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UNIT H

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit of work the children will learn about the last few days in the life of Jesus. They will be introduced to the story of Palm Sunday, The Last Supper and Good Friday.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on some early work in Nursery about Holy Week. It also serves to reinforce children's understanding of the Sign of the Cross as a special sign for Catholics. This unit of work will serve as a firm foundation for more detailed learning about Holy Week in Year 1 and Year 2.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children:

- know that the cross is an important symbol for Christians.

SKILLS

Speaking and listening, role-play, dance, mime, drawing, painting, identifying symbols.

VOCABULARY

Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Last Supper, Good Friday, cross, palms, sign of the cross.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know about some of the events of Holy Week and be able to talk about what Jesus did on Palm Sunday, The Last Supper and Good Friday. They will understand the cross is a special reminder of the love of Jesus. They will also be able to talk about when the Last Supper of Jesus is remembered in church.

Less able children will know about one of the events of Holy Week and recall why the cross is a special symbol for Christians.

More able children will recall in greater detail the events of Holy Week. They will understand why remembering The Last Supper is so important and recall some direct links with this meal and the celebration of Mass today.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R6 Hear and become familiar with the main events, characters and places in the life of Jesus.

- Set out classroom so that when children arrive they can sit in two rows facing each other with space down the middle.
- Have box of cloaks from Nativity plays etc or pieces of fabric for children to select before sitting down. Have triumphal music playing.
- Read the story in simple form of Palm Sunday.
- Children to re-enact the story using their cloaks for Jesus to walk on. Sing simple Hosanna.
- Create a simple form of dance to explore the joy and happiness felt by the people who welcomed Jesus on this special day.
- Explore with the children some of the reasons why this was such a special day for Jesus.
- Imagine you had been one of the little children in the crowd. Why would you have been so happy?

C6 Hear the story of the Last Supper.

- Recall meals we eat and the time of day, e.g. 12 o'clock, afternoon, evening, etc.
- Brainstorm idea of special meals they have had and the favourite foods eaten.
- Use painting from one of the Masters to demonstrate an artists idea of the last meal that Jesus had with his friends. So special that lots of people have tried to paint pictures of what it was like.
- Focus with the children on who was there, the clothes, the food, etc.
- Reflect on the words and the actions of Jesus at the table.
- Ask the children to recall some of the important things that Jesus said and did.
- "Do this to remember me." Would they like to have been in the painting?
- Explain to the children that when we go to Mass, the priest does and says some of the things that Jesus said and did.
- This is how can share in them today. Draw or paint their own picture. Include themselves in the picture.

R2 Recognise and become familiar with the Sign of the Cross.

- In sharing the story of Good Friday with the children, focus on the fact that Jesus died on the cross and that it was a sad occasion for those who followed him.
- Take a school walk to identify crucifixes around the building.
- Explain that this reminds us all that Jesus died on the cross and we see this sign in lots of places.
- Explain to the children that when we make the Sign of the Cross we are remembering every day that Jesus died on the cross.
- Christians all over the world use the cross to remind them of what happened to Jesus on Good Friday.
- Build on previous work in the Nursery about making the Sign of the Cross during Holy Week.

C8 To use their own words for prayer.

- Hold a special Holy Week liturgy to explore some of the themes covered in this topic. Provide children with opportunities to use their own prayers and reflections in the liturgy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

R6 That Jesus is the Son of God; that Mary heard God and said yes; that the cross is the sign of Jesus' love; that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit; that the Bible is God's book.

- Hear retell and discuss in simple terms the main features of Palm Sunday.
- Learn a simple hymn and know why Christians have palms today.

C6 That children know the story of the Last Supper.

- Know the main features of the story of the Last Supper and are able to retell the story in simple terms.
- Know that we remember the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples at Mass.
- Be able to explore the story through art media.
- Understand that the Mass is this special meal that today we can share in with Jesus.

R2 The Sign of the Cross names Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is a sign of love and blessing.

- Know that Jesus died on the cross.
- Understand that it reminds us of Jesus' love for everyone.
- Know that it is a special symbol for Christians.

C8 Of how to pray together; that they can speak to God in formal prayer and in their own words.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Maths.
Time and language of time.
Art work.

Have a display of palms in the classroom which the children can pick up and use during prayer time.

Revise some of the previous work about the celebration of the Mass. Look once again at pictures of what the priest does at the altar.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 19: 28-39 – The Story of Palm Sunday

Mt. 21: 1-11

Mk. 11: 1-11

Mt. 26: 20-30 – The Story of the Last Supper

Lk. 22: 14-23

OTHER LINKS

- Music and Drama links: This unit of work offers lots of opportunities for singing and simple percussion.
- Some opportunities also exist to create a simple dance routine of the Palm Sunday story.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Develop the prayer table in the class to include some of the symbols of Holy Week. Include palms, bread and wine and the cross.
- Use the Holy Week liturgy to retell and act out the stories covered in this unit of work.
- Learn some simple songs for Holy Week.

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?