

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

INVITATIONS

Belonging - Baptism/Confirmation

Life - Creation
Where do I come from?

Curriculum Directory : 'Celebration'

Introduction

The understanding of God as Creator is the foundation for the children's understanding of the new life of Baptism. The second theme this term Belonging – Baptism/Confirmation is explored through the topic 'Invitations'.

The children will explore ways in which invitations welcome us to share someone's interest or life in some way. It helps them to recognise the value of invitations. They discover that the Sacrament of Baptism is a celebration of God to call to a new life with Jesus. They learn about the rite of the Sacrament and that parents/guardians ask for the gift of faith for their child. They discover that for children and adults, faith must grow after baptism as we respond to God's invitations day by day. This has implications for the way we give and receive invitations.

Search

Invitations provoke various reactions: they can be a source of joy, they can bring extra work, and, of course, not being invited can bring a sense of uselessness lack of worth.

**What was the last invitation you remember receiving?
How did it make you feel?**

[Pause for reflection and sharing]

Revelation

Christians believe that everyone is invited to share in the life and work of God through Baptism. The Bible recounts God's invitations to people to share in his life and work: among them Moses, Samuel, the prophets, Mary and the apostles.

In John's Gospel we hear how Jesus gave an invitation to his first disciples:

"The next day as John stood there again with two of his disciples, Jesus went past and John looked towards Him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' And the two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' He replied, 'Come and see'; so they went and saw where He lived, and stayed with Him that day. It was about the tenth hour."
(John 2: 35-39)

The call to followed Jesus is a personal invitation.

Can you think of ways in which people respond today?

[Pause for reflection and sharing]

Response

Into the Classroom

How can we ensure we do not exclude any child or adult who has not been baptised when exploring this topic?

How does the school invite new children, new staff (teaching and ancillary), new governors and parents to enter into the life of the school?

What invitations can we extend to all those in the home/school/parish partnership during this topic?

What are your ideas for a central focal display for the whole school (hall, entrance area etc)?

[A time to share ideas with one another]

For Prayer and Reflection

Let us reflect on the following from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Christian life brings many invitations: “By the grace of baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”, we are called to share in the life of the Blessed Trinity (265)

Jesus calls to conversion. This call is an essential part of the proclamation of the Kingdom. (1427)

Becoming a disciple of Jesus means accepting the invitation to live in conformity with his way of life. (2233)

Let Us Pray Together

God, you call us each day to follow you.

Help me to respond to your invitation in sincerity and truth.

We make this prayer, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

