

RECEPTION CLASS CURRICULUM

Learning and Growing as the people of God											
Creation – God’s Gifts	People who care for us	Advent- Four weeks of Advent	Christmas	Baptism	People who help us	Lent	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost	Prayer	
Develops the idea of creation to include the children’s gifts and talents as God given. To know that the Bible is God’s book.	Family relationships within the context of caring for one another. Importance is placed upon the value of celebration. This is further developed by hearing about times of celebration Jesus shared with his family and friends.	Mark the time of advent, giving each week a focussed preparation activity.	Hear the story of Christmas and will focus upon the birth in the stable and of the shepherd visitors.	The church building being an important gathering place for God’s Family. Know some of the important symbols and actions of the Baptismal Rite.	The role of the priest as a special person in God’s Family who helps people. This unit also has a focus on the church building as an important place within the parish community. The children will also learn about a saint being an important person in God’s Family. In this unit they will also consider the help that Jesus gave to people when they needed it.	Some of the Church’s customs for the Season of Lent. Lent being a special time of prayer and a season when Christians try to follow Christ by what they do. Lent being a time of saying sorry and asking God’s forgiveness for things that they have done wrong.	Learn about the last few days in the life of Jesus. They will be introduced to the story of Palm Sunday, The Last Supper and Good Friday.	The story of Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The “Alleluia” as a special Easter song and the symbol of the Easter Candle.	The story of Pentecost and the transformation in their lives after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.	The reasons why Christians pray. Some styles of prayer and reflections on some of their experiences of prayer during the school year.	
Cross Curricular Links											
Singing: Harvest Hymn Literacy: Write thank you letters	Photographs of celebrations. Pictures of the Holy Family.		Christmas performances for parents. Carol singing.	Science: Some links might be made with the Foundation Stage topic on Water.	Social development: explore ways in which the Church helps people. CAFOD, Mission Together and Fr. Hudson’s Society Music: Learn some simple songs about the call of the disciples. Role Play: You might create a church building as part of the focus for this unit in the home corner.		Music and Drama links: Lots of opportunities for singing and simple percussion. Dance: create a simple dance routine of the Palm Sunday story.	Music links: Opportunities to create some songs using the word “Alleluia.” Include some simple percussion	Science and geography links: Look at some of the properties of wind and fire. Drama and dance and use of music are important links to look at the dramatic coming of the Holy Spirit.		
Learning Challenge Links											
Do they know where different foods come from around the world?	What is important to you?								How do I know when I’m being good?		
Exploring Other Faiths											
Exploring other faiths through festivals throughout the Year: Diwali, Holi etc.											

YEAR 1 CURRICULUM

Learning and Growing as the people of God												
Creation	Families and Celebrations	Prayer	Advent	Christmas	Jesus – Teacher and Healer	Forgiveness	Lent	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost	Sharing Jesus’ Life	Following Jesus today
Appreciation of themselves and the world around them as part of God’s creation. It also helps the children to reflect on the need to thank and praise God for his many gifts.	What it means to belong to, and celebrate as, a family. The unit will focus on the Mass, the stories of the Presentation and Finding of Jesus in the Temple and the Wedding Feast at Cana as important celebrations in the life of the Church and Jesus.	Prayer as a special way of spending time with God. Explore the vocabulary, actions, places and aids associated with prayer, with particular reference to the prayer of praise and intercession. Explore how Christians give praise to God in the psalms and in prayers like the “Glory Be To The Father” and the “Our Father”.	Advent as a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and his coming again. The unit also develops the children’s understanding of Advent as a joyful liturgical season and allows them to participate in a special liturgy.	Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Jesus. The importance of the birth of Jesus through the events that happened before and after, and the impact it had on the people involved.	Knowledge and understanding of the person of Jesus and his ministry as a teacher and healer. Develop their understanding of what Jesus’ ministry reveals to us about God, how the Church continues that ministry today in various ways and how Christians are called to follow the example of Jesus in their lives.	Knowledge and understanding of the importance of forgiveness as a gift we receive and as a way that we can show love to others. Explore the choices that children make, that these can be good or bad and the consequences that arise from them. Understanding of the need to say sorry when bad choices are made.	Lent as a time of change and of growing to be more like Jesus by following his example. Explore various aspects of Jesus’ message and ways in which Christians can apply these to real life situations.	Knowledge and understanding of the important events of Holy Week and how they tell of the last days of Jesus’ life on earth. Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross.	The season of Easter as a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. The importance of the Resurrection and its message.	Pentecost as the fulfilment of Jesus’ promise to send the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit as a promised gift that brought about a change in the lives of the disciples and how we celebrate and receive that gift in our lives today.	As Christians, we are called to share in the life of Jesus. Jesus choosing and calling the disciples and how they are an example to us of what it means to be a disciple or follower of Jesus and share in his life.	What it means to follow Jesus today. Understanding of how, as followers of Jesus, we belong to the Church and the different ways that the Church, and the different members of it, follow Jesus.
Cross Curricular Links *Many Literacy links are outlined in the Learning and Growing Directory												
Multicultural links: Look at the celebration of the Harvest in the Jewish religion. Write thank you letters		Music links: Some important music links exist with this unit of work. Explore with the children that music and singing can be an important form of prayer.	Social development links: Lots of opportunities to explore issues of children living and growing up in poverty. Shoe Box Appeal	Drama Christmas performance for parents. Carol Singing				Music Links: Songs for Palm Sunday and for remembering The Last Supper Drama: Acting out the Last Supper	ART: Design an Easter Candle			
Learning Challenge Links												
Harvest How do Jews and Muslims say thank you to God for the Natural World? Where do different foods come from around the world?	What is important to you?			Why do Christians celebrate Christmas?		How do I know when I’m being good?					What is important to you?	Do our actions speak louder than words? How can we tell if someone is good?
Exploring Other Faiths												
Exploring other faiths through Festivals throughout the Year: Diwali, Holi etc												

