



Catholic Schools Week 2020

Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: LIVING IN HARMONY WITH GOD'S CREATION

26 JANUARY – 2 FEBRUARY 2020



From the Curriculum: Level 3

Christian Faith	Word of God
<p>Mystery of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God knows and loves me personally (CCC 300). • Christians live their faith in God through prayer and action (faith as living/ witnessing). <p>Mystery of the Church/Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People witness to the Kingdom of God and help it grow by acting justly, loving others and caring for God's creation (Mic 6:6-8; GS 33; CCC 2045-46). <p>Other Religious Traditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians consider their every neighbour as another self (Mk 12:31; GS 27; CCC 1944). 	<p>Sacred Scripture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt 22:37-40
Liturgy and Prayer	Christian Morality
<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can pray anywhere and anytime (CCC 2660; CSRE 2c). <p>Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sacrament is a special meeting with the risen Jesus (SC 7; CCC 1097). • Christians show their faith in Jesus by being forgiven and forgiving. <p>Structure of the Mass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Dismissal Rite we are sent forth to carry on Christ's mission in the world (CCC 1332, 1397). 	<p>God's Graceful Presence and Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The greatest commandment of the Law is to love God with one's whole heart and one's neighbour as oneself (Mt 22:37-40; Lev 19:18; CCC 2067). • Jesus taught that the love of God cannot be separated from love of neighbour (cf. GS 24; CCC 1878). <p>Social Teaching of the Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus saw the gift and worth of each person. Therefore, the Christian is called to show love to everyone without exception (CCC 1825).





Monday: Living in Harmony with God

27 January 2020

*Go out to the whole world;
proclaim the gospel to all creation.*

(Mk 16:15-16)



Consider

The Kingdom of God becomes present in the celebration of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Jesus Christ is truly present in the celebration of the Eucharist. At Mass the Lord unites us with himself through the Eucharist. In harmony, he sends us into the whole world to bear witness, through faith and works, to God's love.



Each one of us has been put on this earth to serve a specific purpose. Each one of us has been given a job to do. We have been given specific tools, natural abilities and talents to fulfil our mission.

What gifts has God, the Father, given you? How might he be asking you to use these gifts in the service of others?

Explore

Explore with the class some of the routines they engage in at the end of the school day such as tidying their desk, packing their bags, filling in their homework diary, saying their prayers, etc.



Explain to the children that at the end of Mass the priest gives us a special blessing before we leave. This blessing is called the Dismissal Rite. We are invited to 'Go in peace to live like Jesus. We are asked to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and use our gifts and abilities to continue his mission in our world today.

Discuss with the class what is meant by talent. What do people mean when they say someone is talented at drawing, singing, writing, etc.?



Explain that talent means a natural ability or a skill that comes naturally. It is important to highlight the broad variety of talents a person can have. Other examples include being a good friend, being a good listener or speaker as well as being good at singing, football, etc.

Explore with the class why God chose to make everyone different.

What would the world be like if we were all the same?

Discuss with the class what is meant by the phrase 'Go in peace to live like Jesus'. With the emphasis on living like Jesus.



Discuss ways we could use our talents to help others.

Explore with the class ways in which we can use our unique talents to live as God wants us to.



Activity

My special talents. (Where possible the template provided should be copied onto white card.)

Using an ink pad each child puts a fingerprint in the palm of the hand. In each finger invite each pupil to draw or write a talent or skill they have. Each hand should be cut out when completed.

On the back of the hand invite the children to write a short prayer thanking God for their unique gifts and talents which should include a promise to use these gifts to show God's love to others.

My Special Talents



**Thank You God for
my special talents.
Help me to use my
gifts and abilities
to follow in the
footsteps of Jesus.**



Tuesday: Living in Harmony with our Neighbours

28 January 2020

A new commandment I give you: that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are to love one another.

(Jn 13:34)



Consider

Life is about loving others and learning to relate with them. As we grow we gradually learn how to be in relationship and communicate with others – first with our parents and siblings, our wider family, the Church family and then as we grow and get older our world gradually opens up to other people: neighbours, friends and all those we meet throughout our lives.

