

Year 3

Teaching Focus 1:

How do our school pillars and motto help us to live a moral life?

Investigate the 4 school pillars and how they relate to Mary and leading the life she led. How can we do this at school?

Teacher Focus 2:

I wonder why the Ten Commandments were so important to the people of the Old Testament? How can we use them to live a moral life today?

Students explore the Decalogue. They make connections about how the scriptures can be used as a guide for making decisions. In the Old Testament texts God is depicted as one who will never abandon the poor and needy (e.g. Psalm 40:17; Isaiah 41:17). These texts present imagery about what is authentic and important in God's eyes about the way that people live.

Teacher Focus 3:

How can we celebrate the story of Easter?

What does scripture say about the Easter story? Students learn about what was life was like at the time of Jesus. They use information about the passion narratives to discuss ideas about the life and teaching of Jesus.

Teacher Focus 4:

I wonder how the Torah can teach us about God's relationship with the Jewish people?

In the Torah the special relationship between the Jewish people and God is seen through the stories of people such as Moses and Jacob.

Teacher Focus 5:

I wonder how the Jewish people portrayed God to their people?

How do people make sense of and communicate their understanding of God? God is imaged many ways in the stories of the Old Testament, such as God as potter, mother, Creator. We hear these ideas of God also in the psalms.

Teacher Focus 6:

I wonder how order and harmony in Creation shows us God's presence?

Children explore the order and harmony in creation that shows us God's presence. They look for God's presence and action in daily life experiences.

Teacher Focus 7:

I wonder how the Saints communicated their understanding of God?

Students investigate the words and images used in the spiritual writings of St Patrick, St Mary MacKillop and St Theresa of Calcutta to help understand God's relationship with people as individuals and as community.

Teacher Focus 8:

I wonder why the Gloria and the Our Father are significant for the Church Community? What do the psalms of praise and thanksgiving tell us about God?

Explore the scripture for the Gloria and Our Father to gain an understanding of the significance of these prayers and how we use them in our church community.

Teacher Focus 9:**Who do you say Jesus is? (Jesus the Messiah)**

Students explore where the stories of Jesus' birth are shared in the Gospels. They compare and contrast the two accounts. They locate information about the cultural contexts of the infancy narratives. Students express an understanding of the Christian belief that Jesus is the Messiah.

Teacher Focus 10:**How can Jesus challenge our world?**

Students explore the Decalogue and identify the audience and purpose of the Beatitudes. They make connections between the messages of the Decalogue and Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes, and how the scriptures can be used as a guide for making decisions. They identify how is this message of Jesus, to respect people and take responsibility for our actions, reflected in the work of the Church and school e.g. social justice projects like Caritas and St Vincent de Paul.

Teacher Focus 11:**What can sacraments mean for me?**

The Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation remember key stories in the life of Jesus. Students explore the sights, sounds and actions of the Sacraments of Initiation. They learn that through the Sacraments of Initiation people are welcomed and strengthened in the Church community.

Teacher Focus 12:**How does our local church community fit in with the bigger church community?**

Explore a diocese and how our parish is a part of this diocese.

Teacher Focus 13:**Advent / Christmas**

How do people remember Jesus in the Christmas season?