LENT

WHAT DOES THE CURRICULUM SAY ABOUT LENT AND EASTER? LEVEL 4

Teacher's notes



These statements are from the new Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland and are taken from the Strand; Liturgy and Prayer. Individual class teachers can decide which of the knowledge and concepts to explore in greater detail with their class group/s during the

Lenten and Easter Seasons. The resources offered this year will respond to some of the knowledge and concepts outlined by the curriculum at each level. Relevant knowledge and concepts from the other Strands will be used and indicated where appropriate.

- Lent is a time of repentance and reconciliation which reminds Christians of Jesus' call to 'repent and believe in the gospel' (SC 109; CCC 540).
- By the solemn forty days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.
- The Church celebrates Lent as a season of renewing our commitment to the mission of Jesus/the Reign of God.
- Lent is a time to recall or prepare for Baptism (SC 109).
- Lent is a time for Christians to review how they live.
- Lent is a time when we participate in gestures of reconciliation including concern for the poor.
- The crucifix is a symbol of Jesus' love for all people.
- Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are known as the Easter Triduum, which means three days.
- The Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with the Evening Prayer of Easter Sunday.
- Easter is a time to celebrate Jesus' death and Resurrection, his glorification and the sending of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1163).
- Easter celebrates Jesus' Resurrection: the victory of life over death, good over evil.
- The Paschal candle reminds us that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and has triumphed over sin and death.
- At the Easter vigil the Church awaits the Resurrection and then celebrates it in the Sacraments.
- Easter liturgy of light. Concepts of light and darkness, Easter candle, relate Easter to Baptism receiving and living the light of Jesus. Jesus is the light of the world.
- Four parts of the Easter Vigil: the service of light, the liturgy of the word, the liturgy of Baptism, and liturgy of the Eucharist.

Teacher's notes



CHRISTIAN FAITH STRAND LEVEL 4

• The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his Baptism by John was the sign that he was the Messiah, the Son of God. (Mk 1:9-11)

Use the information and activities on pages 3 and 4 to explore this with the children

Teacher's notes



- By the solemn forty days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert
- Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he was tempted and he returned full of the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk 4: 1-15) WORD OF GOD STRAND LEVEL 4
- Temptation of Jesus (Lk 4: 1-13)

Read the story of the time that Jesus spent in the desert on page 5? Talk about why you think the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. Focus on how Jesus responded to the temptations that Satan put in front of him. Ask them where they think all the responses Jesus made are written. Talk about how they think the time he spent in the desert helped him when he began his ministry in Galilee. Check that they understand what a synagogue is. Use the activity on page 6 and 7 to consolidate their learning.

Teacher's notes



• Lent is a time when we participate in gestures of reconciliation including concern for the poor.

Check out the excellent range of educational resources on http://www.trocaire.org/education/lent2016/primary There is also a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation based on the Temptation of

Jesus on pages 8 and 9. Lent gives us an opportunity to revisit this sacrament with the children.

Teacher's notes



- Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are known as the Easter Triduum, which means three days.
- The Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with the Evening Prayer of Easter Sunday.

Use the information and activities on pages 10 - 13 and 17 to explore this with the children

Use the Power Point; The Stations of the Cross to revise or teach the Stations of the Cross to the children. There is a reflection on the Stations of the Cross on pages 14 - 16

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS



When Jesus came to the River Jordan to be baptised by his cousin John it marked the beginning of his public **ministry**. Up until this time we believe that Jesus had been living in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph.

John had been baptising people with water. He did this by plunging them into the waters of the **River Jordan,** cleansing them of their sins and asking them to change the way they had been living. We can read more about this in the gospel of St Luke, chapter 3, verses 10-14.

'And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

Many people began to think that **John the Baptist** was the one sent by God, the **Messiah** for whom the Jewish people had been waiting for a very long time. When they asked John about this he replied by saying;

'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Lk 3:16)

So when Jesus came to be baptised something very different happened

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' (Mark 1:10-11)

These were the signs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, the Son of God, the one whom they had been waiting for.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: MATCH THE CORRECT MEANING WITH THE WORD

Ministry Jesus' cousin, son of Elizabeth and Zechariah

River Jordan service to God

John the Baptist the anointed one

Messiah the tribes of Israel crossed this to enter the

Promised Land after wandering in the desert

for 40 years

TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING: ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1.	Where was Jesus living until he began his public ministry?
2.	Where was John baptising?
3.	What did John ask the tax collectors who came to be baptised to do?
4.	Can you think of the name of a tax collector who met Jesus and changed?
5.	What did people think John might be?
6.	How did John answer their questions?
7.	In what form did the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus?
8.	What did the voice from the heavens say?
9.	Who do you think spoke from the heavens?
10	. What were these two things signs of?

