

P5-4 – Holy Water at the Grotto

CfE Experiences and Outcomes & TIOF Core Learning

RERC 2-01a – Mystery of God

I examine God's precious gift of life and can reflect and act upon my God-given role.

RERC 2-17a – Hours of God

I have, through liturgical experiences, reflected on an ability to respond to symbols and take part in rituals in order to worship God.

Success Criteria from Core Learning

- I know that water was made holy by Jesus at his baptism and I recognise the importance of using water responsibly and not wasting or polluting it.
- I know that, when I bless myself with Holy Water, it is a reminder of my baptism.
- I have examined the powerful and life-giving nature of water through Scripture.

Key Vocabulary

Baptism, Scripture, Grotto, Miracle

Teaching and Learning

Introduction

Begin by discussing the use of water with the children. Ask them when they use water throughout their daily lives and collate the answers on the board. Discuss the problems which would arise if they did not have clean water. This will highlight the importance of water in our lives.

Move on to discuss the part that water plays in the Catholic faith. Ask the pupils to think of any stories from the Bible which include water. For example, reference could be made to The Parting of the Red Sea, Jesus' Baptism, Noah or Jonah.

Move on by asking the pupils when water is used in the Church. Can they recall baptism or blessing themselves when entering the Church? Ask the pupils if they can think of a link between the two events. Inform them that blessing ourselves reminds us that we were baptised into the Catholic faith.

Activity 1 - Baptism

Ask the pupils if they can recall any famous stories of baptism from the Bible. Ask the pupils if they know anything about Jesus' baptism. Read the story of Jesus' baptism from the Bible. Inform the pupils that this event showed how important water is to us and that we should treat it with respect. Water is not to be wasted. Pupils can now complete a cartoon strip story version of the baptism of Jesus.

Activity 2 – Scripture

Read various stories from the Bible that link to water. If pupils are comfortable with finding Scripture then they could attempt to locate these without support. A simple task is to type out a piece of scripture, cut it into separate lines and give these to the pupils. They locate the scripture in the Bible, use this to help put the pieces in order and then glue them to a piece of card. Pupils can then read their ordered scripture to the class.

Activity 3 - The Grotto

Show pupils a picture of the Grotto at Lourdes. Ask them if they know where this is. Do the pupils know about the importance of water in Lourdes? Discuss the fact that people go to Lourdes to wash in the baths and link this to the story of Our Lady and St. Bernadette. Explain that the waters have healing powers and many miracles have taken place. Give the pupils a list of miracles, with dates, that have taken place at Lourdes and ask them to place the miracles in order within a timeline.

Prayer and Reflection

Pupils can learn the hymn 'Rise and Shine' which is based on the story of Noah's Ark. The hymn incorporates various actions which give an active nature to the task.

Resources

Bibles
Holy water
Scripture passages cut up
Card

Research Challenge

Pupils could research the powerful nature of water. They could look at news stories based on water which have taken place over the past few years.