



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Lent/Easter – GIVING – YEAR 3 – GIVING ALL

\*Note to teachers/parents and carers.

This work comes from the Come and See Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that children may have come across under normal timetabling in school. We have suggested and selected a small amount of the programme. The activities aim to keep Religious Education practical and fun. They are in Year groups however, there is no harm in completing other year group work as this will help children to remember and strengthen their learning. The first part of learning is called – **EXPLORE**. This shares your child's everyday experiences and helps them to see how the Catholic faith is lived in their everyday lives. The second part, called – **REVEAL** shares bible stories that links to their everyday life.

Lent is the Church's seasons for discerning and doing good. In the Christian Year, Lent precedes and prepares for Easter. It is a penitential season and a time of spiritual growth. If people want to be followers of Jesus, they must be prepared to notice what others need and then see what they can do to help. During Lent this is traditionally put into practice through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Christians make Lenten promises saying what they hope to do during Lent. Christians practise this throughout the Lenten season to remind them of the complete self-offering of Jesus which is remembered in the liturgy of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil).

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – YEAR 3 – Lent/Easter GIVING ALL

### EXPLORE – How people give of themselves

Read this story. It is a true account of what happened on the night of a ferry disaster and how a man called Andrew Parker really gave of himself.

#### **The Man who was a bridge**

It was 1987. The ferry set sail from Zeebrugge on time. All the people and cars were loaded. It carried holidaymakers returning home, business people and long-distance lorry drivers. All of them would have had thoughts of their families and homes that lay some five hours' sailing time away. The men on the bridge guided the huge vessel carefully out of port. The restaurant opened for service and people settled down for the voyage. The men on the car deck were making a last check of the fittings that held the cars and lorries in place. The giant mouth of the entrance to the deck was still gaping open revealing a huge swell of sea. The doors should have been closing. Instead, in an awful moment, the sea flooded in. The ferry lurched under the extra weight. The cars and lorries shifted.

The vessel began to list heavily to one side. Shouts and screams filled the public areas. Tables, chairs and luggage slid downward carrying people into the rising water and mud. Top became bottom, ceilings became floors, panic gripped everyone. Some passengers out on deck were rescued very quickly. Others were not so lucky. It was a time for cool heads and bravery to save and rescue as many as possible. One group of people escaping from the cafeteria came face to face with a gaping hole which they could not cross. Beyond it was their only way out. Among them was Andrew Parker, a strapping man of more than six foot. He laid himself across the gap and the water that was rising fast. People climbed across his body to safety. Mums, dads and children, more than twenty people in all, were saved by the man who made himself a bridge.



Andrew Parker was awarded the George Medal for his bravery. Afterwards he said he was not trying to be a hero, he just did what he thought was right.

- Q How does that story make you feel?
- Q How did Andrew Parker 'give of himself'?
- Q Why do you think people are brave and 'give of themselves' to others?
- Q Can you think of anyone who 'gives of themselves' for others? It doesn't have to be in the way that Andrew did but they still do little and important things.

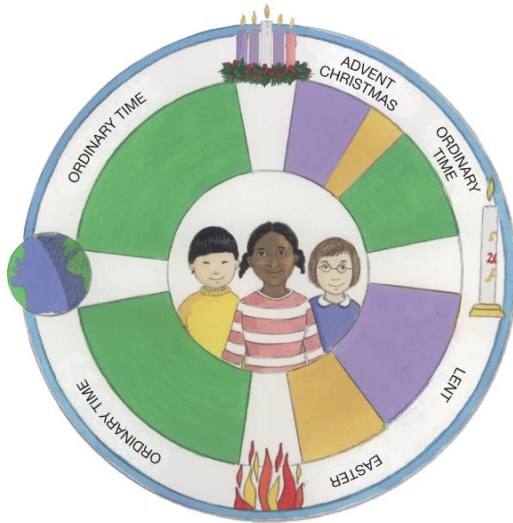


Think about people who work in the Armed Forces or the Emergency Services - Police, Fire, Ambulance and Paramedics. They deal with dangerous and potential life-threatening situations all the time. Now consider some of the Frontline Services – including doctors, nurses, teachers, teaching assistants, dentists, vets etc. The list is very long – they might not always be dealing with dangerous situations but they certainly 'give of themselves' to help others in lots of different ways. Andrew Parker didn't do what he did as part of his job. He just did it instinctively because he thought it was something that he could do, right at that moment, in that emergency to help other people. This year with the COVID-19 pandemic everyone knows someone who has 'given a bit of themselves' to help other people. You might know someone personally who has done this too. Maybe they have checked up on a neighbour or elderly relative or been shopping for someone who was ill and couldn't go outside.

