

## 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

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b><u>YEAR 5</u></b> <b><u>Mission</u></b> <b><u>LOCAL CHURCH THEME</u></b>
Mission bishop ecumenism cathedral diocese inspirational Baptism Christian Unity inspired denominations	<p>The Church, the Christian family, is made up of smaller Christian families called dioceses. Each diocese is led by a bishop. The bishops continue the work of ‘the twelve’, the apostles, who continued the work and mission of Jesus. Jesus is the head of these families. He is the head of the Church. There are other Christian families which are not part of the Catholic Church. Ecumenism is the word used for promoting unity among Christian churches. One of the final prayers of Jesus was that all Christian families might be one.</p> <p><b>Children know and understand:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The mission of inspirational leaders</li><li>• Dioceses continue the work and mission of Jesus including ecumenism</li></ul> <p><b>See Background Notes for Parents and Carers</b></p> <p><b>Week 1:</b> Talk about <b>mission</b> as a particular vocation in life – something that God has called you to do. Consider the quote from Blessed John Henry Newman to consider your own mission. Use the template to create an action plan to begin your own charity.</p> <p><b>Week 2:</b> Research the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle to find out key facts about the role it plays in society.  Create a response to the letter from Bishop Robert – consider how he inspires, supports and shapes the lives of the people in the diocese.</p> <p><b>Week 3:</b> Look at <i>Church’s Story 3</i> page 7 and discuss what it means. Introduce ecumenism as a movement towards Christian Unity.  Spend some time researching other Christian denominations (Methodist, Baptist, Anglicans and Pentecostal) – when did the denomination begin? Who leads them? What do they believe?  Write a prayer for Christian Unity using scripture and what you know about Christian beliefs.</p> <p><b>Week 4:</b> Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about Mission.  Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship (see below).</p>

## Year 5

In **Year 5** the children learn how some people are inspirational in their mission to do great things. They learn that Jesus' mission was to bring 'Good News'. Our diocese (local family of parishes) and Bishop continue Christ's work and mission today.

**Week 1:** Discuss what the word 'inspirational' means? What does the word 'community' mean? What is a 'mission'? Ask your child if they know anyone who has a mission? What do these people believe and why? How do they show what they believe when doing their job?

Saint John Henry Newman wrote some famous lines about everyone having a special task in life, it may seem to be ordinary and simple, but if it is done in love for God and our neighbour, it is a definite task or mission which is special to each person:

**God has created me**

**To do Him some definite service.**

**He has committed some work to me**

**Which he has not committed to another.**

**I have my mission.**

Complete the action plan below to create your own charity.

### **Week 2:**

Read *God's Story 3* page 95, Luke 4: 14-22. *Jesus begins his mission.* Discuss the way that Jesus was able to fulfil his mission, through the twelve apostles who shared his mission. Consider the way that continues today, through priests and lay people who continue to share the mission of Jesus.

Explain that parish families form part of larger Christian communities called dioceses. Discuss where your local diocese is in relation to the rest of England and Wales.

Explain that the Bishop leads the diocese in a Church called a Cathedral. This is where the bishop, as leader of the Christian community in the diocese, has his seat and celebrates Mass. The name Cathedral comes from the Greek word '*Cathedra*' meaning chair or seat (Further information about the Bishop is attached).

Use the internet to find out:

- the name of the diocese
- the name of the leader of the diocese
- the name of the cathedral and where it is
- how the diocese helps the local community

Read the letter from Bishop Robert and respond to him. Consider how he tries to inspire, support and shape the lives of people in our diocese.

(Please note: letter has been slightly adapted due to Easter content – full letter can be found:

[http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/bishop\\_rb/pdfdoc/2020/Pastoral%20Letter%20Holy%20Week%202020.pdf](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/bishop_rb/pdfdoc/2020/Pastoral%20Letter%20Holy%20Week%202020.pdf))

**Week 3:** Read *God's Story 3* page 109 *Jesus' prayer for his friends* (based on John 17: 11-12; 20-23) and the reading based on: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-17, 21, 27 – see below. Discuss how they talk about what Jesus wanted for his friends and how he wanted us to treat our neighbours.

