Catholic Schools: Living Life to the Full

23 JANUARY – 30 JANUARY 2022

FIRST AND SECOND CLASS/P3 AND P4

Christian Faith	Word of God
Mystery of God • Christians bless themselves in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. • God is our loving Father and Creator (Gn 1:26–7). • God is good (Ps 116:1). • God knows us and loves us (Ps 139). • God is my friend. **Mystery of the Church/Kingdom** • The way of life of the parish involves caring, sharing, and praying together (*CCC* 2179; *CSRE* 2a). • The church is a special place where God's people gather to pray. • Our family helps us become friends of Jesus. • The priest/teacher helps us to become friends of Jesus (*LG* 10).	**Sacred Scripture**
Liturgy and Prayer	**Christian Morality**
Prayer • God calls us to prayer and we respond (*GS* 18; *CCC* 2567). • God always hears our prayers. • The church is God's house, where his family comes together (*CCC* 1180; *LG* 6; 1 Tm 3:15). • God's family gathers in the parish church to pray and celebrate (*CCC* 1069–71, 2179). • The church is a holy place where people go to pray and talk to God (*CCC* 1181).	**Human Dignity** • God loves each one of us (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:10–11; *CSRE* 3a). • I am unique/special because God created me (*CCC* 1004; Gn 1:26–7; Ps 137:14). • I am called to love God and to love others (Mt 22:36–40). • Every person is special in the eyes of God (*CCC* 225, 356–61, 369, 1604, 1700–01, 1944–46, 2319, 2334; *CSRE* 3a).

Monday – Living Life to the Full with God

24 January 2022

Consider:
Every one of us is different. We are all unique and special. We are all born with different talents, strengths and gifts. What kind of talents can we have? Talents include sports, art, music, maths, writing and many other things. We are made to show and receive love in our lives.

In our Catholic school, each of us is different and unique and we are called to live life to the full. This means that we learn together but also that we learn to be kind to each other, as everyone deserves to be cared for, no matter who we are or where we come from.

Explore:
God loves us and wants us to live as Jesus did in our thoughts, words and actions. The children could be asked to consider how we could live like Jesus, and how should we treat each other every day in our thoughts, words and actions.

When we show love and kindness to each other, we are being the best that we can be.

Activity:
The song 'God's Love is so Wonderful' can be sang by the class, as it is a simple way of explaining how much God loves us and how each of us is born with different gifts and talents. A video accompanying the song can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju38Sdc2cSg.

The children can also draw and colour a picture of themselves participating in their favourite hobby or something they recognise they are talented at.

Tuesday – Living Life to the Full Together

25 January 2022

Consider:
We all belong to a family and we all like to have friends. We can also be part of sports teams or clubs.

In our Catholic school, we are called to help and be kind to each other, as each person should feel welcome, included and cared for. We are a community where we are all invited to live our lives to the full. We do this together, supporting and caring for each other in our thoughts, words and actions.

Today we celebrate the fact of God's love for each of us and how he made each of us special and unique, and that we are made to work with others to be the best that we all can be.

Explore:
Remind the children how much God loves each one of us. God gives us all gifts that make us special and that we can share with others in our lives. We can use our gifts and talents to make the world a better and kinder place.

How can we use our talents and gifts to make our school a better place? Brainstorm with the children about what actions could be taken or are already being done, e.g. playing with others on yard, paying compliments to people, celebrating when we succeed or others succeed, using kind words and actions in school.

Activity:
Students can be invited to write three things in their copies that they are good at or enjoy doing. Following this, they can be invited to write two positive things or two things they like about someone else in their class.

Wednesday – Grandparents' Day: Celebrating Being Together Again

26 January 2022

Consider:
There are lots of different types of love. There is love that parents or grandparents have for us. There is our love of doing things we enjoy.

When we love something, it means we care very much about it and it has a very special place in our hearts. In our Catholic school, as a community, we learn that God loves us very much and wants us to know and to love him too. Even when we make mistakes or do silly things, God will never stop loving us.

The parable of the Prodigal Son shows us the infinite depths of God's love for each of us. We try to live out such love in our own lives as well.

One way we can get to know and to love God better is through prayer.

Explore:
Ask the children to think for a moment about someone or something they love. They can also discuss this in pairs. Hints or prompts can be given, such as family members. These can be written on the board.

Discuss how we love our parents and grandparents and how they love us. We spend time together. We are kind to each other. We go places together. We celebrate special occasions together. This can include celebrations at the church, such as weddings and First Holy Communions, as well as sadder occasions like funerals. We show our love by being there for each other.

One of Jesus' parables (or stories) is called the Prodigal Son. A children's video of the story of the Prodigal Son can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJgROx4wFKM.