YEAR 2 CURRICULUM

Learning and Growing as the people of God											
Old Testament: Stories and Prayers	Sharing in the Life of Jesus: Mary, The Disciples, Saints and us.	Advent	Christmas	Parables & Miracles	Special Celebrations	Lent	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost	Our Church	The Mass
Insight into the stories and the characters of the Old Testament. It will also introduce them to important images of God found in the scriptures.	Extend the children’s knowledge and understanding of the life of Mary and Jesus and the call of the disciples. They will also learn about some saints who have responded to the call of Jesus. They will also be introduced to the prayer of silence as an opportunity to spend time with God.	Knowledge of the time, symbols and characters of the liturgical Season of Advent. It will focus on Advent being a season of preparation for Christmas through the story of John the Baptist and parish activities.	Reflect upon the journeys associated with the Christmas story and what these journeys eventually tell us about Jesus’ birth and the way people respond to his birth.	Develop an understanding of Jesus’ parables and miracles. Through these they will develop a greater understanding of who Jesus is and what his ministry was.	Develop children’s understanding of the Liturgical year as a celebration of the life of Christ. Baptism and Marriage as special sacramental celebrations.	Knowledge and understanding of the Season of Lent and the importance of the theme of forgiveness during this time.	Knowledge and understanding of the events of Holy Week.	Knowledge and understanding of the stories of Easter from the New Testament and of the symbols the Church uses to celebrate the Season.	Knowledge and understanding of the story of Pentecost and of the activity and presence of the Holy Spirit. The unit also focuses on the way Pentecost is celebrated in the Church and Confirmation being the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit.	Understanding of what it means to belong to God’s Family. In the unit we focus on the role of the parish and people with special responsibilities. Children will also hear about the origins of the Church through the lives of the Apostles.	Develop an understanding of the structure of the Mass and what is taking place. The focus will be on seeing Christ present when we gather, in the Word and in the Eucharist.
Cross Curricular Links * Many Literacy links are outlined in the Learning and Growing Directory											
LITERACY Create a class book of psalms	DT Links: Make some Rosary beads that can be used in Collective Worship.	Multicultural/ Geography links: Looking at how the Church celebrates the Season of Advent and prepares for Christmas in different parts of the world.	Geography links: Finding out about the town of Bethlehem Multicultural links: Find out about the Jewish celebration of Channukah that is celebrated around this time of year.	Dance link: Use opportunities to explore one of the parables through dance. Science link: Emphasise absorption and change of the olive oil when exploring the Sacrament of the Sick Further science links concern the Parable of the Sower and how things grow.	Multicultural links: Explore celebrations from other Christian cultures as part of this unit. Help the children to understand that God’s Family exists throughout the world. DT Link: Textile work on the Stations of the Cross. Music Links: Hymns and religious songs from other cultures.	D&T: Links with a celebration of Shrove Tuesday.	Multicultural Link: The Jewish Passover. Drama: Holy Week	DT Links: Create an Easter Candle. Science Links: Lots of references to water. Geography links: Map work.	Art Links: to explore the colours and symbols of Pentecost. You could do colour mixing to explore red as the colour of Pentecost. Dance Links: To explore the Story of Pentecost.	School-Parish visit to church. ICT Links: Take some digital photographs of symbols in the church building that could be used in ICT time. Multicultural: Visit a place of worship from another major religion and learn about some special symbols found in their building.	School-Parish Link: Take part in a celebration of Mass in school and invite some parishioners to come. Alternatively, join them in church for Mass.
Learning Challenge Links											
			Why do Christians celebrate Christmas?			When do we co-operate? Which charities are linked to Religions?		Why is light so important in Religions?		What do I know about other Religions?	What does worship mean? What is special about places?
Exploring other Faiths											
Sikhism		What does it mean to be a Sikh? Diwali festival									

