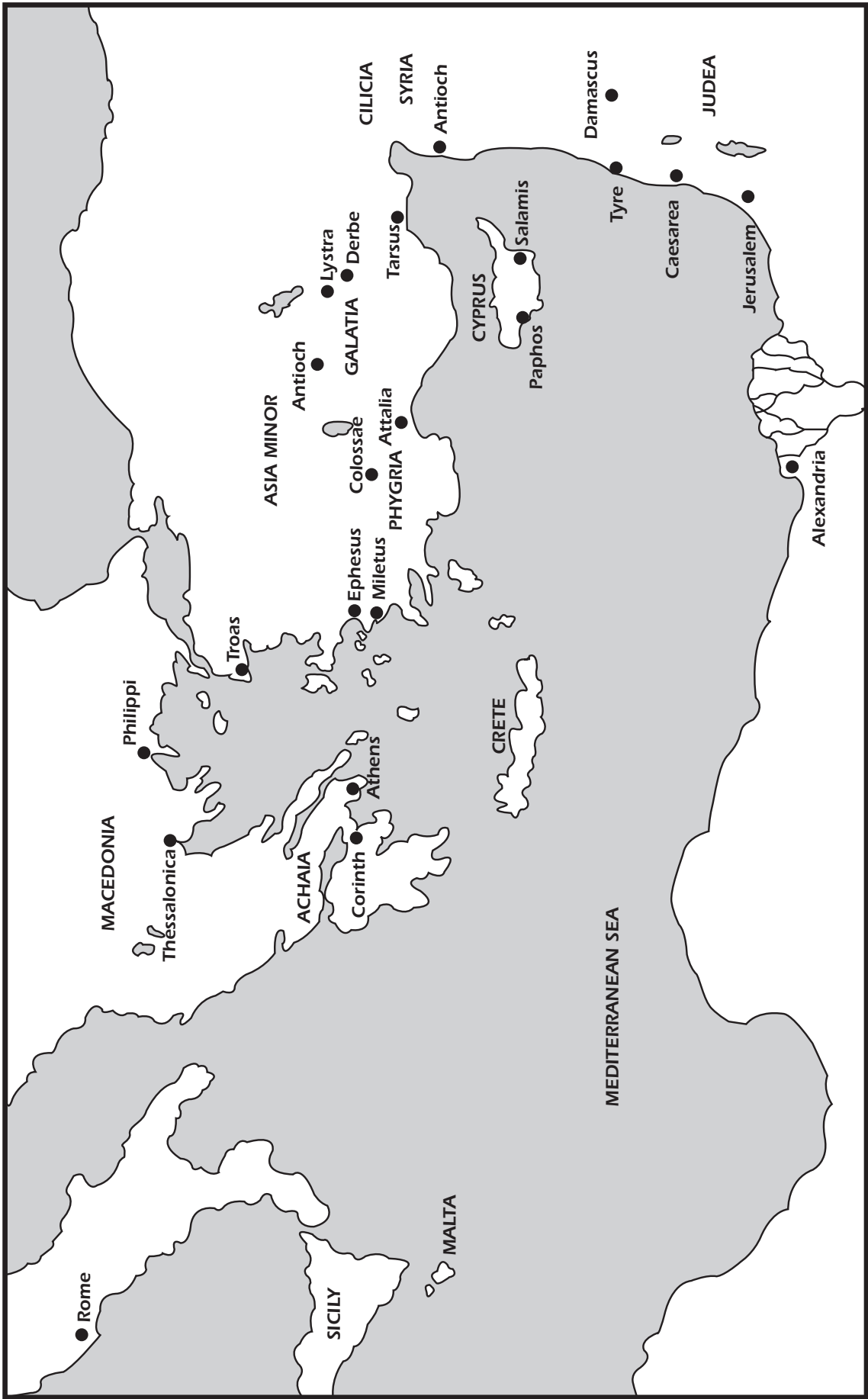
- Antioch in Syria
- overland to Lystra
- on to Troas via the other Antioch and Asia
- by sea to Philippi *(Paul meets Lydia)*
- overland to Thessalonica
- by sea to Athens and on to Corinth *(Paul meets Priscilla and Aquila)*
- by sea to Ephesus and on to Caesarea and back to Antioch in Syria by land.

- Paul's third journey took him from Antioch back to Ephesus and Troas and on to Philippi where he caught up with his friend Titus and they went on to Corinth by sea. From Corinth he travelled overland to Macedonia and then by boat to Miletus, across the sea to Tyre and down to Caesarea. With his friends Paul travelled back to Jerusalem where he was arrested. He was taken prisoner by sea to Rome via Malta.

- Antioch in Syria
- overland via the lands of Galatia and Phygria to Ephesus
- overland to Troas
- by sea to Corinth
- overland to Macedonia
- on by sea to Miletus and across to Tyre
- over land via Caesarea to Jerusalem *(Paul is arrested)*



Map of Key Places Mentioned in Paul's Missionary Journey's



Teacher's note: This page may be photocopied or made into an OHT.

### Father Francis Vernon Douglas



Francis Vernon Douglas was born at Johnsonville in Wellington, New Zealand on 22 May 1910. He went to Johnsonville Primary School and the Marist Brothers school in Thorndon. He was very good at sports while at school, doing particularly well at rugby, cricket, handball and boxing. After leaving school he worked for a year in the Post Office during which time he felt called to become a priest and so set off for Mosgiel to study for the priesthood. He spent his first years after ordination at St Joseph's Parish in New Plymouth where he spent a good deal of time with the young people, encouraging them in their sport and games. In 1937 he joined the Columban Fathers because he was interested in becoming a missionary. In May 1938 he set sail for the Philippines and arrived in his new parish of Pililla in July. He put great energy into building the faith of the people.

