



The Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland



Level 1	Level 2
<p>Strand: Christian Faith</p> <p>Strand Unit: Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God wants all people to be happy with him forever in heaven (1 Jn 3:2; 1 Cor 13:12; CCC, 1023) When we die we go home to God (CCC, 1020) <p>Strand: Liturgy and Prayer</p> <p>Strand Unit: Additional Prayers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer for the dead/for those who are sick and dying 	<p>Strand: Christian Faith</p> <p>Strand Unit: Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus promised new life here on earth and after we die We believe that: when we die, God calls us to heaven (CCC, 1011) God's plan is that when we die we will live on with God, Jesus, Mary, the angels and saints in heaven (CCC, 1024) <p>Strand: Liturgy and Prayer</p> <p>Strand Unit: Liturgical Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the Feast of All Souls the Church remembers those who have died and prays for them.
Level 3	Level 4
<p>Strand: Christian Faith</p> <p>Strand Unit: Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God wants all people to live happily with him in heaven forever, through the salvation brought by Jesus (GS, 18; CCC, 1026) Jesus rose from the dead in his own body and entered heaven so we might join him one day and share in eternal life (CCC, 666–7) The Lord Jesus said, 'Whoever believes in me shall have eternal life and I shall raise him up on the Last Day.' Christians believe and hope that they too will rise to new life with the risen Jesus. This is called eternal life (1 Cor 15:23–4) Just as Christ is risen and lives forever, so all of us will rise at the last day (CCC, 1016; 1 Cor 15:54–7) Christians believe that when they die they shall be with Christ, and they shall see God (1 Cor 13:12) 	<p>Strand: Christian Faith</p> <p>Strand Unit: Eternal Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All that is good in our present world will survive in the Kingdom of Heaven Every act of kindness, generosity and service contributes to the building of the Kingdom The happiness of heaven consists of living with God and with all the blessed forever in a relationship of knowledge and love (CCC, 1024, cf. 1026–7) The body will die but will rise again (in a renewed form) at the end of time (Resurrection of the Body; cf. LG, 48; CCC, 988–90, 1020) By God's grace and mercy, Christians have the secure hope that all those who loved God and others have found true life with God in heaven (GS, 18) The Church prays for the salvation of everyone (CCC, 1058) Catholics pray for the souls in purgatory on All Souls' Day and all through the year The Church commends the dead to God's mercy and offers her prayers, especially the Eucharist





November 2020: The Month of the Holy Souls



The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2021 is 'Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience'. As we look forward to and begin our preparations for celebrating CSW 2021, it is important for each of us to remember those who have gone before us in the hope of the resurrection promised by Jesus. This resource aims to assist schools with activities and lesson ideas for 'The Month of the Holy Souls'. More than most years, this November will be especially poignant as we remember all those who have died during this COVID-19 pandemic. In light of this, the Month of November recalls to us God's love for us, a love that conquers all things, even death.

'He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces' (Is 25:8). In our moments of sadness and grief, God never leaves us. God's love is so great for us that Christ was raised to new life, overcoming death forever.

As there may well be pupils or staff in your school who have lost a loved one this year for whatever reason, this famous poem may sum up best God's love for us in every moment of our lives, walking beside every step of the way.



Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed a dream.
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
'Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed you the most, you would leave me.'

He whispered, 'My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you.'





For Parishes

This moment can be situated within the liturgical themes of November and the Masses/liturgies around the Feast of All Souls and remembering our loved ones who have died. The prayer service could be used in a parish setting with children or young adults.



Resources:

- Relevant content from the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*
- Junior Lesson (Junior Infants–Second Class/P1–P4)
- Senior Lesson (Third Class–Sixth Class/P5–P7)
- Prayer Service of Remembrance