YEAR 3 CURRICULUM

Learning and Growing as the people of God											
Belonging: We Gather as God’s Family	Reconciliation	Advent	Christmas	We Listen to God’s Word at Mass	Lent	Prayer	Holy Week	Easter	The Eucharist is a Thanksgiving to God	Pentecost	
Exploring the different groups to which they belong. Through the theme of belonging, study the Sacrament of Baptism as a Sacrament of Belonging to the Church. Learn how Catholics celebrate their belonging to the Family of God through the Celebration of Mass.	Exploring human choices, the consequences of sin, Christ’s teaching on forgiveness and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	Looking at Bible stories of the Annunciation and Visitation. Explain how Mary and Elizabeth prepared to welcome and recognise Jesus Christ. Develop their understanding of Advent as a time to prepare for Christmas and reflection on Christ being in the world.	The story of the shepherds provides a focus for children to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and who he is.	Listening and finding out about the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Through this topic they will explore the value and the importance of listening to the Word of God in the Scriptures.	Appreciate that during Lent Christians resolve to change and try to become more like Christ. The children will be introduced to new Gospel stories about Jesus bringing change into the lives of people he encountered.	Learning something about the prayer life of Jesus. They will examine and reflect on some of the ways in which Catholics pray and the signs and symbols associated with prayer.	Deepen knowledge of some of the events of Holy Week and to deepen their understanding of the foundation of the Church’s celebration of the Mass.	The Story of Easter through the Story of Emmaus and the Story of Breakfast at the Shore. It is designed to help the children realise how the Apostles became aware of the presence of the Risen Christ in these events.	In this topic the children are provided with opportunities to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They will think about why this is such an important celebration in the life and worship of Catholic Christians.	The gift of the Holy Spirit and the change it brought to the lives of the Apostles. They will think about the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments the Church celebrates.	
Cross Curricular Links *Many Literacy links are outlined in the Learning and Growing Directory											
Multi-cultural links – explore some initiation rites in other world religions.		Multi-cultural links: Identify preparation for special seasons as a feature common in many world religions.	Art Work: Look at pictures of the adoration of the shepherds from religious art. Draw and paint their own pictures. D.T. Make a class Crib scene.	Multi-cultural links: Find out about the reverence and respect shown in other world religions to holy writings. History link: The Old Testament originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament originally written in Greek. Find copies of the Hebrew and Greek Texts for the children to see.	drama work and ‘Circle time’. Geography: Find out about countries of poverty where change is needed to help people to live.	ICT links:Find images of religious symbols to create posters.	Music links: Some important links here for Palm Sunday songs and percussion. Also learn some songs about the Last Supper. Art/drama: Stations of the Cross	Art Work: Capture through art those encounters between Jesus and the Apostles. Look at some of the religious Masters of the Supper at Emmaus.	ICT link: look at some symbols of the Eucharist to accompany the definitions that the Church gives to this Sacrament.	Geography links: Find Jerusalem and Damascus on the Map.	
Learning Challenge Links											
How do different religions welcome new members?					That’s not fair! Or is it?				What do people believe about God?		
Exploring Other Faiths											
Hinduism		What does it mean to be a Hindu? Diwali									