He began with the young people saying "They're the future of the church here and they also seem the best way to reach other people". He organised recreational activities for them and also set about repairing the dilapidated church building. Late in 1941 the Japanese army invaded the Philippines and the country became involved in the Second World War. Fr Douglas had plenty of time to leave but he chose to stay with his people to support them through this terrifying time. He said, "They have nowhere to go, nor do I". He was often taken away by the Japanese soldiers to be interrogated for hours because he was a priest and a foreigner and they thought he was a spy against them. They thought he heard the confessions of the Philippine guerrillas who were fighting against the Japanese. After guerrilla raids in 1943 Fr Douglas was arrested by the soldiers, beaten and tied to a pillar in the church and left there for three days. He was also given the water torture, which meant a large funnel was put into his mouth, down which the soldiers poured water until he became horribly bloated. A wooden slab was put across his middle and the soldiers jumped up and down on him. This torture was meant to make him reveal the guerrilla's whereabouts, but whether or not he knew where they were, Fr Douglas remained silent. The soldiers did allow him to make his confession to a local Filipino priest who reported, "His face was bloody, one eye was blackened and swollen and his arms were covered with infected cuts and sores." Fr Douglas was last seen being dragged from the church onto a military truck and surrounded by soldiers with fixed bayonets. When the truck returned Fr Francis Douglas was missing. His body was never found, but it is believed that he was put to death on 10 July 1943. He was 33.

Adapted from an article written by the Columban Fathers provided by Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESUS STRAND

Senior A - Jesus 3

### Saint Maximilian Kolbe



Maximilian Kolbe was born in 1894 in Poland. He was named Raymund but this was changed to Maximilian when he became a Franciscan priest. Maximilian is the name of a Roman citizen who lived in the 3rd century and who was martyred because he would not serve in the Roman Legion. As time would tell it was a most suitable name for this young man. Maximilian was a brilliant student but unfortunately he did not have good health and as a young man contracted tuberculosis. During his student days he started what was called a Militia. This was a group of young people who dedicated their lives to Mary and who worked to help people turn their lives back to God. He was ordained in April 1918 and became a teacher at the seminary where he had trained in Cracow in Poland. His health was not good and he spent much time in pain and suffering. Against all odds he published a magazine called The Knight to help people to understand what the Militia was about and to encourage people to pray to Mary and trust that she would lead people back to

God. He overcame many problems with the publication of the magazine and the circulation numbers increased greatly. As the circulation increased Maximilian needed a larger printing factory. He was given a large piece of land just outside Warsaw. Throughout a bitter Polish winter he and the other Franciscan friars built a friary with their bare hands. It was through the magazine that he wanted to spread the good news of the gospel. He bought modern printing equipment and word about Maximilian's work and his kindness and care of the other friars soon spread throughout the country. Hundreds of young men came to join the community. On September 1 1939 Germany invaded Poland and Maximilian and the friars were sent to German work camps where the conditions were very hard. After several months they came back to their friary and cared for thousands of refugees who came to them looking for help. Most of these refugees were Jews who were being terrorised by the Germans. He began printing his magazine again and in it he wrote things which were critical of the Germans. It was not long before the Gestapo came and arrested him and he was taken to a prison in Warsaw where he was beaten while he was interrogated. On May 28 1941 he was herded starving and thirsty with 300 other prisoners into a cattle truck and taken to Auschwitz concentration camp. As the trucks drove off his voice could be heard singing a hymn to Mary. In Auschwitz people were treated as less than human. On arrival Maximilian was stripped of his Franciscan habit and given a blue and white pyjama suit and branded with number 16670. He slept in crowded bunks on rat infested straw. Food was no more than watery soup and sawdust bread. Priests were singled out for particularly vicious treatment from the guards who regarded them as lazy layabouts. They were given heavy work to do and were kicked and beaten often. Maximilian's health was very bad and one day he was given a vicious beating for not working fast enough and was left for dead. He was rescued and, while recovering, was only concerned for the other prisoners praying with them and encouraging them to have hope in God. In the midst of all the horror and pain, Father Kolbe moved silently about whispering words of hope and peace and holding the dying as they breathed their last. Escapes were attempted often by prisoners who could no longer tolerate the horrific conditions of the camp. On the first of August 1941 the wailing camp sirens announced the escape of another prisoner. For every escape the Germans would claim the lives of 10 prisoners. The selection process struck terror into the hearts of all the prisoners because they all knew that if selected they would face the worst and most feared death of all - slow starvation in an airless underground bunker. All day the prisoners stood waiting for the dreaded selection. Finally the camp guards moved down the lines and made their selection. As the ninth man was selected he cried out that he would never see his wife and children again. Suddenly a small figure left the line and approached the guards. He asked if he could take the place of the man who had cried out. The commandant nodded and the 10 men were stripped and led off to the bunker to die. By his action, Maximilian showed the power of saving love. The guards who watched and waited for those in the bunker to die, listened for the groans of agony from the starving prisoners. This time it was different; all they heard was prayers and hymns. Father Kolbe was the only one left conscious after 2 weeks. The guards realised this was no ordinary prisoner. Finally he was given an injection of carbolic acid on August 14, the feast of the Assumption in Poland. News of his death spread quickly throughout Poland and it brought hope to many. All who witnessed his act of love for a stranger were inspired. Many witnesses were present when he was named Saint Maximilian Kolbe by his countryman, Pope John Paul II in October 1982.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Senior A - Church 3

### Spreading the Good News continued

#### 4. Scripture (Luke 16 : 15)

Jesus asked his followers to "Go into the world and tell the Good News to the whole of creation"

*The people in the early Church continued the mission of Jesus and that mission has been passed down through the centuries to the Church today.*

#### Brain-storm What is the Mission of the Church today?

- to tell the world the message of Jesus
- to baptise people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to carry on what Jesus started, caring for people who are in need
- to teach people about God and how much God loves people
- to serve others - manaaki
- to give thanks and worship to God
- to be a witness by the way people live to the values Jesus taught with tika, pono and aroha
- to encourage all people to use their gifts to bring about the kingdom or reign of God - Te Rangatiriranga on earth
- to respect and restore the tapu of people so that they can have mana to achieve their goals in life.

God wants all people to hear the Good News first given by Jesus. When each person is baptised, they are anointed with the Holy Spirit, born into the life of the community of followers of Christ - Te Whanau a Te Karaiti who live in the Holy Spirit, and they are called to be a part of the mission of the Church, using their own personal gifts and skills and the gifts of the Spirit. Each baptised person is given the same Spirit that filled Jesus, and later filled the members of the early Church community.

A person who is willing to receive the Holy Spirit will be given faith, the hope and the love they need to do God's work. They will be given the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit: gifts such as wisdom and courage (1 Corinthians 12). The other gifts are for service and to share in the community.

Not everyone will be given the same gifts, because God calls people to work together as a community, not just on their own, and people with different gifts can help each other. Children are called to share their gifts for the mission of the Church too.

Christians are called to be a part of the mission of the Church in different ways.

