

UNIT D – YEAR 4

CHRISTMAS

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit of work the children will study the role of angels in the story of Christmas. They will learn about Christians being messengers of Christ's Good News in the world today and how the Church celebrates the Feast of Christmas.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work in Year 3 when the story of the angels and the shepherds was the focus for Christmas.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some experience of Christian customs associated with Christmas.

SKILLS

Reading, discussion, empathetic writing, research, interpreting symbolism, sequencing skills, thinking skills, speaking and listening, role-play.

VOCABULARY

Angel, messengers, Zechariah, John the Baptist, angel Gabriel, crib, symbols, Jesse tree.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know about the announcements made by angels in the stories associated with the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus. They will understand that angels are heralds of important messages and will be able to consider ways in which Christians today are heralds of the message of Christ. They will know and be able to explain some of the Church's customs for celebrating the birth of Christ.

Less able children will identify some parts of the stories associated with the message of the angels. They will recognise that they played an important role in announcing the coming of Christ.

More able children will know that the messages of the angels in the stories studied changed the lives of those who heard them. They will be able to recognise links between the message of the birth of John the Baptist and the message of the birth of Jesus. The children will understand some reasons why it is important for Christians to be messengers of Christ today. They will be able to explain the impact that some Christians have had upon the world because of the message of Christ they have lived and proclaimed.

A.T.1	A.T.2
3a	3b
3b	3c
3c	
2b	2b
2c	2c
3a	3b
3b	3c
4b	4a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY	TEACHING STRATEGIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
C6 Signs and symbols and their significance in liturgy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research some of the different signs and symbols used in the Christmas liturgy, e.g. crib, Jesse or Christmas tree, Christmas lights, stars, angels, etc. 	C6 Of the significance and power of signs and symbols for Christians around the world.	

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 1-2: 21 – The story of the Birth of John the Baptist and the Birth of Jesus

Mt. 1: 18-25 – The Dream of Joseph

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Pray for those who bring the Good News of the message of Christ to others today.
- Pray that we can be messengers of the Good News by our words and actions.
- Take part in the ceremony to bless the manger scene.

OTHERLINKS

School-Parish Links: Finding out about and taking part in Christmas celebrations in the parish.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?