

P4-1 Mary

CfE Experiences and Outcomes & TIOF Core Learning

RCRE 1-15a – Hours of God

I can participate in the creation of a prayer space, in honour of Mary in my classroom – especially during Advent and the months of May and October.

I can recognise images and icons of Mary in the church and in school.

Success Criteria from Core Learning

- I can identify Mary as the mother of God and our mother.
- I can describe the key features of the appearance of Mary from pictures and statues I have looked at.
- I can locate where in my school or parish icons of Mary can be found.
- I can explain why honouring Mary is particularly important during Advent, May & October.

Key Vocabulary

Advent, May, October, images of Mary, Icons of Mary

Teaching and Learning

Mary can be introduced through playing the Who am I? game (AR4-1a) – Teacher reads the 10 clues and pupils work in pairs or groups to see how quickly they can identify Mary.

Following this discuss what we know about Mary, is there anything else that can be added to the list of clues? Discuss what Mary looks like, how would we describe her appearance, where do we get our ideas of images of Mary from? Looking at pictures of Mary, a wide selection can be found here:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Madonna_structured_gallery

discussing features of her appearance and related symbolism If possible visit the local parish church and look at the various icons of Mary there (eg statues, stations of the cross, stained glass windows, crib).

There may also be a side altar in honour of Mary. If a visit isn't possible look at the bank of photographs of such icons in the resources pack (AR4-1b).

Set up or enhance a designated prayer space in the classroom using pupil's suggestions and inputs. Discuss how the prayer space could be adapted to honour Mary. In the months of May & October implement pupil's suggestions to adapt prayer space.

Explain to the children that while we can pray with Mary at any time, a tradition of the Catholic Church is to dedicate the months of May and October as special times of prayer with Mary. May being the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary and October the month of the Holy Rosary (which will be looked at in more detail in later lessons).

Depending on the time of year engage pupils in calculating how many months until these times occur.

Prayer and Reflection

Procession/liturgy to set up the liturgical space, with children carrying the different items accompanied by a hymn.

Write a litany in the form of a commentary about the various items e.g.

Reader: We bring a candle to remind us of God's presence

All: Mother of Jesus, the Light of the World, pray for us

Reader: We bring a Bible, God's holy Word

All: Mother of Jesus, the Word made flesh, pray for us....

Make salt dough representations of Mary to be placed on the altar to aid prayer. As icons are always painted while the artist is praying, class could have a prayerful art time, with quiet music, stopping to pray every few minutes.

Resources

AR4-1a - Who am I? Game – 10 Clues about Mary

AR4-1b - Photographs of icons of Mary taken from a parish church

Research Challenge

Find out what special prayer times other months of the year are dedicated to.