They can grow in holiness through service and prayer as part of how they live their lives each day. Their call may be to a parent and through love they share with their family carry out the mission of the Church. They may be called to be a priest or a religious brother or sister or as a single person.

Whatever their vocation or call, Christians are called to use their gifts to share the Good News that Jesus came to proclaim.

#### 5. On whiteboard or paper draw a flow chart showing how the mission of Christians today.

**Brainstorm** how people in the Church use their gifts to carry out its mission in the world today:

- people help with liturgy in their parish
- people make music for their community to share
- people proclaim the Scriptures
- people pray together
- people help others in need
- people teach children to carry out the mission of the Church
- people encourage others to use their gifts
- people join groups who serve the needs of the poor and those who have been unjustly treated etc.

Children's Activity Book page 22

People Use Their Gifts for the Mission of the Church

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Senior A - Church 3

### Spreading the Good News

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify how early church communities began to spread the Good News.
- recall what the mission of the Church is.
- recognise that people are called to be part of the mission of the Church in different ways.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

**Thus the Church's mission is not an addition to that of Christ and the Holy Spirit, but is its sacrament: in her whole being and in all her members, the Church is sent to announce, bear witness, make present and spread the mystery of the communion of the Holy Trinity.**

CCC738

1. Have the word **MISSION** displayed  
Ask the children if they know what this word means. Explain that a *mission* is a particular task or goal assigned to a person or group. Invite the children to recall common expressions which include the word mission eg.
  - he is a man on a mission
  - she has made saving whales her life's mission
  - the army unit was sent on a secret mission etc

The word mission means being sent to do a particular task. God sent Jesus on a mission, and then Jesus sent his followers out into the world: "*Go into all the world and tell the good news to the whole of creation*" (Mark 16:15) He also told them to baptise all people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - ki te ingoa o Te Matua o te tamaiti o te Wairua Tapu.

**This is what is meant by the mission of the church**

2. Do you think people in the early Church had a mission? What do you think it was? Can you recall anyone in particular from the early Church who might have gone on a mission? Recap from previous lesson "Paul - Apostle to the Gentiles"  
Show the children a map of Paul's missionary journeys (*Please enlarge or put on overhead if possible - see page 32*)  
Using map, show the children the routes of Paul's 3 missionary journeys - see description page 33.

Some of Jesus's followers gave up everything to carry on his work. Others went on with their jobs and looked after family - manaaki their family - whanau as they shared the Good News, and showed their love for God and others.

**The people in the early Church continued the mission of Jesus.**

All members of the early Church communities shared the good news or Gospel in some way. The early Christian missionaries needed great courage to share their faith, hope and love. Travel was difficult and dangerous. They walked or rode donkeys, often met bandits on the road or were caught in storms. Luke tells us of the time Paul was thrown in prison (Acts 12 : 1-18). **But was their faith and trust in the Holy Spirit that helped them to remain strong,** and they said they were happy to suffer for love of Jesus.

3. Turn to Children's Activity Book page 21. Choose one of Paul's journeys and assist the children to mark the route taken with coloured pencil/felt. As you do this you could either:

- talk about Paul's mission and what it entailed the hardships and dangers he would have faced and why he would take those risks

OR

- READ extracts from Acts 27 especially vs. 13 - 44 Storm at Sea/Shipwreck  
The children may like to dramatise.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Senior A - Holy Spirit 1

### Baptism and The Holy Spirit

Every child born is created and loved by God and the Holy Spirit touches every person's life. We celebrate as a church the gifts the Holy Spirit brings us in the Sacrament of Baptism.

1.
  - Children working in pairs identify and list the gifts the church believes the Holy Spirit brings to people when they are baptised
  - Use the knowledge map p 16 with the children, fitting their suggestions into the appropriate boxes
  - Children choose one gift from the knowledge map and illustrate a poster with the words "AT BAPTISM I RECEIVED THE GIFT OF..... I USE THIS GIFT BY....."
  - Using knowledge map children complete mind map, Children's Activity Book p 12

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

**Jesus answered him, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and spirit".**

John 3:5

Original sin is the first sin people committed against God. It damaged the loving relationship between God and his people, weakened human nature and made people inclined to choose what is wrong.

People are not personally responsible for original sin but they are responsible for their own personal sin.

2.
  - Discuss what sin is: Come up in pairs with a statement "Sin is..."  
NB: Sin is turning away from God. To be a sin the person must know it is wrong **but** still choose to do it.
  - Read "The Doughnut" School Journal Pt 3 No 1 1990, p 17 and discuss the story in terms of:-
    - the effect of **original sin** - the temptation, the pull, the inclination to take the doughnut
    - the **personal sin** - choosing to take the doughnut and eat it, failing to accept responsibility and blaming others
    - the **effect of grace** - responding to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to won up and seek forgiveness form her friends.

When we are baptised original sin is overcome and we are offered grace to grow in holiness and to love with faith, hope and love.

3.
  - Complete Children's Activity Book p 13
  - Work in pairs and dramatise scenes of struggle in making good choices.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

