



## Fifth and Sixth Class/P7



COMMUNITIES OF ...

**FAITH**

**LEARNING**

**LOVE**

**RESILIENCE**

**HOPE**



# Fifth and Sixth Class: From the Curriculum – Level 4

Christian Faith	Word of God
<p><b>Mystery of Faith</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God is love.</li> <li>• God’s love is constant, unconditional and everlasting (Is 54:8; Jer 31:3; CCC 220).</li> <li>• God is present to our inmost being: ‘In him we live and move and have our being’ (Acts 17:28; CCC 300).</li> <li>• Faith is a gift of God through which one trusts in God’s care (GDC 55; CCC 150, 153, 179, 227).</li> <li>• Experiences of evil and suffering, injustice and death can challenge religious faith (CCC 164).</li> </ul> <p><b>Eternal Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All that is good in our present world will survive in the Kingdom of Heaven. Every act of kindness, generosity and service contributes to the building of the Kingdom.</li> </ul>	
Liturgy and Prayer	Christian Morality
<p><b>Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God (CCC 2559, 2562-63).</li> <li>• Prayer is a personal relationship with God (CCC 2558, 2565).</li> <li>• Contemplative prayer is a prayer of silent love, being in God’s presence.</li> <li>• Our attitudes and actions are influenced by praying (CCC 2725).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human Freedom and Responsibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God calls us and we are free to respond (vocation).</li> <li>• Choices between right and wrong involve the whole person – emotions, feelings and reasoning.</li> </ul> <p><b>God’s Graceful Presence and Assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The values and teachings of Jesus can help us to make good choices.</li> <li>• Christians do good because it is right and out of love for Jesus (CCC 1828).</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Teaching of the Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus teaches his followers to have respect, tolerance and compassion.</li> </ul>



## Monday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith

25 January 2021

‘And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you’ (Lk 11:9).

### Consider:

- Faith has helped people in difficult times. Faith is a precious gift from God but it can only grow if we nourish it.
- Prayer is an expression of our faith. When I am stressed or worried I can pray to God. Through prayer we spend time with God and in doing so we deepen our relationship and come to realise that God is always with us.
- During this pandemic we were unable to go to God’s house but despite this we could turn to God in prayer to ask for help to deal with this crisis.
- God is always listening.

### Explore:

- Have you ever heard the phrase ‘have a little faith’?  
What do you think is meant by this?  
How do we express our faith in God?
- Today we are going to think about how we deepen our faith through prayer.  
When do we pray?  
What do we pray for?  
How do we pray?
- There are many different ways to pray: I can use my voice to pray. We can pray together as a class or at Mass.
- I can pray in silence and reflect. By sitting in silence we are opening our minds up to what God may be trying to say to you. This type of prayer is sometimes called Christian meditation.
- When we are troubled or concerned our thoughts can feel like they are racing through our heads. At times like this we can turn to God and through prayer we can find comfort and strength.



## Activity:

In our activity today we are going to explore a form of prayer called Taizé prayer. Before we start we need to make a glitter jar.

You will need:

1 small clear jar

Water

Glitter

Fill the jar with water until it is almost full. Add a small amount of glitter to the water. Put the lid back on and make sure it doesn't leak.

When it is time to pray shake the jar and then place it on the table in front of you.

When we are worried our thoughts can be like the glitter in the jar after we shake it, racing around and all mixed up.

When we feel like this we can turn to God in prayer.

First of all we will still our bodies.

Settle into your seat and place both feet on the ground and your hands on your knees or on the table in front of you.

Take a deep breath.

Now we will try and still our minds.

Close your eyes. It is hard to stop thoughts popping into our heads.

They are like the glitter in the jar floating around.

To help still our minds we are going to give it something to focus on.

Today we are going to use a phrase to remind us that God is with us.