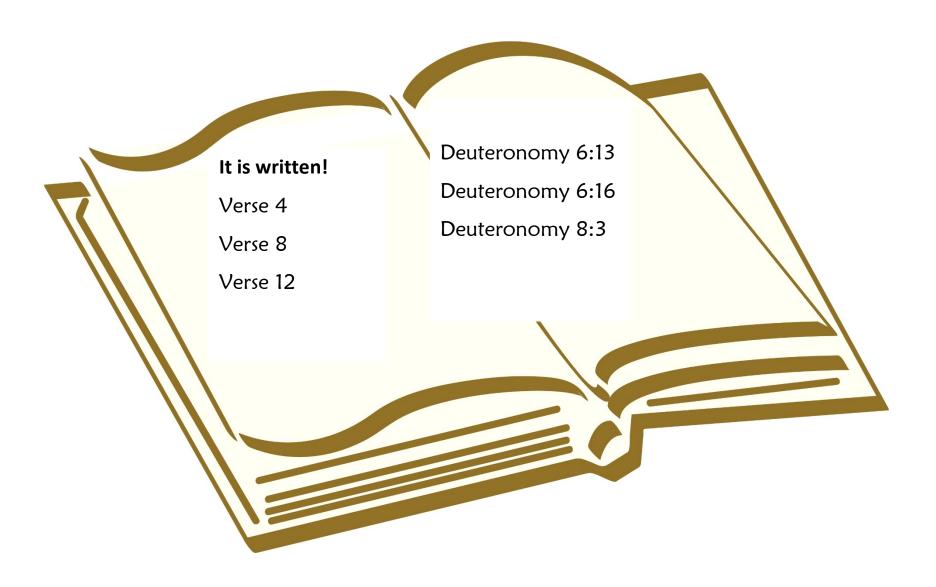
JESUS WAS LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO THE DESERT LUKE 4:1-15



4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' ⁴Jesus answered him, 'It is

written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

- Then the devile led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devile said to him, To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Sesus answered him, It is written,
- "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."
- ⁹Then the devil[©] took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, [™]for it is written,
- "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you",
- 11 and
- "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."
- ¹²Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.
- ¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

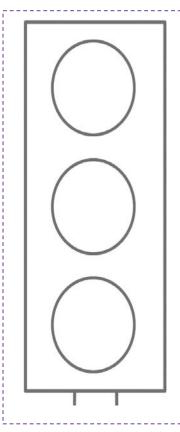


Find the verse in Luke 4 and use your bible to match it with the correct verse from Deuteronomy

Put the temptations in the correct order by numbering them 1-3 and adding the appropriate verse reference from Luke 4

'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here' 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.'

'To you I will give their glory and all this authority'



TRAFFIC LIGHT PRAYER

In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted to turn away from God.

We can also be tempted to turn away from God. Lent is the time that helps us to turn back to God.

Use the traffic lights to help you to live like Jesus this Lent. Colour the traffic lights red, amber and green. Then write one thing that you will try to **stop** doing in the red light, one thing that you will **get better** at in the orange light and one thing that you will **do** in the green light.

If you are tempted to do something that you shouldn't, think red and STOP! If you are trying to get better at something, keep trying and DON'T GIVE UP! Every time you do something that you know is right, CELEBRATE! You are living as Jesus wants you to this Lent.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This can be used by the teacher as a preparation for individual confession (Rite 1) or as a Penitential Service in the church where the children celebrate the sacrament according to Rite 2.

Let us begin our time together by marking ourselves with the sign of our

faith:

ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

LEADER: On Ash Wednesday as the season of Lent began we were called to 'turn

away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.' The Sacrament of

Reconciliation offers us an opportunity to think about the times when we haven't be faithful to the way Jesus wants us to live our lives and to say sorry for that. We know that God will hear our prayers and will always

forgive our sins for he loves us with an everlasting love.

READER 1: Our reading tells us of how the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert where

he was tempted by the devil. We are all tempted from time to time, but we know that God always understands and always forgives us for those times.

Let us listen now to what St Luke tells us....

READER 2: When Jesus returned from the Jordan River, the power of the Holy Spirit was with him, and the Spirit led him into the desert. For forty days Jesus was tested by the devil, and during that time he went without eating. When it was all over, he was hungry. The devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Son, tell this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say, 'No one can live only on food.' "

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place and quickly showed him all the nations on earth. The devil said, "I will give all this power and glory to you. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. Just worship me, and you can have it all."