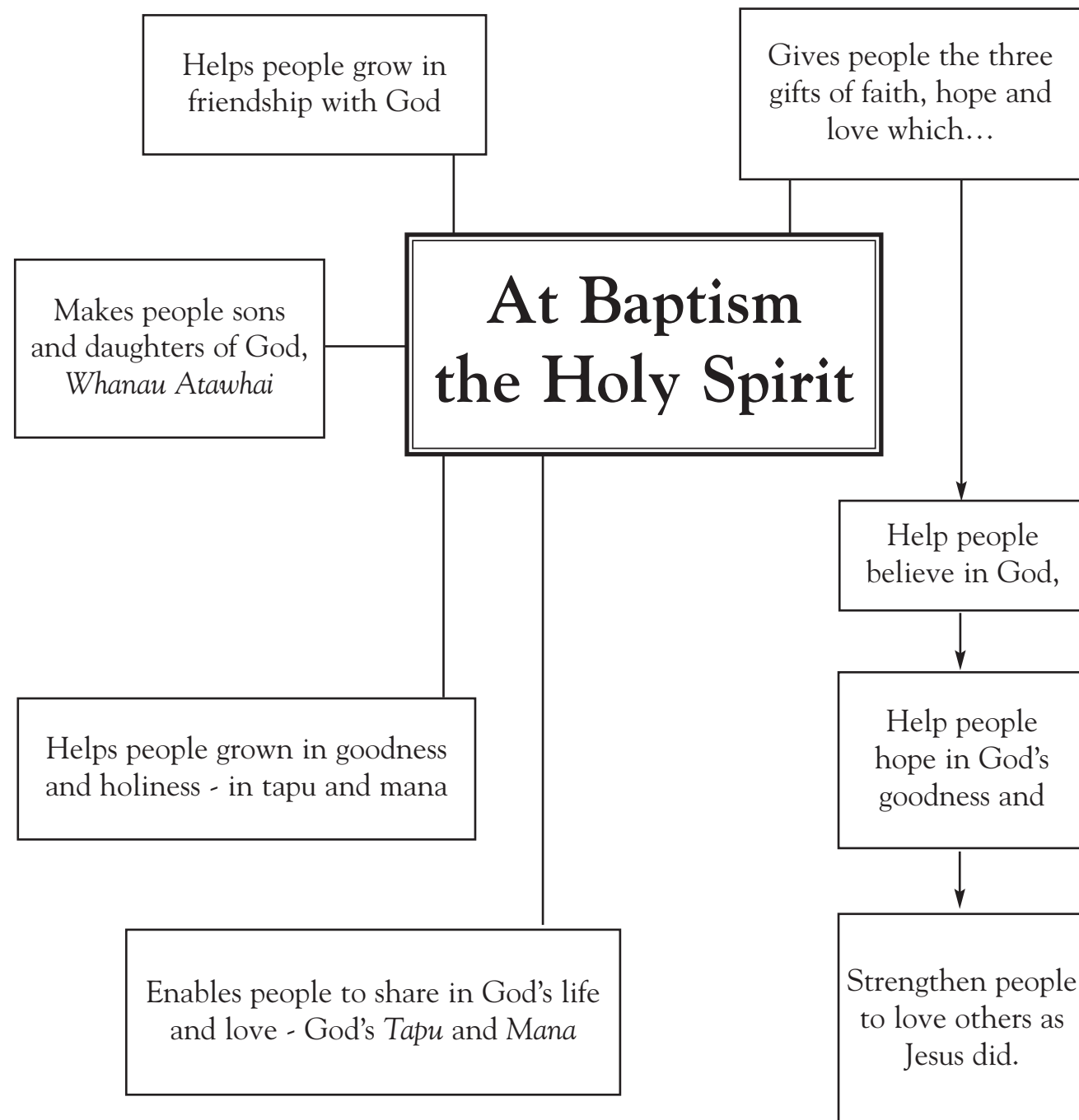
- recall that in Baptism people receive the Holy Spirit to strengthen them to speak, act with love of Christ.
- recognise what personal sin is and what original sin is.
- recognise that in Baptism Christ frees us form personal/original sin.

Continues next page



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Senior A - Holy Spirit 1



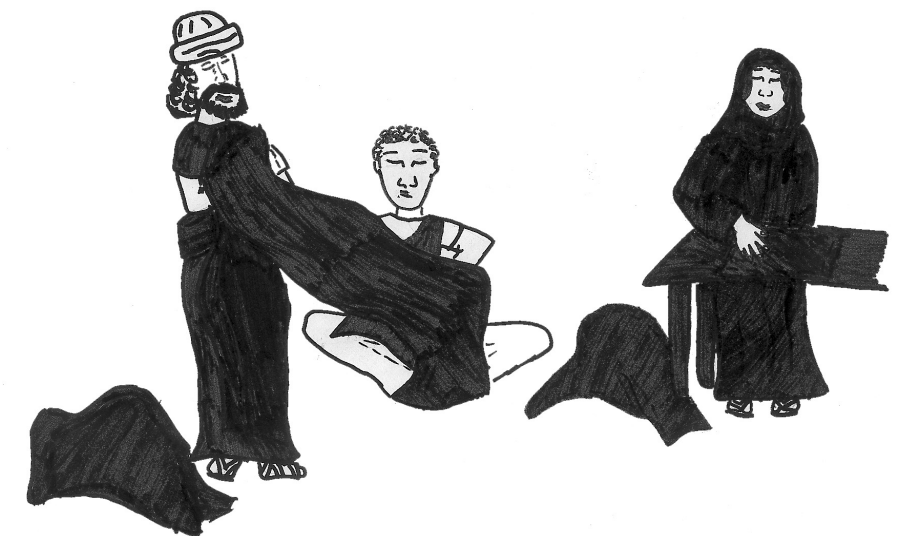
## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Senior A - Church 2

### Aquila and Priscilla - Leaders in the Early Church Who Are You?

We are Jews who were born in Pontus in Asia Minor on the border of the Black Sea in the first century AD. We are tent makers by trade and our leather tents sell well in markets. Many people travel so much these days that a tent is necessary, especially if you are a merchant moving from one town to another to sell your goods. We used to live in Rome until the Emperor Claudius banished all Jews from the city. We joined the new religious groups known as 'The Way' or as others call them, 'Christians'. Other Christians come to our house to share what they have with each other and we pray together and break bread as Jesus our leader asked us. This new religion is a new way of living for us and more and more people are becoming part of it every day. We are not at all popular with the traditional Jews and even more unpopular with the Romans. Some of us have been tortured and put to death because of what we believe so we have to be very brave and very careful. Our house is used as a gathering place. It is what we call a 'house church' because it is big enough for a good number of us to be together in.

When Claudius expelled us we went to Corinth in Greece. There we met Paul. He is one of the apostles, although he never met Jesus during his life on earth. He is a man filled with the Holy Spirit and really passionate about spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. He came to stay with us and we took care of him and we enjoyed making tents together as he is a tent maker too. We travelled with him to Ephesus and he stayed with us there as well. We enjoy his company. In Ephesus, Priscilla helped to instruct and lead to faith a young man named Apollos and he became a teacher after he was baptised. We think Paul values Priscilla's teaching and our friendship. He mentioned our names when he wrote to the new Church in Rome (Romans 16:3). We returned to Rome and there our story ends.





## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Senior A - Church 2

### Paul - Apostle to the Gentiles - Who Are You?



My Jewish name is Saul. I was born in Tarsus in Cilicia which is a Roman province in Asia Minor. My father was a well-to-do Pharisee. Pharisees were Jews who were very religious and who kept the Jewish laws very strictly. My father was given Roman citizenship for his service to the Romans and passed it on to me and I am very proud of it. I can trace my Jewish family tree back to the tribe of Benjamin and my name Saul is after a famous member of that tribe. I had a strict up-bringing as a good Pharisee and studied under a famous Rabbi called Gamaliel. I can speak Greek and Aramaic - I hope this helps you to understand what a mixture of races, languages and religions influenced me as I grew up.