YEAR 4 CURRICULUM

Learning and Growing as the people of God											
Creation and the Story of Abraham to Joseph	Jesus teaches us how to pray	Advent	Christmas	Jesus: Light of the World and Beloved Son	Old Testament: Moses – King David	Lent: Living as followers of Jesus Today	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost	Sharing in the Life of Christ	Special Roles and Responsibilities
Learn about some important stories from the Book of Genesis. Explore some important images of God found in these stories and consider what it means for human beings to be made in the image and likeness of God.	The prayer life of Jesus as he grew up in the Jewish faith. Introduced to some prayers from the Old Testament and consider the importance Jesus attached to prayer. Study the Our Father, the prayer of the Rosary and some other forms of prayer.	The ancestors of Jesus and that he was descended from the House of David. Through this work the children will be able to place the story of the first coming of Jesus into an historical context.	Study the role of angels in the story of Christmas. Learn about Christians being messengers of Christ’s Good News in the world today and how the Church celebrates the Feast of Christmas.	Important stories about the life of Jesus and the revelation of his presence in the world. Learn about some of the symbols of Baptism and their association with belonging to the Family of God.	Important stories about Moses and God’s relationship with the people of Israel. Learn about the life of King David. Introduced to some images of God associated with these stories and also some important religious themes such as prayer and vocation.	Explore some of the customs and practices associated with the celebration of the Season of Lent. Through the life and teaching of Christ they will learn about prayer, fasting and almsgiving and the forgiveness that God offers to those who believe in him.	Develop their knowledge and understanding of the story of Christ’s passion and death. Opportunities to reflect upon the circumstances and reasons for his death.	Introduced to accounts of the Resurrection appearances of Christ in the four Gospel. Learn about the different reactions of people to the news that Christ was alive. Study the story of the Ascension and will learn about Christian belief in the presence of Christ in the world today.	Study the story of Pentecost and identify the effects that it had upon the disciples. The missionary activity of the Apostles and some prayers of the Holy Spirit.	The Universal Church established on the original teaching of the Apostles. Reflect upon the Eucharist as the Sacrament which celebrates the Church’s Unity. Opportunities to find out about religious customs from around the world.	Learn about the different tasks and responsibilities given to people in the Church. Develop their understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ made up of many different people.
Cross Curricular Links *Many Literacy links are outlined in the Learning and Growing Directory											
History Links: Exploring the concept of a family tree. Social Development: Links with CAFOD, Mission Together and Fr. Hudson’s Society to be explored.	Multicultural Link: Explore other Jewish prayer observances. Music Link: Psalms are songs. Learn some versions of the Psalms set to music.	DT links to create a Jesse Tree for the school, church or classroom.	School-Parish Links: Finding out about and taking part in Christmas celebrations in the parish.	Science Links: Light School-Parish Links: Exploring Baptismal Symbols		Art and Drama Links: Many of the Parables and stories in this unit provide opportunities for these links.		Art: Research different images of the Ascension. Drama: The resurrection & the Ascension	Geography: The Journey of the Apostles	Multi-Faith: Different religious customs	School-Parish Links are important for this unit.
Learning Challenge Links											
	Why did Jesus tell stories?		How is Christmas celebrated in other countries?		What are the rules?						What does worship mean?
Exploring Other Faiths											
Judaism		What does it mean to be a Jew? Torah/Synagogue									

YEAR 5 CURRICULUM

Learning and Growing as the people of God											
Creation	Miracles & The Sacrament of the Sick	Advent	Christmas	Baptism	Parables & Sayings of Jesus	Lent	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost	The Work of the Apostles	Marriage and Holy Orders
Some key beliefs about the creation of human beings and the creation of the world. The story of creation as a way of explaining that God is creator. Living in response to the teaching of Christ.	Some of the miracles of Jesus and the work of the Church to heal and care for the sick in Christ’s name.	Links the Old Testament and the New Testament in terms of preparing for the coming of Christ during the Season of Advent.	The story of Christmas from St. Matthew’s Gospel. Explore the difficulties faced by Mary and Joseph and the tensions that arose in King Herod.	Explore the role of John the Baptist in the Baptism of Jesus and provides an opportunity for an in depth study of the signs, symbols and prayers associated with the Sacrament of Baptism.	Explore the concept of the Kingdom of God from the teachings of Jesus and ways in which Christians respond to this teaching today through their belonging to the Church.	The concept of ‘temptation’ Reflect on what nurtures and damages human relationships. Texts from the New Testament about Christian living. The Sacrament of Reconciliation as a Sacrament of Healing and God’s forgiveness.	Understanding of the last week of Jesus’ life and how the Church celebrates this week through liturgy and prayer.	The Church’s belief in eternal life through the Easter Story and the Story of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.	Insight into the Church’s belief in the Holy Spirit. It will also explore the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity and prayer and devotion to the Holy Spirit.	Understand the significant role the Apostles played in proclaiming the Good News. The work of the Apostles as building the foundations of the Church which continues to proclaim the Good News of Christ today.	Marriage and Holy Orders are important Sacraments of Commitment in the Church. It will also help them appreciate that everybody has some responsibility and part to play in the life of the Church.
Cross Curricular Links *Many Literacy links are outlined in the Learning and Growing Directory											
Valuing and treating others with respect.	School-parish links Geography - pilgrimage	Links with SVP	Geography: map work	Drama: a baptism ICT	History/D&T: How houses were built in Jesus’ time Multi-Faith: Important sayings in other Faiths	Multi-Faith: Explore penitential celebrations in other world religions.	Art: Drawing the stations Multi-Faith: The Jewish Passover Geography: What’s it like in Jerusalem?	Art: Explore a range of paintings about the resurrection.		Geography: How the Good News spread to Rome. Multi-cultural: Catholics around the world.	History: Find out about St Chads Cathedral. Research the Diocese of Birmingham
Learning Challenge Links											
How did it all start?	What is a pilgrimage?				Why did Jesus tell stories?					What do we believe in Droitwich?	What do we mean by Commitment? How do different religions celebrate marriage?
Exploring Other Faiths											
Buddhism		What does it mean to be a Buddhist? What do we mean by commitment?									

