

Background Notes for Parents/Carers

About the theme – Local Church

After Christmas children will explore the theme of Local Church, which is our story. The **parish** is where people gather together to celebrate and practise care and love for each other. The **diocese** is the community of the Christian faithful. The Local Church theme focuses on the people of God, gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in care for one another, in sharing their story and in celebration.

The experience of community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. The cycle of a year and the span of a lifetime contain occasions for regular celebrations as well as unexpected surprises, when people want to celebrate with family, friends and communities.

The Church's celebrations are also community occasions. On Sundays, the parish family gathers together. It is a time to remember how much there is to celebrate; a time to say thank you; a time to know that God's love is offered and made visible here and now in Jesus and in people. Sacraments are more formal special moments: signs of 'God-with-us', who journeys with his people; signs of strength and blessing for life.

Overview

Key Vocabulary	<u>YEAR 6</u> <u>Sources</u> <u>LOCAL CHURCH THEME</u>
Poetry prose history information stories Bible Old Testament New Testament scripture genre	<p>The Bible is the story, spread over more than two thousand years, of God's love and how God's people responded to that love. There are all sorts of people – good, bad and indifferent – just as in the world today. God showed his love for them by wonderful deeds and each responded in a special way. There are all kinds of writings and the authors all wanted to tell us one thing: the truth about God. All of them were inspired by the Holy Spirit when they were writing. This is why the church family believes that the Holy Spirit is also the author of the Bible.</p> <p>Children will know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A wide variety of books and the purpose for which they were written• The Bible as the story of God's love, told by the People of God <p>See Background Notes for Parents and Carers</p> <p>Week 1: Children will explore the importance of books. They will identify the different types of books that we use in our everyday lives as well as considering why they are used and who uses them. Ask your child to find different books around the house making a list of the types of books they find, their purpose, who uses them and why.</p> <p>Week 2: In week 2, children will learn about the structure of the Bible as well as how it was written. The children will learn that the Bible is split into two parts- the Old Testament and New Testament and will explore their similarities and differences. They will also understand how parts of the Bible are shared with the Jewish people. Ask your child to look at a selection of books in the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, find out what they are about and classify them into different genres.</p> <p>Week 3: This week, the children will learn about the importance of the Bible in the lives of Christians. They will explore how the Bible is used to learn about God and the teaching he provides. Ask your child to find their favourite passage of Scripture, describe how it helps the Christian belief in God. Include their own ideas, feelings and experiences and make links between them.</p> <p>Week 4: Look back at all the work done and the key vocabulary to help remember what your child has learned in the topic Sources. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship (see below).</p>

Year 6

In **Year 6**, the children learn that there are a wide variety of books in the world, written for different purposes. They will learn about the Bible as the story of God's love, told by the people of God; that it is made up of many different books and how Christians use the Bible in their lives.

Week 1: Talk about books and how you use them. Note that only a few hundred years ago, books were only for the very rich, as they were costly and written by hand by monks. Later, when printing was first invented, they were still expensive and also very few people could read. Nowadays, books are for everyone.

Discuss whether Kindle or electronic books would ever completely replace actual books. Is it a book or not? What makes a book a book? What are the pros and cons? Is it possible to imagine a world without books? Talk about how books enrich our lives, whether they are electronic or hard copies, how they can take us beyond our environment and our own thoughts and ideas. Discuss how books might have influenced your thinking, ideas or behaviour.

Introduce the word 'genre', and explain how the word means 'variety' or 'type'. Books come in many different genres, according to their purpose, information, history, story etc..

Think about all the books that you have in your class or at home, how do you use these books? Draw attention to the:

- variety of books that exist
- titles and authors
- genre
- reason the book was written
- date of publication

SOME KEY QUESTIONS:

- Q Which book would you most like to own and why?
- Q Which kind of books are the most helpful to you and why?
- Q Which kind of book would you give a friend or a family member and why?
- Q Why should we treat books with care?
- Q If you wrote a book, what kind would it be and why?
- Q How would you feel if you had a book of your own printed?

ACTIVITY:

Make a collection or list of as many different kinds of books as you can. Include an atlas, a logbook, a handbook, a diary, a catalogue, a dictionary and as many other types of books that you can find. Make a list of them and say what and for whom they have been written for. E.g. a guidebook – gives information about a place or a country that might be useful for a tourist. (See grid below)

Week 2:

The Bible is by far the best-selling book of all time.

The word Bible means book, although actually it is a collection of different kinds of books or writings, which we call Holy Scripture. It tells of God's love and how people responded to that love. The books of the Old Testament tell of the events before the coming of Jesus. The New Testament tells of the birth, life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus and of how the Church began and grew as it spread the Good News.

Much of what is in the Bible started with telling a story orally and passing it on from one generation to the next. Gradually, over a very long period of time the stories were collated and written down. There are seventy-three books in the Bible, forty-six in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament. Nobody knows exactly when each book was written. We do know that it took a thousand years or more for all the books to be completed. The last book was written at the end of the first century AD.

