**School/Classroom**

**Prayer Space Planner**

**&**

**a Teaching Approach to Religious Education**

**based on the Liturgical Year**

**September/October**



**Suggestions for an approach based in the Liturgical Year**

**Liturgical Year: Ordinary Time September**

**Whole School:**

Mark beginning of school year with Assembly/Prayer Service/Mass

* Join the local parish via webcam if it is not possible to attend Mass in person due to Covid restrictions
* Invite the local priest/pastoral worker to pray a prayer of blessing over the intercom/on zoom at the beginning of the new school year

*Create a Prayer Space/Display Board in the Entrance Area reflecting the beginning of the year, pictures of new staff members, junior infants and other new pupils.*

**Liturgical Feasts:**

* Birthday of Our Lady September 8
* Feast of St Ciarán of Clonmacnoise September 9
* Saint Vincent de Paul September 27
	+ 2nd Class: Seasonal Lesson 2: Celebrating the Saints
	+ 3rd Class: Theme 5; Lesson 4
* Feast of the Archangels; Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael September 29

**Season of Creation** *(September 1 -October 4, Feast of St Francis of Assisi)*

Find the theme and resources for this annual celebration at https://seasonofcreation.org/

**Consider**

* Linking the celebration of the Season of Creation with Green Flag activity in the school
* Having a Prayer Service or Assembly on the theme of the ‘Season of Creation.’ Resources in the following Grow in love Programmes
	+ Junior Infants pages 72-73
	+ Senior Infants pages 46-47
	+ 1st Class pages 251-252
	+ 2nd Class pages 252-252
	+ 3rd Class pages 186-187
	+ 4th Class page 192
	+ 5th Class pages 236-237
	+ 6th Class pages 223-224
* Checking in with your local parish to see if they are doing anything to celebrate the ‘Season of Creation’
* Going for a nature walk
* Celebrating all the ways that your school is trying to care for the earth and restore our common home, school gardens, outdoor classrooms; recycling initiatives; pollinators; green flags, bird feeders……………….

**Creation in Grow in Love**

* Junior Infants: Theme 2 Our World
* Senior Infants: Theme 1 Our World
* 1st Class: Theme 9 Creation
* 2nd Class: Theme 9 Creation
* 3rd Class: Theme 5; Lesson 3 *‘Together We can Take Care of the Earth’*
* 4th Class: Theme 5; Lesson 3 *‘Take Care of the Web of Life’*
* 5th Class: Theme 6: Lesson 3 *‘We are Called to Care for our Common Home’*
* 6th Class: Theme 5: Lesson 2 ‘*We are Called to Care for the Earth’*

**Revise Prayers and Mass Responses in all Classes**

This is a really important way to start the school year. Send home a copy of all the prayers that children will know by the end of the year/for revision on the day designated for Religion Homework. **Encourage children to bless themselves properly and intentionally at the beginning and end of prayer times. Lead by example**

**Level 1**

* The Sign of the Cross
* Glory be to the Father
* Our Father
* Hail Mary
* Morning Prayer
* Night Prayer
* Grace Before and after Meals
* Guardian Angel Prayer

**Mass Responses**

Amen; Peace be with you; Thanks, be to God; Alleluia

**Level 2**

As Level 1 plus

* Act of Contrition
* Prayers for and after Forgiveness
* Prayer before and after Communion

**Mass Responses**

Confiteor, Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, Lord I am not worthy

**Level 3**

As Levels 1 and 2 plus

* Comhartha na Croise
* Glóir don Athair
* The Angelus

**Mass Responses**

As Levels 1 and 2 plus

Gloria, Apostle’s Creed, Memorial Acclamations 2 & 3

**Level 4**

As Levels 1, 2 and 3 plus

* An Phaidir
* Sé do Bheatha, a Mhuire
* Hail Holy Queen
* Acts of Faith Hope and Love
* Memorare