Choose an activity:

- Write a letter to Andrew Parker thanking him for what he did on the night of the disaster. Say how you feel and what a difference he has made to someone else's life.
- Consider the 'giving' demanded of people in different occupations and ways of life (some of them are listed above). Write about:
  - Who they are
  - What job they do
  - How you think these people feel about what they do
  - What you think about what they do
  - What would we do without them

## REVEAL – Lent an opportunity for Giving



Do you remember looking at the diagram of the Church's year. The year of the Church family is marked by special events and seasons. It is called the Liturgical Year. Can you find the segments which show Lent and Easter – what colour is shown for Lent?

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days, remembering that Jesus spent 40 days in prayer in the desert before he started his ministry. It is the day when Christians go to church and receive ashes in the shape of a Cross on their foreheads. As the ashes are given, the priest or deacon says:

*Repent, and believe in the Gospel.*

Or:

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

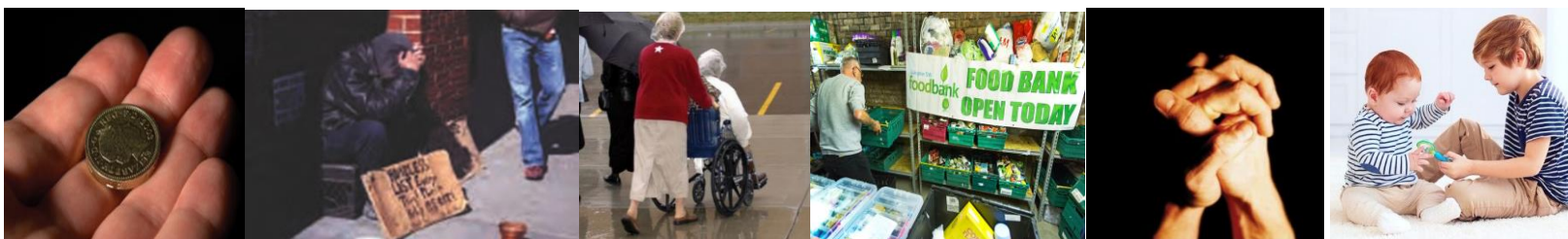
Sometimes if ashes are given out in school then the teacher may say:

*This is a sign that you are a follower of Jesus.*

These words remind Christians that they are beginning a time when they are making a new start by 'giving themselves' to God and others, through prayer, giving up things (fasting) and doing good for others.

During Lent, the Church uses the colour purple, to symbolise repentance (saying sorry to God). Because Lent is a sad time, Christians don't use the word Alleluia (which means praising God) until Easter. Lent is a time when Christians think more about following the example of Jesus. It is a time to grow spiritually, through prayer and in goodness by helping others. Sometimes 'giving' seems easy; it is about doing something that doesn't cost anything at all like praying. But sometimes 'giving' is really difficult, for example putting yourself out and making time to do something which you wouldn't usually do like helping others. You might want to spend time watching television or playing on your games console instead so it is a real effort to stop doing what you really enjoy and do something else instead.

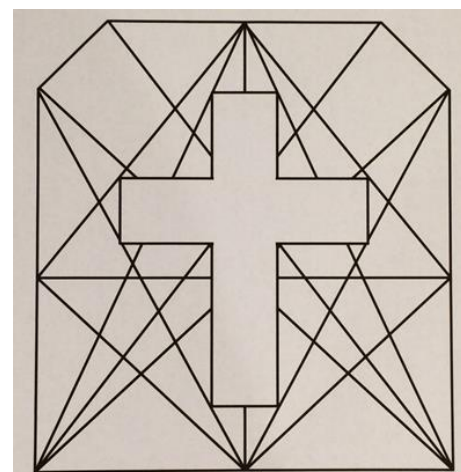




- Q In what ways what do you think Lent is an opportunity for giving?
- Q What will help you to stop and think about how you might follow Jesus?
- Q What ideas do you have for prayer, giving up and doing good for others during this time?

### **Choose Activities:**

- Using the pictures above write a short description of each one and what it represents during Lent. Say why you think these are important to Christians during Lent and if the 'giving' is easy or hard. Why?
- Make a Lenten promise card showing how we can give of ourselves to others: e.g. I promise to ... during Lent because...
- Write a Lenten prayer and create a stained-glass window by drawing lines across and around it. (see below) Colour in a segment every day you pray it during Lent.