Over many years, many different authors have contributed writings, so there are poetry, letters, prayers, history, documentaries, drama, legend, biography in fact any kind of writing or genre that you would find in a good library. All these authors, regardless of the style in which they wrote, wanted to tell one thing – the truth about God and his love for his people.

The Holy Spirit inspired the authors in their writing. This is why the Church family believes that the Holy Spirit is also the author of the Bible. When Christians read the Bible or listen to the Readings during the Liturgy of Word at Mass, God is truly present and those who hear the Word come, through the power of Holy Spirit, to know and love God the Father and Jesus who was sent by God, to show God's love for everyone. It was written in three different languages and on three different continents. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, with a few chapters in the prophecies of Ezra and Daniel written in Aramaic. Whilst the New Testament was written in different languages, mainly Greek. Its many authors include fishermen, kings, prophets, poets and musicians. The Bible has been translated into countless different languages and versions.

The Bible is divided into two sections:

The Old Testament – texts written before Jesus Christ was born and covering God's dealings with the ancient Hebrew world and its people.

The New Testament – writings following the death of Jesus and covering his life and teaching, the establishment of the Christian church, and letters from church leaders.

We share the Old Testament with the Jewish people. They call it the 'Hebrew Scriptures'. However, the order and number of the books is slightly different. All Christians share the Bible, Old and New Testaments, but the number and order of the books is often different.

Both Jewish people and Christians treat Holy Scripture, with great reverence and respect, because they believe it is the Word of God. At Mass, the Scriptures are placed on a special reading desk called a 'lectern' and are read with care and reverence. At the end of the reading, the priest kisses the Scriptures.

Paul, in his letter to the people of Rome, who were suffering persecution for their faith, explains how Scripture helps us:

Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures give us. And may God, the source of patience and encouragement, enable you to have the same point of view among yourselves by following the example of Christ Jesus, so that all of you together may praise with one voice the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15: 4-6

(Note that Catholics have 73 books in their Bible not 66, because some Christian Churches do not include some of the books that Catholics do. See picture below)

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q What kinds of stories are passed on in your family? What do they tell you about your family?
- Q What do you think the people of God might have thought was important to remember and pass on?
- Q Why is the Bible important to Christians?
- Q When do you hear the Bible being read?
- Q How is the Holy Spirit the *author* of the Bible?
- Q What do you think is the hope that Paul is referring to in his letter to the Romans? (Hint: it could be the hope for Salvation, for Eternal life.)

ACTIVITY:

Look at a selection of books in the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. Find out what they are about and classify them into the different genres below. Use the table in the resources section to record your findings. An example has been done for you.

Historical books: these books give an account of special events in the life of the Jewish people. They are not history as we know today, but a record of God leading his people through episodes and characters e.g. 2 Samuel 2, *David is made king of Judah*.

Poems and hymns: these could be a prayer as a thanksgiving or in praise of God. They were used at daily services in the Temple and synagogue, and today by Jewish people and Christians in their worship e.g. Psalm 117 *Praise the Lord all you nations*.

Wisdom Literature: these are short and easy-to-remember sayings, used by people in their everyday lives e.g. Proverbs 6: 6-11 *Learn from the ant.*

Good News: The Gospels. They are not a biography of Jesus, but record the memories about Jesus and of those whose lives were changed through contact with him e.g. Matthew 18: 1-5. *Jesus welcomes children.*

Letters: An epistle is a writing directed or sent to a person or group of people. Paul was a prolific letter writer. He sent letters to different communities of people telling them about God.

Week 3:

The Bible is important because it brings the reader or listener into the presence of God. It is God who speaks through the words of Scripture. Through Scripture, Christians are given strength and courage in their lives, not only to hear the Word of God, but to put it in action in their lives.

It is also important that, as Christians, we know our story, where we have come from and where we are called to go. We know we share in the story of those who have gone before us. For Christians, the Bible is a guide for living. Through the Bible, Christians begin to know more about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and try to discover how they should live their lives. Sometimes in groups, sometimes alone in quiet reflection, Christians use passages from the Bible to help them to pray to God and reflect on their lives.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q How do you think Scripture brings the Christian into the presence of God?
- Q Why is it important that Christians know the Bible?
- Q What part do you play in that story of God's people?
- Q Which is the most important Biblical text (story) for you and why?

Activity:

Using your favourite passage of Scripture (or choose a piece of scripture from this unit of work), describe how it helps the Christian's belief in God. Include your own ideas, feelings and experiences and make links between them.

Week 4: Look back at all you have done and the key vocabulary to help remember what you have learned in the topic Sources.

Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship (see below).

Resources

Week 1

Type of book:

Why are they used?

Who uses them?

THE CATHOLIC BIBLE

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures...

Luke 24: 44-45

The Old Testament



The New Testament



Week 2

Book	Genre	What is it about? / What does it teach us?
Ecclesiastes	Wisdom Literature	The book talks about the meaning of life and the best way to live.