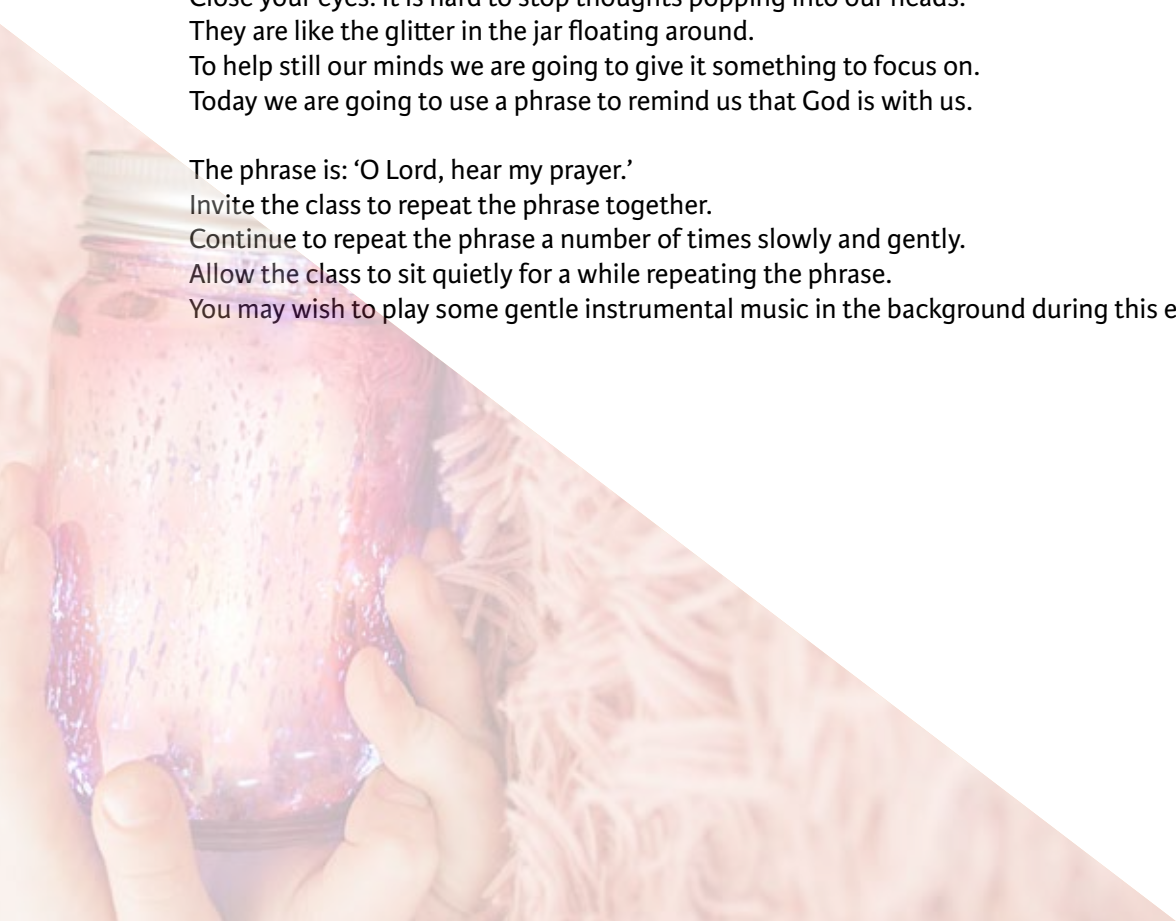
The phrase is: 'O Lord, hear my prayer.'

Invite the class to repeat the phrase together.

Continue to repeat the phrase a number of times slowly and gently.

Allow the class to sit quietly for a while repeating the phrase.

You may wish to play some gentle instrumental music in the background during this exercise.