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!' "
Finally, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand on top of the temple. The devil said, "If you are God's Son, jump off. The Scriptures say: 'God will tell his angels to take care of you. They will catch you in their arms, and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.' "

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say, `don't try to test the Lord your God!' "After the devil had finished testing Jesus in every way possible, he left him for a while.

REFLECTION

In the Gospel story Jesus was tempted and each time he was able to say no. The word 'devil' can mean the one who is our enemy or the one who tempts us. The devil was

clever and tried to trick Jesus by quoting from the bible, but Jesus knew better. Sometimes we are tempted to do things that we shouldn't. For a few moments we will bow our heads and think of times that we have been tempted and have not been able to say no.

- Sometimes we take things that don't belong to us. Sometimes we take more than our fair share. Sometimes we don't share our toys or our sweets.
- Sometimes we are a bully. Sometimes we start fights. Sometimes we say hurtful things to our friends, our parents, our teachers, or our families.
- Sometimes we aren't always willing to make peace after a quarrel. Sometimes we hold grudges against other people. Are we willing to ask forgiveness when we have hurt our parents, or a brother or sister, a friend, by our selfish words or actions?
- Sometimes we don't pray. Sometimes we don't thank God for all that God has given us. Sometimes we don't use the gifts that God has given us and we can be lazy and unhelpful. Sometimes we don't pray for our parents, our brothers and sisters, and all the people who love us and take care of me.
- Sometimes we don't really pray with other people when we worship together in church. Sometimes we disturb others.

TOGETHER WE PRAY: I confess to almighty God.....

LEADER: We ask God to help us when we are tempted as Jesus was:

READER: For our forgetfulness ALL: We are sorry
READER: For our unkindness to one another ALL: We are sorry
READER: For our selfishness or refusal to help ALL: We are sorry
READER: For our broken promises ALL: We are sorry
READER: For our failure to do good ALL: We are sorry

Let us pray together our Act of Sorrow...

ALL: Oh my God I thank you for loving me.....

LEADER: Now let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us

ALL: Our Father.....

(Opportunity for Individual Confession, Penance and Absolution)

THE PRODIGAL SON

On the 4th Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of the Prodigal Son. Read the story in Luke 15:1-4; 11-32 and use the Word Bank to help you fill in the blanks

Once, a m	nan had two _	·	The		son said to h	iis	
				' So the father			
	his	s property b	etween his t	wo sons. No	t long after	that,	
the young	ger son packe	ed up everyt	hing he own	ed and left f	or a foreign		
	, w	here he wa	sted all his _		in wild living	g. He	
had spen	t everything v	when a bad		spread through that			
	nd. Soon, he h						
that cour	ntry, and the r	nan sent hir	n to take car	e of his	He w	ould	
have bee	n t	to eat what	the pigs wer	e eating, bu	t no one gav	e him	
a thing. F	inally, he cam	e to his sen	ses and said,				
'My fathe	er's	h	ave plenty to	eat, and he	ere I am,		
	have sinned a						
	enough to	be called yo	our son	m	e like one of	your	
workers.'	The younger	son got up	and started	back to his f	ather. But w	hen	
he was st	ill a	way off, h	nis father sav	v him and fe	lt		
for him.							
He ran to	his son and _		and him. The sor		on		
said, 'Father, I have sinned against God in and against							
	onger good er						
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	fo	r his feet. C	iet the best o	alf and prep	are it, so we	can	
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HOLY WEEK

The last week of Lent is Holy Week. The week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday evening.

PALM SUNDAY is the beginning of Holy Week. There are two Gospels this Sunday. The



first one is read at the beginning of Mass and reminds us of how Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Passover with his friends. He arrived into the city on a donkey and the people waved palms and shouted 'hosanna' as he passed by. This was their way of showing that they believed that Jesus was indeed the 'Messiah,' the one sent by God to save them. This is why we bless palms and carry them in procession to church at the beginning of Mass on Palm Sunday. Then we take the palms

home with us and put them somewhere that we can see them during the coming year. The priest wears red vestments today because red is the colour of blood and reminds us of Jesus' death on the cross. The second Gospel is the story of how Jesus was crucified. We call it the Passion and we will hear this Gospel again on Good Friday.

THE TRIDUUM

The last three days of the week are called the Triduum. The Easter Triduum is the most important celebration in the Church year. Triduum means 'three days' and it begins on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus knew it was time to leave his friends and he wanted to share one last meal with them. We call this meal The Last Supper. Jesus did two very important things at the Last Supper; he washed his disciples' feet and then he took bread, broke it, gave thanks and shared it with his friends. He did the same with the cup of wine. Then he told his disciples to 'do this in memory of me.' So every time that we go to Mass we are remembering what Jesus did at the Last Supper and doing what he did. At the end of this Mass the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the Tabernacle and brought to a special place in the church called the Altar of Repose where it will remain until Holy Saturday when we next celebrate Mass.