During his time on earth Jesus taught us that to live in harmony with one another we should love God and love our neighbour.

Explore

Introduce Matthew 22:37-40 to the class.

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”’

The phrase should be written somewhere the class can all read it.

Discuss what is meant by the term neighbour. Explore ways we can show love to our neighbours in our family, our classroom and our wider community.

Activity

Give each child a copy of the template provided for the activity. In the centre circle each child can write their name or draw an image to represent themselves.

Your immediate family is your first circle of ‘neighbours’. I want you to think of the name of one person in your family to whom you can show love. Then write their name inside the ‘immediate family’ circle.

The children are asked to think about the person they have chosen and now they are asked to consider ways they can show them love. If you feel the children are finding this difficult you may wish to have a whole class brainstorming session at each stage or allow the children to brainstorm ideas in pairs or small groups.

Next, have the children write down one way they can show love to their chosen family member inside the same ‘immediate family’ circle.

Repeat the steps for the remaining circles: extended family, neighbourhood, classmates, church community, and wider community/town.

You may wish to assign some of the remaining circles as work to be completed at home. The work sheets can be displayed in class as a reminder to the children of specific and practical ideas for how they can live out the greatest commandment.

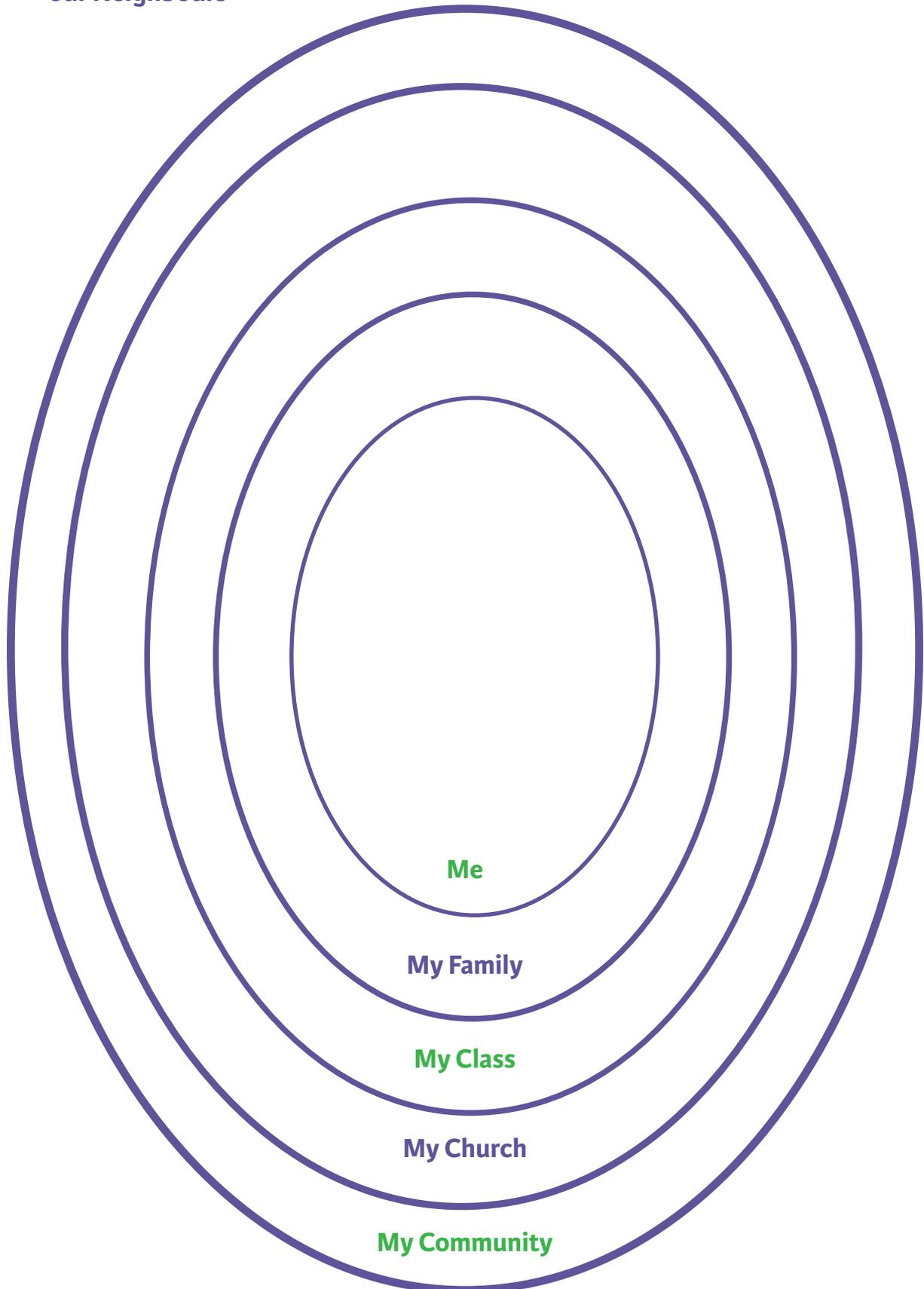
Activity Sheet 2:

Living in Harmony with our Neighbours



Catholic Schools Week 2020

Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation





Thursday: Living in Harmony with the Earth

30 January 2020

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.
The world and all its people belong to him.*

(Ps 24:1)



Consider

The environment is given by God to be used and shared by all people.

Jesus Christ showed us how to live in harmony with God, creation and others.



The choices we make about how we use the environment can have positive or negative effects on people and environments in other places.

Explore

With the whole class, brainstorm ways they can take care of the earth, God's creation, in their own lives.

The school may be involved in environmental initiatives already and these can form a basis for the class discussion.

Children should be encouraged to think of ways they could use their knowledge in their lives outside of school as well as within the school day.



Activity

Nature Spring:

Following the class discussion the activity sheets should be distributed and each child asked to fill in (on the solid line) ways they will spring into action and take care of God's Creation.



Once they have written their ideas on their sheet the children should cut along the dotted lines on their spiral.

Cut on the outside dotted line first and then the inner dotted lines to make a paper spring.

Attach a paper clip to the top of the spiral as a hook and lift it up to watch it spring into life.





Signed:

Date:



Friday: Living in Harmony in our Catholic Schools

31 January 2020

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

(Eph 6:18)



Consider

This week we have explored the ways in which we live in harmony with God, our neighbour and the earth. Today we are going to focus on the role of the Catholic school in fostering a deeper understanding of the love God has for us and celebrate the values and traditions of our Catholic school.

Prayer is 'the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God'. Prayer is a very important part of our tradition and daily ritual that brings us together on a daily basis.

Explore

Prayer may take many forms but prayer is simply talking to God. Children need to know they can tell God anything at all because he loves them no matter what. They need to realise they can talk to God like they would talk to their very best friend. Through prayer we thank God for his love, we ask forgiveness for our sins and we try to gain a deeper understanding of what God wants from us.

Discuss with the class the times that we pray in the school day. Example: At the start of the school day we ask God to bless our work. At the end of the school day we thank God for watching over us. We pray together at the start of school year Mass or at other occasions during the school year.

Explore with the class the different times and different ways we can pray outside of the classroom.

When we speak to God in personal prayer it can include:

Saying thank you: No matter what, you always have something to be thankful for.

Asking forgiveness: Is there something you would like to say sorry for?

Asking for guidance: Is there something going on in your life that you need to ask God for help with?

Pray for others: Do you know someone who needs a prayer today?

With the whole class, discuss what we might include in our conversation with God in the form of a prayer.

Activity

Prayer paper chain:

Give each member of the group a strip of coloured paper and encourage them to write a one-line thank you prayer.

Fasten all the strips together to make a paper chain that you can hang in the classroom.

If you have a small group you might want to give each person two or three strips of paper each to add to the chain.