Week 3

2 Samuel 2

David Anointed King of Judah

After this David inquired of the Lord, 'Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?' The Lord said to him, 'Go up.' David said, 'To which shall I go up?' He said, 'To Hebron.'

So David went up there, along with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

David brought up the men who were with him, every one with his household; and they settled in the towns of Hebron. Then the people of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

When they told David, 'It was the people of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul', David sent

messengers to the people of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, 'May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord, and buried him!

Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you! And I too will reward you because you have done this thing. Therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.'

Ishbaal King of Israel

But Abner son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, had taken Ishbaal son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim.

He made him king over Gilead, the Ashurites, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin, and over all Israel. Ishbaal, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for two years.

But the house of Judah followed David. The time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

The Battle of Gibeon

Abner son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbaal son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. Joab son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon.

One group sat on one side of the pool, while the other sat on the other side of the pool.

Abner said to Joab, 'Let the young men come forward and have a contest before us.' Joab said, 'Let them come forward.'

So they came forward and were counted as they passed by, twelve for Benjamin and Ishbaal son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

Each grasped his opponent by the head, and thrust his sword in his opponent's side; so they fell down together.

Psalm 117



Praise the Lord, all you nations!

Extol him, all you peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 117
(NRSV)

Proverbs 6 6-11

Learn from the Ant



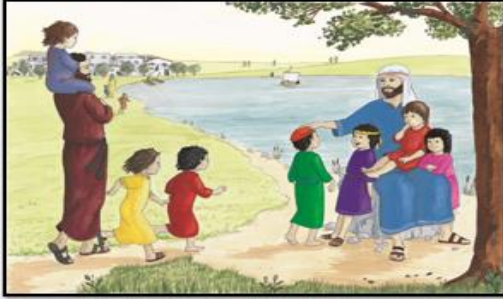
Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise.

Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest. How long will you lie there, O lazybones?

When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want, like an armed warrior.

Proverbs 6: 6-11
(NRSV)

Jesus Welcomes Children



At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked,

"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Matthew 18: 1-5
(NRSV)

Matthew 18:1-5

1 Kings 10:23-25

Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.

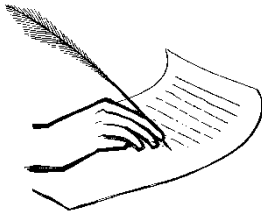
The whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind.

Every one of them brought a present, objects of silver and gold, garments, weaponry, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.

1 Kings 10:23-25
NRSV



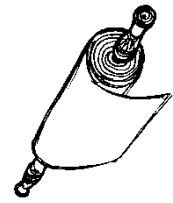
Week 4



SOURCES

Year 6

The Bible as the story of God’s love for his people.



Gathering

Together

You might like to set up a Focus table with some of the following:
a cloth, a candle, examples of different types of books, a Bible (if possible)

We gather **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen.**

In our liturgy we are going to celebrate what we have learned about some very special books, including the most important book of all – the Bible.

We have found out that Bible means book, although it is actually a collection of books or writings which tell us of the history of God’s relationship with the Jewish people before the time when Jesus lived, in the Old Testament, and of the life, works and words of Jesus and his earliest followers, who were guided by the Holy Spirit, in the New Testament.

It took hundreds of years for the different books of the Bible to be written; together they show the story of God’s love told by the people of God. The main types of books were: the Historical writings; the Psalms, which are poems and hymns of praise to God; and the Proverbs, or wise sayings, which were used to guide people in their everyday lives; the Gospels, or Good News, which recorded memories about Jesus and those whose lives he changed; the Acts of the Apostles, and letters from the friends of Jesus to their followers.

We are now going to listen a reading from one of those letters, which explains how Scripture can help us to live a life of hope, following the example of Jesus.

The Word

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Everything written in the scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures give us. And may God the source of patience and encouragement, enable you to have the same point of view among yourselves by following the example of Christ Jesus, so that all of you may praise with one voice the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Response to

The Word

Let us reflect quietly for a few moments on the presence of God in the words of Scripture. We remember those people who, inspired by the Holy Spirit, ensured that God’s messages were given to us. Let us remember too, the many blessings, which God has given to us, especially that of Jesus.

Silent pause

Let us join together in prayers of thanks, to which the response is: **“We thank you, God**

For our Holy Scriptures which tell us of God’s love for us. **We thank you, God.**
For the writers of our faith story. **We thank you, God.**



For the coming of Jesus, the Word of God. **We thank you, God.**

For those who help us to understand God's message of love and forgiveness. **We thank you, God.**

**Going
Forth**

Before we leave, let us pray these words together:-

May the Word of God be written on our hearts, minds and memories and stay with us always.

As you leave, I would like to invite you to touch the Bible reverently with your fingertips – then touch your forehead and heart – to remind you of where you want the Word of God to remain, in our minds and hearts.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen.