GOOD FRIDAY

On **Good Friday** we remember that Jesus died on the cross. In church on Good Friday we listen to the story of Jesus' death and then we are invited to come and kiss the cross. On this day we celebrate Jesus' triumph over death and that is why we call the day 'Good.'

HOLY SATURDAY

The Triduum continues on Holy Saturday night when we celebrate the Easter Vigil. The paschal fire is lit outside many churches. It is from the paschal fire that the new Paschal Candle will be lit during the Easter Vigil. This candle will be a sign to all of us for the coming year of Jesus' resurrection. The candle will have the year 2016 inscribed onto it. Five ornate incense pins, which will symbolise the five wounds of Jesus on the cross, are placed in the candle. The Paschal Candle also contains two Greek letters the Alpha and the Omega, which, in English translation, means the beginning and the end.



This candle will be lit throughout the Sundays of the Easter season until Pentecost Sunday. It is also lit during Baptisms. During funerals, the Paschal candle is lit and placed near the coffin as a sign of the hope of the resurrection into which the person was baptised.

During the Easter Vigil, fresh water is blessed for the baptismal and holy water fonts. There may be a new member of the community baptised during the Mass. In some churches, you might even see adults being baptised. These adults have decided that they want to belong to the Catholic Church, and so, after some time of praying, reflecting and being guided, they are ready to become members of our Christian community.

The word 'Paschal' comes from the word Pesach, which, in Hebrew, means Passover. This is the feast that Jesus was celebrating with his friends when they ate their Last Supper together. Find out more about the Passover by reading Exodus, chapter 12.

EASTER SUNDAY

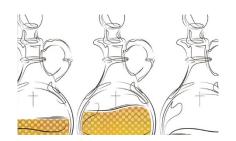
On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The Easter season continues until Pentecost Sunday.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sometime during the early days of Holy Week, the bishop of each diocese celebrates a very special Mass called the Chrism Mass. In the past, this Mass was celebrated only on Holy Thursday, but many dioceses now celebrate the Chrism Mass on one of the days earlier in Holy Week to allow more people to attend. During this Mass, which normally involves members from each parish of the diocese, the bishop consecrates the Oil of Chrism and blesses the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick. All the oils are then brought back to the parish churches of the diocese. Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam, a sweet-smelling perfume.

The Chrism Oil is used for the anointing at Baptisms, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

For You To Do:					
What is the name of your diocese?					
What is the name of your bishop?					
What is the name of the Cathedral in your diocese?					
Find out when the Chrism Mass will be celebrated in your diocese this year.					



GOOD FRIDAY

REFLECTION ON THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations are places where people wait when they are going from place to place. People wait at train or bus stations. Think of some of the stations where you have been and where you have waited. The stations that we are going to look at today are places where we stop to think about Jesus and the journey that he made to Calvary on Good Friday. These stations remind us how much Jesus loves us.

At each station we genuflect and repeat the traditional prayer: **We adore you, O Christ,** and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have saved the world.

First Station Jesus is condemned to death

Jesus is standing before a crowd of people who are shouting mean and cruel things. Some of them are telling lies about him and saying that he is bad. Jesus stays quiet even though he knows that he will be hurt. He even asks God to forgive the people.

Has anyone ever said mean or hurtful things to you? Has anyone told a lie about you? How did this make you feel? Were you angry? Hurt? Upset? Ask Jesus to make you a more forgiving person. Remember that he is with you always.

Second Station Jesus receives his cross

When the soldiers put the heavy cross on his shoulders, Jesus doesn't fight with them. He knows that the road ahead of him will be very difficult. He asks God for help and asks him to be with him.

Sometimes things happen in life which we find hard to accept. Sometimes we get ill; somebody we know gets sick or even dies. Ask Jesus to help you when life gets tough. Ask him to stay with you and to help you always to see the good in life and in the people you meet.

Third Station Jesus falls the first time

Jesus is exhausted. The road is tearing his feet and the cross is digging into his shoulders. The crowd is shouting and jeering. Jesus falls and the pain is terrible. All through this, Jesus is praying in his heart and asking God to help him and to stay with him.

Have you ever fallen? It hurts doesn't it? Sometimes it is even embarrassing? Even when you fall Jesus loves you. Ask Jesus now to make your heart more like his. Ask him to give you courage always.