As a young man I became a bitter enemy of this new religious group who called themselves Christians because they were a serious threat to the old religion of Moses in which I had been raised. I saw a few Christians on trial and I watched the young man Stephen being stoned to death. I thought that we could do without trouble-makers like him trying to change what we

had believed for hundreds of years. But that young man's faith was pretty impressive. The council of religious leaders, called the Sanhedrin, entrusted me with getting rid of the Christians in Damascus. I was pleased to be given the responsibility but, on my way to Damascus, something dramatic happened which changed my life. I am not the sort of person to be easily put off, but without any warning I was thrown to the ground and was blinded. But I could see Jesus risen and alive and he asked me why I persecuted him? I didn't understand what he meant at first but then I realised he meant that when I persecuted his followers I persecuted him. I had to do some very serious thinking which completely changed me. I knew God was calling me to be an apostle and I was to teach and preach to people who were not Jews but Gentiles. I could see the need for me to help with separating Christianity from Judaism - the religion of the Jews. I wanted to bring the Christian message to the Greek and Roman world and being both myself was helpful. But it was not easy because some of the customs of this world did not fit with Christianity. Slavery was one of those customs.

I am a fairly feisty, enthusiastic sort of character and I do not tolerate fools easily. I had several fall outs with Peter but we usually managed to resolve them. I always worked with a friend and although I travelled extensively I never went alone. I am a tent maker by trade and whenever I am short of money I make and sell a few tents. Friendships are very important to me and I have several good friends - Barnabas, Silas, Titus, and Timothy. I have several good women friends like Thecla and Lydia whom I baptised and Priscilla, wife of Aquila, who support me and my work of spreading the gospel of Jesus. My ambition is to start Churches in as many places as possible. I try to keep in touch with the new Churches by writing letters to them as they need much help with understanding how to live the teachings of Jesus. They also need lots of guidance as they have many complicated situations to deal with in these times of getting started. I made 3 missionary journeys and had some pretty hair-raising experiences. I was imprisoned for 2 years, shipwrecked, beaten, starved, and stripped naked. I even escaped from Damascus by being lowered in a basket down the sides of the city wall. I am a person with enormous energy and when I set my mind on doing something I do it. I believe in doing things well and I expect others to do things well also, so I am a demanding sort of person. I knew when I made my journey to Rome it would be my last and that I would probably be put to death - and I was beheaded there, while Nero was Emperor. You could read Acts of the Apostles and my letters to find out more about me.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Senior A - Holy Spirit 1

### The Doughnut

by John Lockyear

I'm not talking all the blame. It's Mum's fault, too. If she hadn't slept in, I wouldn't have missed the bus and been late for school. If I hadn't been late for school, I would have been in class instead of alone in the bag bay. And if I hadn't been alone, I wouldn't have been tempted.

Mandy, she's to blame, too. She knows doughnuts are my favourite. She should have kept her bag shut.

I wouldn't have done it if it was just an ordinary doughnut. But it wasn't. It was exquisite - long and golden brown, sprinkled with sticky brown sugar. And cream. Lovely fresh cream mixed with strawberry jam. My mouth waters and my stomach rumbles just thinking about it. Ooh! And when the sweet scents wafted up and tickled my nostrils, I had to have a taste. Just a finger of cream and jam, though. Mmm, if only it had been one finger...It was two, three dollops. Then the doughnut was out of the bag. I was licking mouthfuls of cinnamon sugar. Delicious cinnamon sugar that touched my tongue and melted. I couldn't stop myself. I really couldn't. I chomped into crispy dough. A couple of chews, a swallow, and another bite. I kept on licking, biting, chewing and swallowing until it was gone. I grabbed the bag, ripped it, licked it clean. I was out of control... I don't care. No one can prove it was me. No one saw me. Miss Grey will be angry. She'll ask questions, but she won't know it was me. The only way anyone can find out is to cut me open. They won't do that... Ohh, perhaps there are other ways of finding out the truth: breathaliser! Lie detector...!

What's the time? Oh no, bell time. Oh, why did I do it? Mandy's my best friend. She'll probably never speak to me again. I wouldn't if I was her. She's looking at me now. Thanks goodness she sits on the others side of the room. She's signalling to me. Oh heck, have I got cream on my nose, in my hair? I won't look at her. I can't. She'll know straight away it was me. There's the bell. She's coming over. She's smiling. Not for long, I bet. I feel sick.

"Why were you late this morning, Kirsty? I'm not saying a word. Why is she looking at me like that? Does she know already?"

"Are you OK? You look sort of pale."

I looked pale because I have a lump in my stomach. A lump of sickly doughnut. Your doughnut.

"I know what will cheer you up. I've got a doughnut in my bag. You can have half if you like. I'll go and get it."

Why does she have to be so nice? It wouldn't be so bad if she was nasty like some of the other girls. If only I could do magic, then I could disappear. Better still, I could wave my wand and Mandy's doughnut would be back, ten times bigger, ten times creamier. And I would tell her it was me that made it bigger, and that I did it because she was my best friend. That's right, she is my best friend. The best friend I've ever had.

There's no way out, really. I have to tell her. Best friends don't cheat on each other. Here she comes, I'm going to tell her. I have to. I'm to blame, no one else. I was stupid. Stupid!

Perhaps Mandy will understand.

I wonder if she will still want to be best friends?

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Senior A - Holy Spirit 2

### The Holy Spirit Helps Us to Live as Children of God

1.

- Discuss and name what children receive by being part of a family as a son/daughter/brother/sister.
- Share responses which could include, NAME, LOVE, CARE, HOME, HELP, GUIDANCE.
- Make an OHT or large copy of p 19. Share and discuss what it means to be a son/daughter of God.
- Take a large sheet of paper and ask children to write out the one they like the best - write it and illustrate and paste on sheet. (Individuals/pairs).
- Display poster with caption "The Holy Spirit helps people live as children of God".

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

**"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God"**

**Romans 8:14**

Baptism not only frees us from sin but also welcomes us as sons/daughters of God into the family we call 'church'. To be a child of God means to turn away from sin and live in God's love. It is the Holy Spirit living in them who helps them to do this.