YEAR 6 CURRICULUM

Learning and Growing as the people of God											
The Story of the People of God	Followers of Christ	Advent	Christmas	Baptism & Confirmation Celebrations	Lent	Prayers in the lives of Followers of Christ	Holy Week	Easter	Pentecost	Belonging to the Church Community	Celebrating the Life of Mary and the Saints
The structure of the Bible and the forms of literature that are found in the different books. Stories of significant people in the Old Testament and their relationship with God.	The call of the disciples by Jesus. The demands that the call of Christ placed on these first disciples. The ways in which people answer the call of Christ today.	The two parts of the Season of Advent. A time to prepare for Christ to come again and a time to prepare to celebrate his birth at Christmas.	Explore the story of the birth of Christ from the Gospel of St. Matthew and the Gospel of St. Luke.	Explore the signs and symbols of both these Sacraments and hear about the gift of the Holy Spirit being given in the celebration of these Sacraments.	Prayer, fasting and almsgiving as important Lenten activities. Examine the teaching of Jesus about these things & why they might be important activities for Christians today. The Church’s teaching on the forgiveness and God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	Traditional prayers of the Church and some of the signs and actions associated with prayer. Prayers that are found in the scriptures The study of the Mass as the central prayer for Catholic Christians. Study of some customs of prayer in other religions.	The passion of Jesus from the events that took place in the Garden of Gethsemane through to the death of Jesus on the cross. Reasons why Christians have described the death of Jesus as a sacrifice.	Story of Easter from the perspective of Thomas. Why did Thomas not believe in the Resurrection of Christ at first and why people today believe that Jesus is risen from the dead. Some associations with Baptism and the celebration of a Christian funeral.	Two stories from the New Testament about the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and how they are important in the lives of Christians.	Foundations of the life and teaching of the Catholic Church being rooted in the life and teaching of the Apostles. The role of the Pope and local Bishop in the life of the universal and local Church. Explore the life of the local parish community where the faith of God’s People is nourished and celebrated.	Mary and the saints being united with Christ in heaven. Explore devotions and prayers in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints.
Cross Curricular Links *Many Literacy links are outlined in the Learning and Growing Directory											
Moral links: values and attitudes. Multi faith Jewish Celebrations. Origins of Hebrew and Greek		Drama – role play the parables of Jesus	ICT: Research passages being studied. ART: Symbols for the different authors of the Gospels	ICT: Images of Holy Spirit	GEOGRAPHY: Countries of poverty ICT: PpT on CAFOD Charitable Work	Music, Dance & Drama	ART: How the death of Jesus has been captured in different styles of Religious Art	ICT: Images of funerals. Multi Faith: Funerals in different religions	Moral links to Gifts and Fruits	School-Parish-diocese links	School-parish links with patron saints Look at some of the images of Mary found in the church building.
Learning Challenge Links											
What can we learn from religious texts? What do people believe about God?	Am I always right?				Am I always right?	What is prayer and meditation?	How can religious meaning be expressed through Art?	What do people believe happens after someone dies?			
Exploring other Faiths											
Islam		What does it mean to be a Muslim? Can they recall, name and explain different beliefs and practices including festivals, worship, rituals and ways of life? What are the five pillars of Islam?									