## Tuesday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Learning

26 January 2021

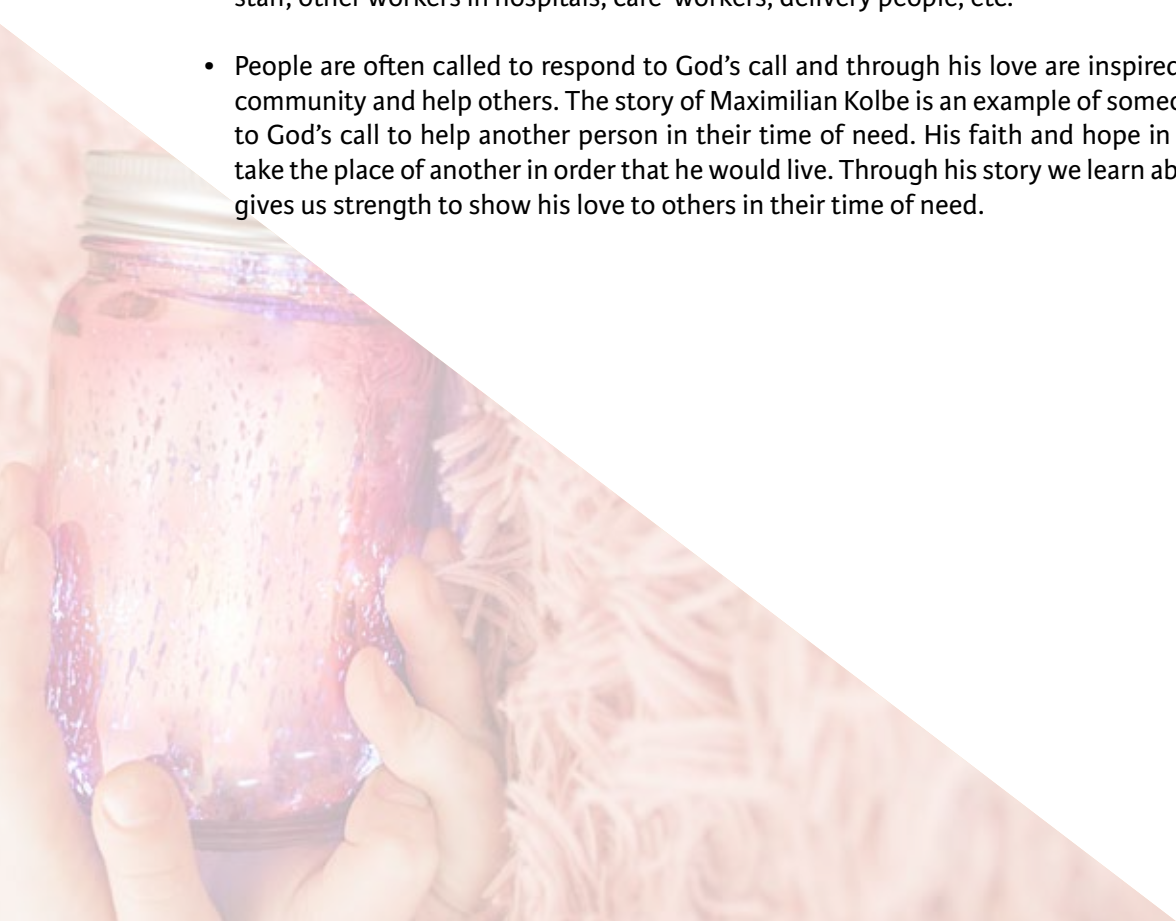
‘Make me to know your ways, Lord, teach me your paths’ (Ps 25:4).

### Consider:

- Catholic schools are communities of learning. We learn together every day.
- As Catholic schools we learn from the example of others.
- Through history we witness time and time again people who put their trust in God in difficult situations and set about living their life in witness to God’s love. We can learn from their example and go out into our communities and bear witness to the love of God in our own actions and deeds.

### Explore:

- During this pandemic, again and again, we witnessed acts of kindness and hope in our communities of faith and resilience. In the face of fear and suffering, people in our communities, and indeed all over the world, were called to help others and in doing so bear witness to their faith on a daily basis.
- During this pandemic we saw many examples of where everyday people were called to help others, even if it put their own wellbeing at risk.
- Discuss with the class examples of people who helped others, e.g. doctors, nurses, hospital cleaning staff, other workers in hospitals, care-workers, delivery people, etc.
- People are often called to respond to God’s call and through his love are inspired to go out into the community and help others. The story of Maximilian Kolbe is an example of someone who responded to God’s call to help another person in their time of need. His faith and hope in God moved him to take the place of another in order that he would live. Through his story we learn about how God’s love gives us strength to show his love to others in their time of need.