Living as a child of God means choosing what is good and turning away from wrong doings/sin.

2.

- Children complete Children's Activity Book p 14 & 15
- Share and discuss when completed.

St John (3:24) tells us that everyone who believes in Jesus is a child of God. They can know that Jesus is with them through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

3.

- Locate the references in Scripture and match them with sentences that best fits the text.
  - John 14:77
  - Galatians 4:6
  - 1 Corinthian
  - "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit"
  - "You can know the Spirit because the Spirit lives with you and is in you"
  - "Since you are children, God has sent the Spirit to live in you"
- Make up a simple Rap song about being a child of God and what that means.
- Share with each other.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recall that through Baptism we become a child of God.
- identify what it means to be a child of God.
- recognise that it is the Holy Spirit who helps us to choose to live as a child of God.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Senior A - Church 2

### Peter - The First Apostle - Who Are You?



My name is Cephas which means Peter. I am a fisherman and a Jew like Jesus. I was the first person Jesus chose to follow him. I live near the sea and before I was chosen to follow Jesus I was called Simon. I am married to a woman from Capernaum. Once when Jesus was still with us he came to my house where my mother-in-law was ill and he cured her. I am a strong, physical, outdoors type of person, with some leadership qualities which Jesus must have recognised early on in our relationship.

I am a pretty hot-headed sort of character and can be rather impetuous as you might know from the stories about me cutting off the guard's ear when they came to arrest Jesus. It wasn't long after that I denied knowing him 3 times. I still can not believe I did that. After all, he was my best friend and I gave up everything to follow him. My faith in Jesus took a while to grow really strong. Once he called me to walk across water on Lake Tiberias to him. I sank because I didn't have enough faith in him to believe I could. He took me up a mountain once with James and John and strange things happened. I heard the voice of God saying Jesus was his only Son - that was pretty awesome! I knew he was the promised Messiah but I don't know how I knew.

I guess it was by the power of the Holy Spirit. The last week of Jesus' life was very scary. We, the 12 closest of his followers, were terrified we would be next. Having watched what happened to him none of us was too keen to repeat it. He told us he would rise again but it seemed a bit hard to believe under the circumstances. So when he appeared on that Sunday after he had died I tell you we thought our eyes were playing tricks on us. Naturally we were delighted but we knew he wouldn't be staying long.

We thought his death and resurrection were scary, and then came Pentecost. Wow! We hadn't really recovered from the first round and the only security we felt was being together in the upper room where we had eaten for the last time with him before he died. I won't ever forget the sound of that wind - it was a howler! And the flames above our heads - unbelievable! But that was minor compared with what was going on inside us! It was amazing. Suddenly all our fears disappeared. It didn't matter what the Jews or Romans would do to us. We were bursting to tell everyone about him. As I said earlier I had always been a bit of a hothead but this was more than that. I preached in Jerusalem that day and I knew it was the Holy Spirit within me - I could never have done that on my own. About 3000 people were baptised that day. I came to realise then that the message Jesus taught us was not just for Jews but for everyone including the Gentiles. This idea was not easily accepted at first. I baptised a Roman Centurion called Cornelius after he had heard me preaching. Now that was a real challenge because the Romans had treated us Jews pretty badly when they had been in control of our country and we certainly didn't mix with them. So being invited to share the message of Jesus with them seemed strange. But Cornelius and his friends received it so well that I knew this is what Jesus meant when he said "Go and preach to all nations and baptise them." Life became very dangerous for the Christians in my time under the Roman Emperor Nero. He persecuted us cruelly. In the huge Roman sports arenas he fed some of us to hungry wild lions while people watched for entertainment. Many of our friends were martyred this way. Martyr means witness and standing up as a witness to Jesus Christ often meant death. It was a very testing time for people who believed and wanted to follow the way of life Jesus had taught us. Paul and I worked very hard in those early days to spread the message. It was not easy and we had many arguments. But we learned to talk things through and that helped. I know I will probably be put to death because I believe in Jesus. But he made me the leader and my name means rock so I am willing to pay that price for him. He certainly made a difference to my life! Has he made a difference to yours too?



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Senior A - Church 2

### Life in the Early Church Communities

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recall how the early Church communities are described in Acts.
- identify some of the difficulties which faced the early Church communities.
- identify some famous people from the early Church communities.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Acts 2 : 44

1. Ask the children to find the Acts of Apostles in their bibles. Read Acts 2 : 43-47, 4 : 32-35, 5 : 12-16 (if the children do not have bibles - have copies of readings for each child)

Ask the children to share what they have learned from the readings of what people in the early church needed to do to follow Jesus e.g.

- sold all their possessions and shared with everyone
- spent time together
- attended the temple together
- broke bread in their homes
- praised God and were friendly to all
- shared what they had with those in need

One of the ways people were able to recognise the early Christian communities was their willingness to share all their property with each other and those in special need. The leader of these communities spent much time speaking and teaching about Jesus and there was often healing and miracles. Thousands became believers and the communities grew rapidly. The first believers were Jews living in Jerusalem, though many had come from other places. Some of the things they did as Jews did not always fit in with their new ways of living as Christians. As Jews they still prayed in the Temple, but they also gathered in one another's homes to pray as Jesus had taught them, and to celebrate the breaking of bread, the Eucharist. The first Christians thought of themselves as Jews, and the word Christian only became used when they realised that all Jews were not going to accept Jesus. Many people who were not Jews became Christian. Non Jews were known as Gentiles.

While the first Church communities were filled with joy and enthusiasm for their new life, they faced difficulties from the start.

One main difficulty they had was because many of the Jews, especially the leaders who had persecuted Jesus, wanted to get rid of his followers as well. Through all the time of persecution the Holy Spirit gave them strength and courage to face pain and death because they were followers of Jesus. In Acts, Luke shows us that ordinary people, many without much education, were able to speak and teach about Jesus because they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

2. Have children working in pairs or groups. Hand out a copy of scripture to each group. (Acts 4 : 1-16, 4 : 29-31, 5 : 12-16, 5 : 17 - 21)

Ask the children to read and discuss with partner/group

- a) what it says about life in the early church
- b) how people dealt with their difficulties
- c) what effect the Holy Spirit had on the early Christians

Share with the group

3. Have children break into 2/3 groups. Give each group a fact sheet on Peter, Paul or Aquila and Priscilla - see pp 27 - 29. Invite the groups to read/discuss then present their person(s) to the whole group. Go through Children's Activity Book page 20.