Explain that until about 1530 the Church in England and Wales was Catholic. Then came a time of change in the world. People were beginning to have new ideas about what it meant to be a Christian. There were many arguments about religion. Many people split away from the Catholic Church because they wanted to reform it and were called reformers. A number of different Christian Churches were created.

In more recent times, Christians have tried to re-unite the Churches by emphasising what they have in common and not their differences. The Churches are united through Jesus Christ and made one by the Holy Spirit. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, all Christians are called to share Jesus' mission, but Christians carry it out in different ways.

All Christians are journeying towards God and towards unity, remembering Jesus' words that '*they may all be one.*' This movement towards Christian unity is called ecumenism and all Christians have a responsibility through prayer and discussion to carry out Christ's commandment to 'love one another'. We do this through spreading the Good News and promoting justice and peace in the world in which we live. In January each year a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is said throughout the dioceses.

Spend some time researching other Christian denominations (Methodist, Baptist, Anglicans and Pentecostal) – when did the denomination begin? Who leads them? What do they believe?

Write a prayer for Christian Unity using scripture and what you know about Christian beliefs.

**Week 4:** Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about Mission. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship (see below)

**Resources**

**Week 1**

<b>MY CHARITY ACTION PLAN</b>	
<b>Name of your charity:</b>	
<b>What is your aim?</b>	
<b>Who was your inspiration?</b>	
<b>What will you do?</b>	
<b>How will this help them?</b>	
<b>What demands would you have?</b>	
<b>What joys would it bring to others?</b>	
<b>What joys would it bring to you?</b>	



**He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue attendant and sat down.**

**All the people in the synagogue were looking at him as he said to them, "This passage of Scripture came true today while you heard it being read."**

**Everyone was impressed by him and marvelled at the wonderful and powerful words that he spoke.**

**Based on Luke 4: 14-22  
God's Story 3**



*Above: Edwin Regan, Bishop Emeritus, with a Carmelite Sister on the occasion of her Solemn Profession at the Carmelite Monastery in Dolgellau, Wales*

### **Find Out**

- What is the name of your Bishop?
- What is the name of your diocese?
- Where is the cathedral of your diocese?
- How many bishops are there in England and Wales?

### **THE BISHOP**

A Diocese is made up of many parishes.

The Bishop leads the Christian family in his Diocese.

The main church in a diocese is called a Cathedral. 'Cathedral' comes from a Latin word meaning 'seat', so the cathedral is where the diocesan bishop has his 'seat'. This is the symbol of his responsibility and authority, and he takes his seat here when he celebrates Mass. Bishops are the successors of the Apostles.

The role of the Bishop is to unite all the parish families within a diocese. He does this through visiting each parish, celebrating confirmation, ordaining men to the priesthood and diaconate and proclaiming the Gospel. He is like a shepherd in the way he looks after and cares for his people as a shepherd cares for his sheep.

The mitre is worn on his head and symbolises the two sources of his authority – the Bible and the Church.

The cross shows he walks in the footsteps of Christ.

The ring shows he is faithful to God and to leading his people.

The crozier is a symbol of how he is like a shepherd.



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**

**Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO**  
**Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle**

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**Pastoral Letter of Bishop Robert Byrne CO**  
**for distribution in Holy Week 2020**

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

I especially wanted to write to you as we begin Holy Week facing the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic. I want to assure you that all the clergy and faithful are uppermost in my thoughts and prayers. Without doubt we are living in challenging times but we should see this as an opportunity to have an ever-deeper faith and trust in the Lord. In these days of Holy Week, we unite ourselves more earnestly to the sufferings of the Lord on the Cross and wait with him for the glorious day of the Resurrection and new life.

Many of us are bewildered by the situation in which we find ourselves. Normal life has ceased by the unprecedented measures which all of us have a duty to undertake in order to contain and stop this threat to life. Nonetheless our Catholic faith remains a vital comfort and support to us now and as we face the future. We can sustain our life of prayer by the reading of the Scriptures, praying the Rosary, novenas and litanies and using the social media to keep ourselves connected in the communion of faith.