## Activity 1:

Read the following story to the class:

In history, one man who was called to witness the love of Jesus through how he lived his own life was the Polish priest Maximilian Kolbe. During World War II, two years after Hitler's armies had marched into Poland, Father Kolbe was caught by the Nazis for trying to help Jewish people and, along with 320 others, was imprisoned in Auschwitz, the gruesome concentration camp. His number was 16670 and he was held in cell-block fourteen. While there, he was treated very badly but he never complained. Other prisoners reported that he remained selfless, often sharing his meagre rations with others.

On the night of 14 July 1941, a prisoner escaped. To get revenge, the prison guards came around the cells and randomly picked out ten prisoners who were to be slowly starved to death. A man standing beside Father Kolbe, named Francis was one of the ten picked for execution.

When his name was called out, Francis broke down under the stress and fell to the ground crying out in fear for how his wife and children would be able to survive without him. Father Kolbe was moved to hear that Francis was a married man with children and so without hesitation he stepped forward and asked to take his place. The commandant agreed and took Father Kolbe away with the other nine unfortunate prisoners. They were injected with acid and all ten men died. Father Kolbe died to save the life of another man. Father Kolbe responded to the call to help another. In the face of suffering his faith and hope in God's love inspired him to make a very difficult choice. He made the ultimate sacrifice in order to help another person.

During the pandemic many people were faced with difficult choices, especially those who risked their lives to care for others.

## Activity 2:

Write a thank you prayer for those who made sacrifices to help others during this pandemic.

Prayer starters ...

*Lord Jesus. I pray for ...*

*Jesus. I ask that you ...*

*Please bless ...*

*God, thank you for ...*





## Wednesday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Love

27 January 2021

### Grandparents Day - Love is intergenerational

‘And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love’ (1 Cor 13:13).

#### Consider:

- During Catholic Schools Week each year, schools celebrate the important role played by grandparents in passing on the faith.
- This intergenerational love is to be celebrated and cherished, especially this year, where so many children were separated from their grandparents who may have been cocooning.
- As this pandemic continues to affect our lives it is possible that grandparents may not be able to visit our schools as normal. It is more important than ever, however, to continue to show our grandparents our gratitude and celebrate all that they do for us.



#### Explore:

- Our grandparents love us unconditionally just as God loves us unconditionally. They show this love in many ways. One of the most important ways is by showing us how they know God and how important God is in their lives.
- Encourage the children in your class to write a letter to their grandparents to remind them of how much they are loved. (This could also be done for a grandparent who has passed away.)
- If the school is unable to host the annual Grandparents day celebration in school then 3rd to 6th class may wish to work on individual mini-projects about their grandparents.
- The following questions could be used to interview grandparents and the answers recorded in written form. Each child could compile their answers and decorate their work to create a display for the classroom or common areas in the school.
- Recall one special memory you have of a time you spent with your grandparent. Write a short prayer of thanks to God for giving you such special grandparents.





# Questions:

1. Did you come from a big family? How many brothers and sisters did you have?
2. Where did you go to school? What was your favourite subject?
3. What games did you play at school? Who did you play with? Did you like to read books?
4. What was your favourite book?
5. What was your favourite time of year?
6. What kinds of occasions did you celebrate? Where did you celebrate them?
7. Did you have a best friend?
8. What kinds of things did you do together?
9. Did you have a pet?
10. What was your favourite food?
11. What do you remember about your First Communion or your Confirmation day?
12. What were your favourite prayers growing up?
13. What do you remember about the time when I was born?







## Thursday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Resilience

28 January 2021

‘The Lord is close to the broken hearted’ (Ps 34:18).