In the early Christian communities there were many outstanding people among the Apostles themselves, and among other men and women who had become believers. From the beginning, Peter the fisherman from Galilee was the leader. Jesus had chosen him to look after his followers (John 21 : 15-19) and be the rock on which his church would be built (Matt 16:18). Peter is a model for all Christians because he made mistakes, but he was willing to say he was sorry and start again. (The tradition of the Church is that Peter travelled to Rome and died there.)

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Senior A - Holy Spirit 2

### Baptism and the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu

Baptism gives people a new birth as sons and daughters of God - Whanau a Te Atua in the Church

#### Sons and daughters of God receive:

Grace to grow in friendship with God

Grace to turn away from sin

Hohou Rongo - Forgiveness of their sins

The Holy Spirit as their friend and helper - kai awhina

Grace to love other people

#### Sons and daughters of God:

Talk to their friend God in prayer  
- karakia

Ask the Holy Spirit to help them live good lives and turn away from sin

Listen to the Holy Spirit prompting them to choose what is good - tika

Believe in Jesus

Learn to love others in what they say and do



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Senior A - Holy Spirit 3

### The Spirit of God in the Old Testament

There are many images of God but none can describe God adequately. But images do describe a God who is strong, caring, protective, nurturing and concerned about people.

1.
  - Using the Scripture reference p 21, complete the following activity.
  - Children work in pairs with one reference and record by words/pictures the image of God it describes.
  - Share information with each other
  - Complete Children's Activity Book p 16.

2.
  - Read Genesis 1:2; 2:7; 7:15
  - Record words on a small poster with an appropriate illustration to show the image portrayed of God's Spirit.

The Old Testament does not speak of the 'Holy Spirit' but 'of the Spirit of God', - both mean the same thing. It means God's own Spirit or power - present and active in people, events, the universe and nature.

3.
  - Divide children into three groups.
  - Each group is given a copy of either Deborah, Solomon or Isaiah, p 22-24
  - In groups children read and discuss the information on their sheet about their Old Testament
    - Judge
    - King
    - Prophet
  - Present the information by using drama, art or a report to the other groups.
  - Complete Children's Activity Book p 17

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

"Then I head the voice of God saying 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us'. And I said, 'Here I am Lord, send me'".

Isaiah 6:8-9

As well as the images of the 'Spirit of God' in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is also seen at work in people - not just as the breath of life, but as a surprising power impelling people to do amazing things. The influence of the Holy Spirit can be seen working in the lives of the Old Testament stories of judges, kings, prophets.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise how God was perceived by the people in the Old Testament.
- identify how the Spirit of God was named and referred to.
- identify how the Son of God can be recognised in Old Testament events.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Senior A - Church 1

### Jesus Prepared the Apostles

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.  
Colossians 3: 17

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise the ways Jesus prepared the apostles to teach his message.
- recognise on whose authority the apostles teaching was based.

1. What was the purpose of Jesus' teachings?  
i.e. to prepare people, especially the apostles, to carry on his mission to build up the kingdom of God.  
What did Jesus do to help prepare and train the apostles for their new roles as teachers?

2. **Read Matthew 28 : 16 - 20**  
Ask the children to identify the verse which mentions where the authority of the apostles teaching come from and the promise of Jesus to the apostles.  
Encourage reflection on the implications of these messages **including**:
  - what the apostles taught was the truth because it was based on the authority given by Jesus
  - that Jesus would be with his followers always, even in hard times.

3. Children work in small groups imagining they are a group of apostles. One member of each group is chosen to be a radio reporter who has come to interview them about their new role as teachers in the name of Jesus.  
Suggested questions
  - on whose authority is your teaching based?
  - who trained you?
  - why are you doing this?
  - what influence has Jesus had on your life?Encourage children to add their own, then each group listens to the other.

4. Go through Children's Activity Book page 18 - 19

Jesus prepared the apostles from the moment he called them to be his followers. Over the two and a half years of Jesus' public ministry, his followers spent a great deal of time with him, listening to him preach and teach. They watched him heal the sick, calm the storm, raise the dead. They watched his gentleness with children and the poor outcasts and sinners and those whose tapu had been violated. They saw his anger at the rich and powerful when they were greedy or unjust. They observed his skill when debating with Jewish leaders. Jesus gave them a model for teaching which they could use. Sometimes he took the apostles away to quiet places where they could pray and talk together. Sometimes the disciples were sent out on their own to begin to share the message of Jesus. In some places they were welcomed in others rejected. At the times of Jesus' crucifixion and death they experienced the hostility of the Jewish leaders. After Jesus rose from death, all the apostles had experienced of his risen life. These moments helped them to realise the importance of what Jesus had been saying before he died. When Jesus returned to the Father and left his disciples to carry on his teaching they were well prepared, because of what he had said and what they had experienced. However, there were special characteristics that made ordinary people into great leaders and teachers. Over and over again in Lukes' Acts of the Apostles it is written that they were filled with the Holy Spirit when they spoke. The accounts of their teachings after Pentecost show people who were confident and who knew what they were talking about. They knew the Hebrew Scriptures and could explain how Jesus had come to fulfil God's promise. Like Jesus, they taught by example as well as by words. Several of them were imprisoned, and others put to death for their faith. At first the apostles taught through preaching the Good News, baptising, forgiving sins and celebrating the breaking of bread. Later they began to write down what they were teaching. In some cases others wrote it down for them. These written accounts became the Gospels and Letters that make up the New Testament today. Like Jesus the apostles taught with authority. They taught not from their own knowledge and understanding, but in the name of Jesus, and they were filled with Jesus' very own Spirit.



## Isaiah - Prophet of Hope



My name is Isaiah and I lived in the kingdom of Judah 800 years before Christ. After King Solomon died towards the end of the 10th century, his kingdom of Israel was torn by war and fighting. The kingdom was split in 2 - the kingdom of Israel also called the Northern Kingdom and the kingdom of Judah also known as the Southern Kingdom. Both kingdoms had kings but it was only in Judah that the traditions of worshipping God which King David has started and handed on to his son King Solomon were preserved. Judah was all that was left of Solomon's great kingdom which he had lead so wisely.

But the time came when Judah's king chose to worship not the God of Israel but Baal, the god of the Canaanites. The people were encouraged to build altars to Baal and pray to him. This is where I come in.