I want to say a special word to those who are preparing to be baptized or received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil. I had the pleasure of meeting many of you at the Rite of Election on the 1st Sunday of Lent. I witnessed then the excitement and enthusiasm that you had at taking this great step in your journey of faith. I am sorry that you are unable to continue this journey as you planned. I assure you that your baptism or reception will take place as soon as possible. In the meantime, please see the delay as an opportunity to deepen your love and trust in the Lord. His grace continues to work in our lives whatever the circumstances.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who are doing so much to support our local communities and parishes. I want to thank especially our NHS staff and all those who have care of the sick. You are doing a splendid job and we are all deeply grateful to you. Thanks also to our headteachers and staff of the numerous schools that have remained open - your work is an invaluable support to parents working in the NHS and others who are at the forefront of the battle against the Covid-19 virus.

I ask you all to remember the injunction of the Lord to love our neighbour, which has not been suspended! Please have a special care for those who are elderly or vulnerable and be ready to give them a helping hand. Please keep in your prayers those who suffer with the virus and those who care for them and for those who have died.

Although we are more physically separated at this time yet we are united through our faith and in the prayers of Our Lady and the saints. Let us find our hope in Christ who is with us in all the trials of our life.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO  
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

## JESUS' PRAYER FOR HIS FRIENDS (based on John 17:11-12; 20-23)

**“Holy Father, I am coming to you.**

Keep my friends safe.

They belong to you.

Keep them close to you and to each other.

Let them be as close as I am to you.

I kept them close to you.”

“Father, I pray for these my friends

and for all those in the future whom they will bring to know me.

Just as you and I are one,

I pray that my friends will always be one with us and with one another.

I pray that they will be so at one with one another,

that everyone will know that you sent me,

and that you have loved them as you have loved me.”

*Gospels*

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**‘Christ is like a single body,  
which has many parts; it is  
still one body, even though  
it is made up of different  
parts.**

**In the same way, all of us,  
whether Jews or Gentiles,  
whether slaves or free, have  
been baptised into the one  
body by the same Spirit,  
and we have all been given  
the one Spirit to drink.**

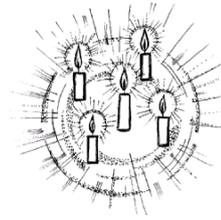
**All of you are Christ's body,  
and each one is a part of it.’**



based on 1 Corinthians 12: 12-17, 21, 27  
(Come & See)

Act of Worship  
MISSION

Year 5



**Gathering  
Together**

You might like to set up a Focus table with some of the following:

a cloth, a candle, an image of Christ and his apostles (from the internet),  
a Bible, if possible (opened at Luke 4:14-22)

*(You might like to play some quiet music to create a reflective atmosphere)*

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

We will first light a candle to show that Jesus, whom Christians call, '*the light of the world*' is with us in a special way. At this time of year, during this season, we are very aware that we need light in the darkness.

We have been finding out about the mission of Jesus and how he called others, like the Apostles, to follow him. We know that the mission of Jesus continues today and that our Bishop Robert looks after our diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, following the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Quietly, in your hearts, thank God for all Church leaders and the work they do leading Christians towards God and towards unity.

**The Word  
of God**

We're going to hear a story now told by Luke about the time when many people began to realise that there was something special about Jesus.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke

**Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned to Galilee. News about him spread all through that place. He came to Nazareth where he had been brought up and went into the synagogue as he usually did. He stood up to read. He was given a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the broken hearted... He has sent me to free those who are oppressed in any way."*

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the scroll-keeper and sat down. All the people in the synago king at him as he said:

*"These words are coming true today while you are hearing them being read."*

Everyone was impressed by him and marvelled at the powerful words he spoke.



The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Response to  
the Word**

Now imagine what effect the words Jesus spoke had on the listeners... *the Lord has chosen me... to bring good news... heal the broken hearted...*

Think of some words that struck you in the story. This was at the beginning of Jesus' mission, his work on earth. Can you remember something Jesus did during his ministry which made a difference to someone? (Pause)

Let us remember those who carry on the work of Jesus.

We pray for our Pope Francis  
that he may continue to lead the Catholic Church following the example of Peter.  
Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for our bishop, Robert that he may guide all our parish families.  
Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us**

We pray for all Christians, remembering that we are all one in Jesus Christ.  
Lord hear us **Lord graciously hear us.**



### Going Forth

Perhaps we could think of how we are called to carry on Christ's work today.

Think for a moment of how you can live out Jesus' mission in a simple way each day.

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