### Consider:

- Sometimes bad things happen in life and we cannot stop them happening. Coping with the loss of someone or something special that you love is one of life’s most difficult challenges. We take comfort in knowing that God is always with us to help us through the difficult times in our lives.

### Explore:

- Feeling sad, frightened or lonely is a normal reaction to loss. Crying doesn’t mean you are weak. Showing your true feelings can help. You don’t always have to put on a brave face. What is meant by the phrase ‘putting on a brave face’? When might you have to put on a brave face? For example, when my team lost the football match; when I visit the doctor/dentist; when I had to say my lines in the school play/read at Mass.
- Sometimes we had to put on a brave face during lockdown because we couldn’t do some of the things that make us happy such as visiting cousins or friends. During lockdown and since then we have all felt loss. Discuss with the class their understanding of the term lockdown and their experiences during this period of time.
- Explore with the class the different types of loss they experienced as a result of lockdown. For example, we couldn’t visit relatives or friends. Some people lost their jobs. We didn’t get to go on holidays. We couldn’t go to school. We couldn’t go to Mass. Some families may have lost a relative or friend to the virus.
- Discuss ways in which we dealt with the losses we experienced. Some may have gone for walks, grown vegetables, done schoolwork at home, talked to family on the computer or watched Mass on television.
- When we are sad, frightened or lonely we can turn to God the Father. While we could not visit the father’s house some of us were able to watch Mass on the computer. We can pray anywhere or any time. Discuss with the class their favourite times and places to pray.

### Activity:

#### PRAYER BOX

Talking to God when we are sad or lonely or afraid can help us. We can turn to God for comfort and support whenever or wherever we need him. God is always listening. Place a cardboard box with a slit on the top in the Sacred Space in the class room. Label the box ‘Our Prayer Box’. Photocopy the activity sheet for today.

Explain to the class that today we are going to write a private prayer to God. Each child spends some time writing and decorating their prayer following today’s discussion. Once they have finished their prayer they fold the page and place it in the prayer box. Remind the class that we know God hears us when we pray. Our prayers are important to God the Father. During prayer time each day remind the class to remember the prayer they placed in the class prayer box.



## My Special Prayer to God

A spiral-bound notebook page with 20 horizontal lines for writing. The spiral binding is on the left side.



## Friday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Hope

29 January 2021

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit’  
(Rm 15:13).

### Consider:

- Through our faith we learn to trust in God. Through faith we become open to receive the love of God and this love gives us hope. Hope flows from faith in God.
- Hope enables us to see that faith is not just what we believe but what we live. Hope moves us to fulfil God’s vision for ourselves. When we have hope we can answer God’s call to help others. The crucifixion of Jesus on the cross shows us a God whose love knows no limits. When we look at the cross we see a love beyond imagining. The crucifix is a symbol for Jesus’ sacrifice and suffering, but also a symbol of great hope, forgiveness of sins and victory over death through his resurrection.

### Explore:

- Hold up a crucifix for the class to see. Ask the class to recall what they can remember about Good Friday from the Easter story.
- As we remember that Jesus died on the cross we remember the great love that Jesus has for us. The crucifix is a symbol of hope because while Jesus suffered and died on the cross he also defeated death in the resurrection.
- Bible search – Accounts of resurrection stories from the Bible. Distribute the class Bibles to the children in the class. Where the class is divided into pods a Bible can be shared. Where the children are socially distancing one metre apart it may be necessary to stagger the use of the Bibles if there are not enough copies for each child. Read Matthew 28:1-18; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-21:25. Children should be allowed time to read the accounts. Invite individual children to give an oral summary of the Bible story they have researched.

### Activity:

Making a cross, as a symbol of hope and to remember God’s Love for us.

You will need:

- Ice pop sticks
- Glue
- Paint/glitter etc
- Ribbon/string

Each child takes two ice pop sticks and glues them together in the shape a cross. Using a marker/sharpie write, ‘Jesus Loves Me’, and their name across the front of the cross. Encourage the children to decorate their cross. Glue the string/ribbon to the back and hang the cross in the Sacred Space.