**Mass Responses**

As Levels 1, 2 and 3 plus

Memorial Acclamation 1, Nicene Creed

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| September  |
| Information | Notes |
| Liturgical Season | Ordinary Time: Green |  |
| Feast Days Other Themes | 8th Birthday of Our Lady 9th Feast of St Ciarán 27th Saint Vincent de Paul29th Archangels; Michael, Gabriel & RaphaelSeason of Creation  |
| Prayer Space Elements To be added during the Month  | Green Cloth, Candle, Bible,  |
| Prayer/s to be Revised/learned |  |
| Prayers to be prayed Morning, Lunch Time, Evening |  |  |
| Grow in Love Theme/s to be Explored |  |  |
| Homework to be Assigned  |  |  |
| Opportunities for Curricular Integration  |  |  |

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Liturgical Year: Ordinary Time: October**

**Liturgical Feasts:**

* Feast of St Therese of Lisieux October 1
	+ 1st Class: Seasonal Lesson 2: Celebrating the Saints
	+ 6th Class: Theme 9, Lesson 3 (Pupil Text page 100)
* Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels October 2

Teach the O Angel of God prayer

* Saint Francis of Assisi: October 4
	+ Junior Infants: Theme 2, Lesson 3
	+ 3rd Class: Theme 5: Lesson 4
* Feast of the Our Lady of the Rosary: October 7
* Feast of St Luke October 18

**Curriculum: Liturgy and Prayer Strand Level 3**

*Liturgical feasts of Mary (the feast of Mary, the Mother of God****;*** *Our Lady of Lourdes;**the Annunciation;* ***Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary;*** *the Immaculate Conception) and prayers such as the Rosary express devotion to Mary*

**October is the month of the Rosary**

Consider praying a decade of the rosary over the intercom for the month of October. Invite the children preparing for Confirmation to lead the rosary for the other children. If you don’t have an intercom the Confirmation candidates might visit each classroom and lead the rosary. Grandparents or older members of the parish community may also like to come and talk about the rosary and help the children to pray the prayer during this month. There may be a time for praying the rosary in your local church this month and senior classes might be encouraged to participate in this prayer time.

**Display Boards:** Scripture stories related to the Mysteries of the Rosary; Prayers of the rosary; Mission awareness

**Note on the Rosary**

October is designated as the month of the Rosary and all Catholics are encouraged to pray the Rosary, particularly, during this month. The Rosary is a scripture-based prayer.

The Our Father, which we pray at the beginning of each mystery,

is how Jesus taught us to pray and we can find it this in Matthew’s gospel, 6:9-14.

The first part of the Hail Mary brings us back to the annunciation and the words that the Angel Gabriel used to tell Mary that she was to be the Mother of God,

followed by the words spoken by Elizabeth to Mary at the visitation. (Lk 1:26-45)

St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary.

The Mysteries of the Rosary are all based on the key events of Christ's life.

When we pray the Rosary, it is as if we are looking at the movie of his life.

There are four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and the Luminous Mysteries or Mysteries of Light which were added by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

Traditionally the Joyful Mysteries are prayed on Mondays and Saturdays,

the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesdays and Fridays,

the Glorious Mysteries on Wednesdays and Sundays

and the Luminous Mysteries on Thursdays.

* Encourage the children to bring a pair of rosary beads from home
* Order free rosary beads from <http://www.familyrosary.org/en/TheRosaryLit/RosariesfortheWorldProgram/OrderRosaries/OrderRosaries.aspx> *(note this should be done at beginning of year as they can take a number of weeks to arrive)*
* Support the work of the World Missions Ireland by ordering Mission Rosary Beads/Kits [www.wmi.ie](http://www.wmi.ie)
* Make your own decade rosary beads using a pipe cleaner and some beads. *(Art Activity Grow in Love (First Class) p278*
* <http://www.icatholic.ie/rosary-relay-first-glorious-mystery/> You might like to show the children some of the videos from iCatholic on the rosary

**Level 2 Liturgy and Prayer Strand**

* The Rosary: Joyful Mysteries

***Grow in Love*** *(First Class and Second Class)* Seasonal Lesson 1 p275

**Level 3:**

**Christian Faith Strand**

* Mary always leads us to Jesus
* Mary and the saints can intercede for us with God
* The Church encourages many great prayers of Mary, e.g. The Rosary

**Word of God Strand**

 Explore the Scripture Stories associated with these Mysteries

* The Agony in the Garden (Mt 26:55)
* The Scourging at the Pillar (John 19:1-16)
* The Crowning with Thorns (John 19:1-16, Matthew 27:27-31)
* The Carrying of the Cross (Jn 19:17, Lk 23:26-27)
* The Crucifixion (Lk 23:32-48)