I was lucky to have been born into an aristocratic family and I received a good education. I was called by God one day while I was praying in the temple which Solomon built. It was while King Ahaz was king. I had a vision of the Lord, which is the name we use out of respect for God because his name is really too holy for us to say. An angel took a burning coal from the fire on the altar and purified my lips with it. God said "Whom shall I send among my people? Who will carry my message to them?" I heard God's voice and said, "Here I am Lord, send me." It was then God made my work as a prophet clear to me. I was to remind the people of the holiness of God and to call them back to keeping God's laws. I spoke to King Ahaz and advised him to put his trust in God. He did not take my advice. At present I am working to help the people develop a sense of social justice. Wherever I can, I expose the rich who show no care or mercy for the poor as they become wealthy at their expense. I stand up for women who are widowed and for children as they do not have equal standing in our society. The people are not responding to my preaching about justice. They turn away from me and do not want to hear my words or change their evil ways. It is hard having to speak so bitterly even to people in the priestly class who have set a bad example to others and should know better. But God continues to strengthen and guide me as I try to bring the people of Judah back to him. I know in my heart that the glory of God will win out in the end. It may take some awful event such as a famine or an exile before the people recognise their own unfaithfulness to God. But they will turn back, perhaps not all of them but there will be some who will build a new Judah which will be faithful to God. I could not keep going if I did not have faith in God and I am aware each day of his Spirit guiding me in my work. You can read my words in Isaiah Chapters 1-39. The remaining chapters 40-55 and 56-66 are not my words but were spoken by others in my name.

## Scripture References

**Psalm 103:13**

**Isaiah 49:15**

**Deuteronomy 32:11**

**Psalm 23**

**Ezekiel 17:22-24**

**Exodus 15:3**

**Psalm 27:1**

**Ezekiel 22:20**

**Psalm 42:1-2**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

**Genesis 1:1-2**

**Genesis 2:7**

## Deborah - Judge and Prophetess



My name is Deborah. I am the wife of Lappidoth and my story is told in the Book of Judges. Let me tell you a little about my life as a judge. I am living around 1130 years before Christ, in the mountains of Ephraim in Israel. These are very troubled times for everyone. The Children of Israel promised to be faithful to the God of Sarah and Abraham. But unfortunately they forget and worship other gods of the pagan Canaanites. This displeases God and the people have been punished with plagues and famines and God allows their enemies to fight with them and overcome them. But because God is merciful God feels sorry for the people and sends the people leaders who help them drive away their enemies. These leaders are called judges. I am one of these judges but I am also known as a prophetess, making God's word known to the people.

The Spirit of God guides me as I show the people how to behave properly towards God and each other. I remind people of the 10 Commandments God gave Moses on Mount Sinai and advise them how to live by these commandments. I try to make God's will known to the people.

As well as me, God chose 14 other people who are known as Judges. Among them were Ehud, Shamgar, Gideon and Samson. The stories of these people are also in the Book of Judges.

Much of my time I spend sitting under a palm tree near Bethel. People come to talk to me there and it is from there that I prophesy and judge and give advice to all who come. One day recently when my country had been taken over by a cruel king named Jabin and his captain Sisera, God spoke to me. God told me to send for a man named Barak and to tell him if he took 10,000 men and attacked Sisera at Mount Tabor he would be victorious. Barak was very fearful of Sisera as he had 900 iron chariots. When I saw this I decided to go with Barak. I told him he must trust in what God had promised. I made a prophesy that a woman would be given the honour of the victory. 10,000 warriors were gathered and they headed for Mount Tabor. As the two armies came face to face there was a terrible storm and the wheels of Sisera's army's chariots became bogged and Barak's Israelite army overcame them. The only person to survive was Sisera who saw what was happening to the chariots and made off on foot into the hills to seek safety. He found his way to Kedesh and hid in the tent of Jael the wife of Heber. He felt he would be safe there and Jael cared for him. But Jael's friendship was false and when Sisera was asleep Jael took a tent peg and drove it through Sisera's head. I told you these were violent times! Because Barak had doubted God's promise of victory the honour was given to Jael - my prophesy had been fulfilled.

I sang a song of victory about Jael. You can read the words of the song in Chapter 5 of the Book of Judges.

## Solomon - Wise King

I am Solomon, King of Israel. I was chosen to be king by God through my father King David and I was anointed King by Zadok and Nathan when I was only 20 years old. You must understand that in these times there were many beliefs about how people were treated which you could not accept today. In my time all crimes had to be avenged - mercy and forgiveness were not so common!

Not long after I was crowned king I had a dream in which God spoke to me and I asked God for wisdom to rule my people well. God was pleased with my response and rewarded me, not only with wisdom but also with wealth. My kingdom is very large with about 1 million people in it. I decided to divide it into 12 districts - one for each month of the year. So for each month of the year one district has to provide what is needed at the central court. I want to preserve the kingdom and form friendly alliances with my neighbours. I can use marriages to do this also. I have about 700 wives and they have brought me much land and many gifts. I said life is different for me! I am building a large temple in Jerusalem for the honour and glory of God. It has taken me nearly 20 years to build and it is constructed of the finest cedar wood and precious metals. In it I will put the Ark of the Covenant in which are kept the tablets with the 10 Commandments on them. These will be put in the place that will be called the Holy of Holies. The Temple was a dream of my father, King David, who was also guided by the Spirit of God. I hope it will be a place where people can come to worship God and where they will remember that they are God's chosen people. I hope it will unite the 12 tribes around my throne. I am also building a magnificent palace for myself beside the Temple.



Recently my wisdom was tested by two women both of whom had given birth to a male child. One child had died and its mother exchanged the dead baby for the living one while its mother slept. On waking, the mother tried to claim her child and an argument arose which could not be settled. It was decided to bring the problem to me. My solution was to cut the baby in half. On hearing this one mother begged me to give it to the other woman. Only the true mother would not want her child harmed so it proved who was the real mother and the argument was settled. News of my wisdom in settling this dispute has increased my reputation as someone who is guided by the Spirit of God from whom all wisdom comes. Recently I had a visit from the Queen of Sheba and I succeeded in converting her to worship the God of Israel. I hope I am a good King. I want my reign to be long and peaceful and prosperous for my people. I try to spend time listening to the Spirit of God and to do what is asked of me. I enjoy writing proverbs and songs. You can read about me in the first book of Kings.