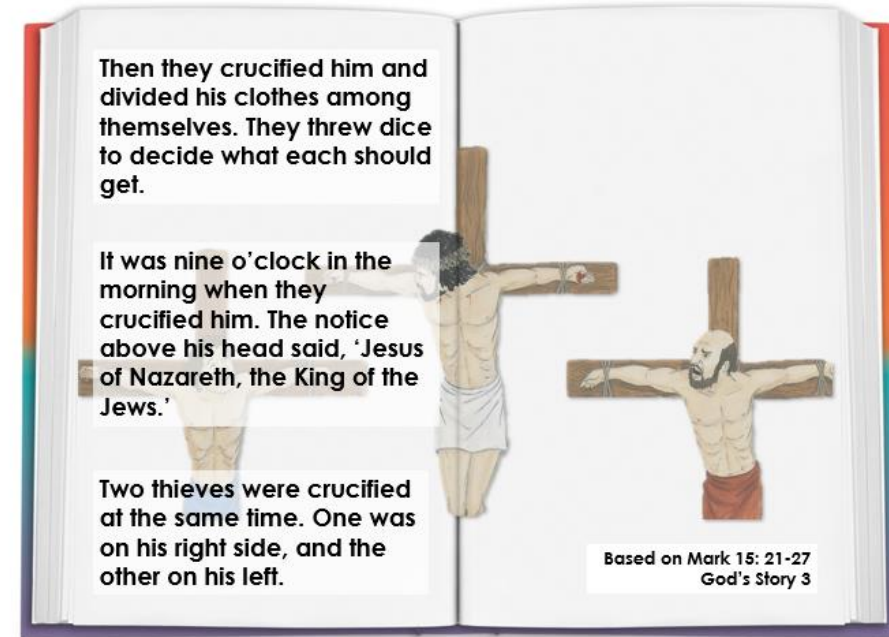
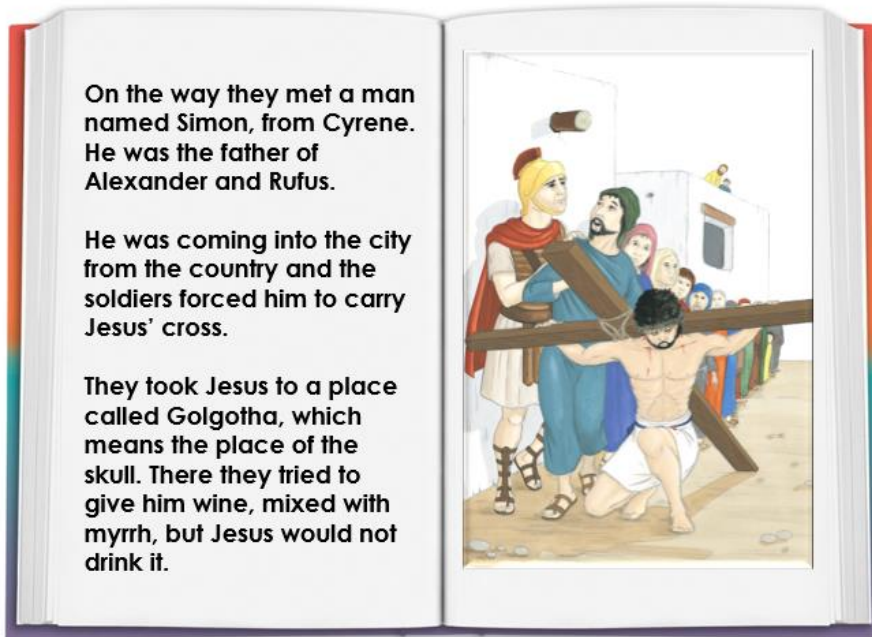


## REVEAL - Jesus' total giving



The greatest week of the year for Christians is Holy Week, when the Church remembers the suffering, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. After Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples he suggested they all went to the nearby olive garden called Gethsemane, to pray. Whilst Jesus was praying, his disciples fell asleep. Jesus was afraid but he knew what was going to happen. Judas had betrayed him and the guards came to take him away. After Jesus was taken prisoner in the garden of Gethsemane, he was treated badly, condemned to death and then taken away to be crucified. This account is heard during that time.

Read this piece of scripture from Marks Gospel:



When Jesus was crucified on the Cross, he gave his life for us because he loved us so much. This was Jesus' total giving of himself. On Good Friday, Christians go to church to recall how Jesus gave of himself in dying for us.



Think back to the earlier story of Andrew Parker and what he did to save others before answering the following questions.

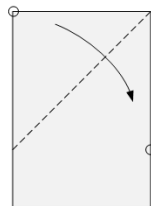
- Q How did Simon of Cyrene give of himself?
- Q Why do you think Simon of Cyrene did what he did?
  - Q Why did Jesus give his life for us?
  - Q What does this mean for Christians today?

#### Choose and activity:

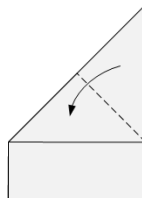
- Make a cross following the steps: <https://www.cutoutfoldup.com/118-cut-out-a-cross-with-one-straight-cut.php>  
**\*\*Get help from an adult as you need scissors ✂ for this activity. \*\***
- Draw Jesus on the cross and write the words – Jesus Died For Us on it. Keep it safe until Palm Sunday.
- Write down on your cross some of the different ways that Christians give of themselves to others e.g. visit an elderly relative, showing forgiveness, helping others, making time etc.

#### Steps

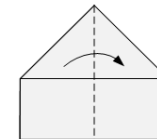
1. Fold the top corner down to the edge of the paper.



2. Fold the top right corner down.



3. Fold in half along a vertical line.



4. Fold in half vertically again.



5. Cut along the vertical line.