**Liturgy and Prayer Strand**

* The Rosary: Sorrowful Mysteries
* Feast of our Lady of the Rosary and prayers such as the rosary express devotion to Mary

**Level 4:**

**Christian Faith Strand**

* Jesus’ Resurrection: Physical and transforming
* When Jesus was glorified after his resurrection he sent his Spirit to those who believe in him
* Mary, when her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven (Assumption)

**Word of God Strand**

Explore some of the Scripture Stories associated with the following

Mysteries

* The Baptism of the Lord (Jn 1:29-34; Mt 3:1-17)
* The Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11)
* The Proclamation of the Kingdom (Mk 1:14-18)
* The Transfiguration (Mt:1-17)
* The Institution of the Eucharist (Mk 14:22-24)
* The Resurrection (Luke 24:1-12)
* The Ascension (Luke 24:50- 53)
* The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13)

**Liturgy and Prayer Strand**

* The Rosary: Glorious and Luminous Mysteries
* Liturgical Feasts of Mary; the Assumption
* **Teach the Prayer:** Hail Holy Queen

**October is Mission Month**

Mission Sunday is always the Second Last Sunday of October

Is there someone in the parish working in mission territory?

* Find out about the work
* Consider ways that you might be able to support their work

Visit the ***Children Helping Children*** section of [www.wmi.ie](http://www.wmi.ie) . Find out about their work. If you are not already involved in supporting this fantastic children’s charity, consider becoming involved.

* Celebrate National Children’s Day of Prayer (second Friday of October every year). Use the resource on [www.wmi.ie](http://www.wmi.ie) to help you plan the celebration
* **Senior Classes:**  Watch Charlie Bird’s Report on the work of Irish missionaries on <http://www.icatholic.ie/charlie-bird-reports-missions/>

**Level 3**

**Christian Faith Strand**

* Study of local parish communities: worship, mission and service
* The Church is the community which continues Jesus’ mission to proclaim Good News to the whole world
* Work of Irish Missionaries (e.g. The Society of Missionary Children)
* Every Christian is called to spread the Good News
* The family/Catholic School builds up the Kingdom of God by participating in the life and mission of the Church

**Word of God Strand**

* Go therefore and make disciples (Mt 28:16-20)

**Liturgy and Prayer Strand**

* Prayer for the Mission (see page 9)

**Christian Morality**

* God blesses those who care for the poor
* Include stories on organisations that care for the poor

**Level 4**

**Christian Faith Strand**

* All Christians are called to witness to their faith in Christ in word and deed

**Liturgy and Prayer Strand**

* In Confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us to live a holy life, proclaim the gospel and serve others as Jesus did.

**Christian Morality Strand**

* Christians do good because it is right and out of love for Jesus
* The Lord asks us to love as he does, to welcome the stranger and to love children and the poor as Christ himself
* Jesus challenged injustice and teaches us to live justly
* Jesus wants us to recognise his own presence in the poor
* The Church has a special mission to the poor, the sick and the marginalised
* Worshipping God and working for justice go hand in hand
* All Christians are called to act for peace and justice in the world

**Prayer for Migrants and Refugees**

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee
and had no place to call his own;

Look with mercy on those who today
are fleeing from danger, Homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief;
Inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of Europe towards that day
when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Irish Bishop’s Conference June 2016)*

**Prayer for Mission**

Jesus came into this world
to proclaim the good news that God is love;
that God loves you, loves me,
and that He wants us to love one another
as He has loved each one of us.
Give me grace and healing to love myself and others. Amen *(World Missions Ireland)*

**Embracing The Lord’s Call**

Mary, mother of Jesus, our mother too,
called to a life of deep trust,
pondered in her heart the call of God.
We too are urged to ponder our call.
To Mary we say: give us hearts to respond to God’s call. Amen *(World Missions Ireland)*

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| October |
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| Prayer Space Elements To be added during the Month  | Green Cloth, Candle, Bible,  |
| Prayer/s to be Revised/learned | Rosary PrayersHail Holy Queen (Level 4) |
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