Fourth Station Jesus meets his mother

Mary comes up to Jesus. She sees his awful pain. She is so upset to see her beloved son in such pain and wishes that she could make it better. Jesus sees how worried she is and wishes that he could comfort her.

Sometimes the people we love are sad or sick and we wish that we could do something to make them better. Tell Jesus how you felt. Ask him to help you if this happens again.

Fifth Station Simon helps Jesus to carry his cross

The soldiers know that Jesus is too tired to carry his cross any further. They pull a man called Simon from the crowd to help. Jesus whispers his thanks to this stranger who is sharing his terrible journey.

Can you think of a time when you were asked to help and didn't? Why didn't you? Did you not have time? Did you have something else to do that you thought was more important? Ask Jesus to help you to be generous with your time and talents.

Sixth Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



A woman pushes her way forward towards Jesus. She gently wipes his face with a cloth. Jesus is so grateful. When Veronica looks at the cloth she sees that the face of Jesus is imprinted on it.

Think of a time when you helped someone. Maybe you just smiled at them in friendship. Why did you help? How did it feel? Ask Jesus to help you to call on others when you need them and to appreciate them.

Seventh Station Jesus falls the second time

The noise from the crowd and the beatings of the soldiers is making the journey more difficult for Jesus. He cannot take another step and he falls again.

Have you ever had a hard time with something? How do you feel when this happens? Maybe you feel in your heart as Jesus did on the road to Calvary. Ask Jesus to give you strength when life gets tough and you feel that you cannot go on.

Eighth Station Jesus meets the women

Jesus gets up and continues his journey. He passes a group of women crying for him. Though he is exhausted and in terrible pain he stops to speak words of comfort to them. He tells them not to cry for him but to always care for each other.

Ask Jesus to help you to think of others before yourself and to put their needs first.

Ninth Station Jesus falls the third time

It is hard for Jesus to breathe now. He has no energy left and he just cannot go on. He falls in the street for the third time. As he lies there in pain, he asks God for help. He feels God's presence and gets up to finish his journey.

When you try your best and yet do not succeed perhaps you feel as Jesus did that day. Ask Jesus to be with you when things seem too hard and you are discouraged.

Tenth Station Jesus is stripped of his garments

Jesus finally reaches the top of the hill of Calvary. He knows that he will die here. He knows too, that the soldiers are not done with him yet. They pull off his clothes. He asks God to help him to remember that he is not alone.

Is it hard for you to share or to give something away that you like? Do you ever let something of yours be the reason for bad feelings or words between you and someone else? Ask Jesus to help you to be less selfish. Ask him to help you to be a sharing person.



Eleventh Station Jesus is nailed to the cross

Jesus is in agony now as he is nailed to the cross. He hurts all over and he is thirsty. Yet he is still thinking of other. He asks John and his mother to look after each other always.

Ask Jesus to help you to change your heart and to forgive others when they hurt you.

Twelfth Station Jesus dies on the cross

Finally after all the pain and that long walk, Jesus bows his head and dies. Jesus has given his life for love of all of us.

Are there times when you do not show love? When you don't do your best? Ask Jesus for help when you are confused or when you have a difficult decision to make.

Thirteenth Station Jesus is taken down from the cross

Jesus' lifeless body is taken down from the cross. Mary, his mother holds him gently in her arms. Her sadness is great.

Is there someone in your life who has died? How do you feel when you remember that person? Tell

Jesus now what you miss most about that person and ask him to look after both of you.

The friends of Jesus get his body ready and lay it in a tomb given by a man called Joseph of Arimathea. They go away in sadness at the loss of a great friend and teacher.

Can you remember a time when you found it hard to say goodbye? Maybe you were only saying goodbye for a short time or maybe the person had died. Tell Jesus how you felt then and ask him to help you if you come across this difficulty again.

Concluding Prayer:

Dearest Jesus, you gave your life for us. Help us to be very grateful for this sacrifice. Help us to appreciate the sacrifices which others make for us out of love. **Amen**

HOLY WEEK QUIZ



1:	On which day of the week did Jesus die?	
2:	What was the meal that Jesus shared with his apostles?	
3:	What is the name we give to the last three days of Holy Week?	
4:	On which day of the week did Jesus enter the city of Jerusalem?	
5:	We go to Mass on Sunday because Jesus said 'Do at the Last Supper.	
6:	What colour vestments does the priest wear on Palm Sunday?	
7:	What was the name of Jesus' friend who betrayed him?	
9:	Can you name three sacraments in which Chrism is used?	
10:	How many Stations of the Cross are there?	