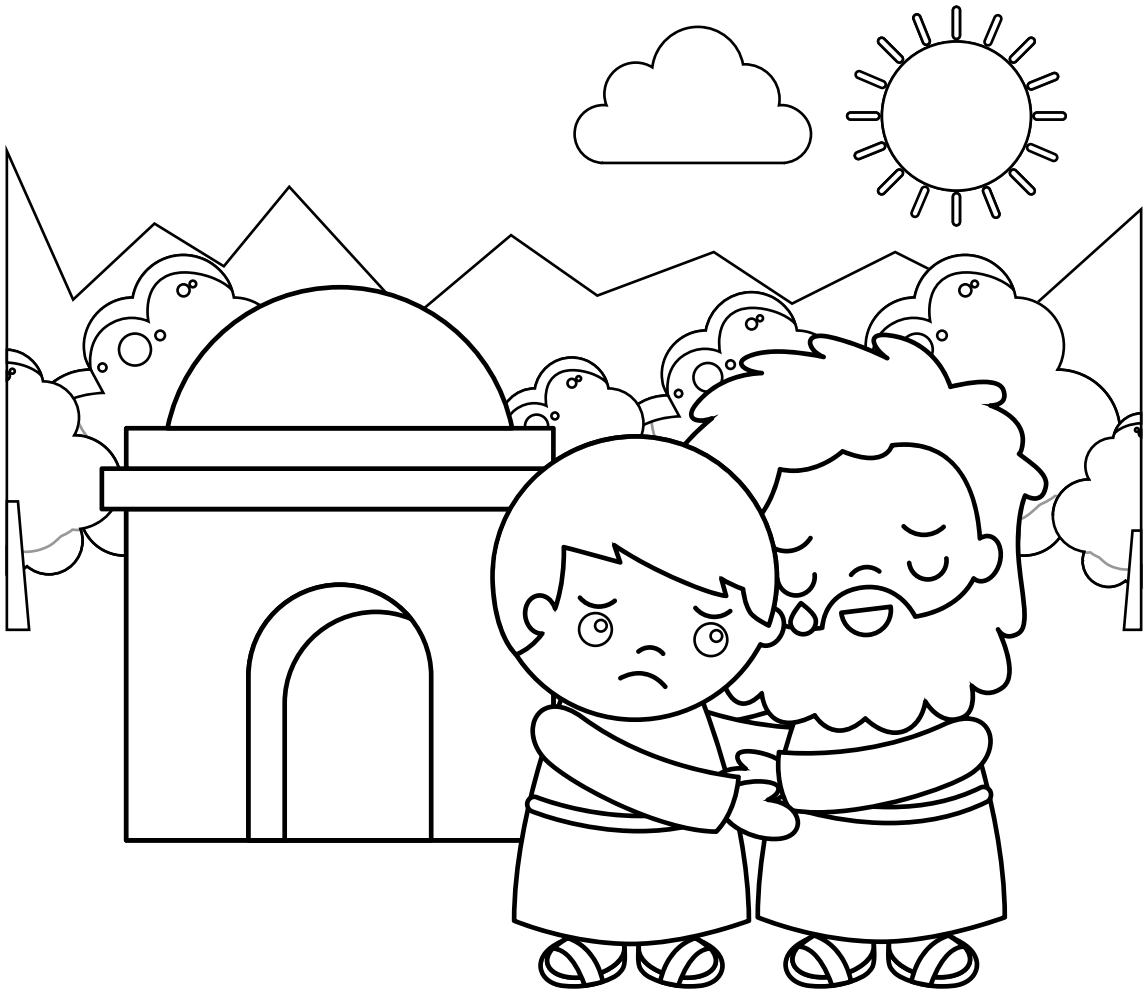
God will never stop loving us. Sometimes we make bad choices and turn away from that love. But we can always return to God and he will always welcome us back.

God loves us and will always love us. Prayer helps us to talk to God, who always hears our prayers. Talk about some of the prayers the children are learning, such as the Morning Prayer.

Activity:
The children can colour in a sheet of the Prodigal Son returning home.

The children can write a short list or draw pictures of people they love that they want to pray for.

Following this, the children can be invited into silent prayer. Prayer can be talking to God aloud, but we can also pray by being still and silent by listening to our breath. The children can pick each person they want to pray for and, for a few seconds each, talk silently to God, asking him to take care of the people they love.



POSTCARD

Thursday – Living Life in Wonder and Awe

27 January 2022

Consider:
Can you think of a time that you saw something amazing? Living life in wonder and awe means seeing the world as really special and as something that takes our breath away.

In our Catholic school, we can start to see the world as a wonderful place. Can we think of things in life that makes us really happy or make us go 'Wow'?

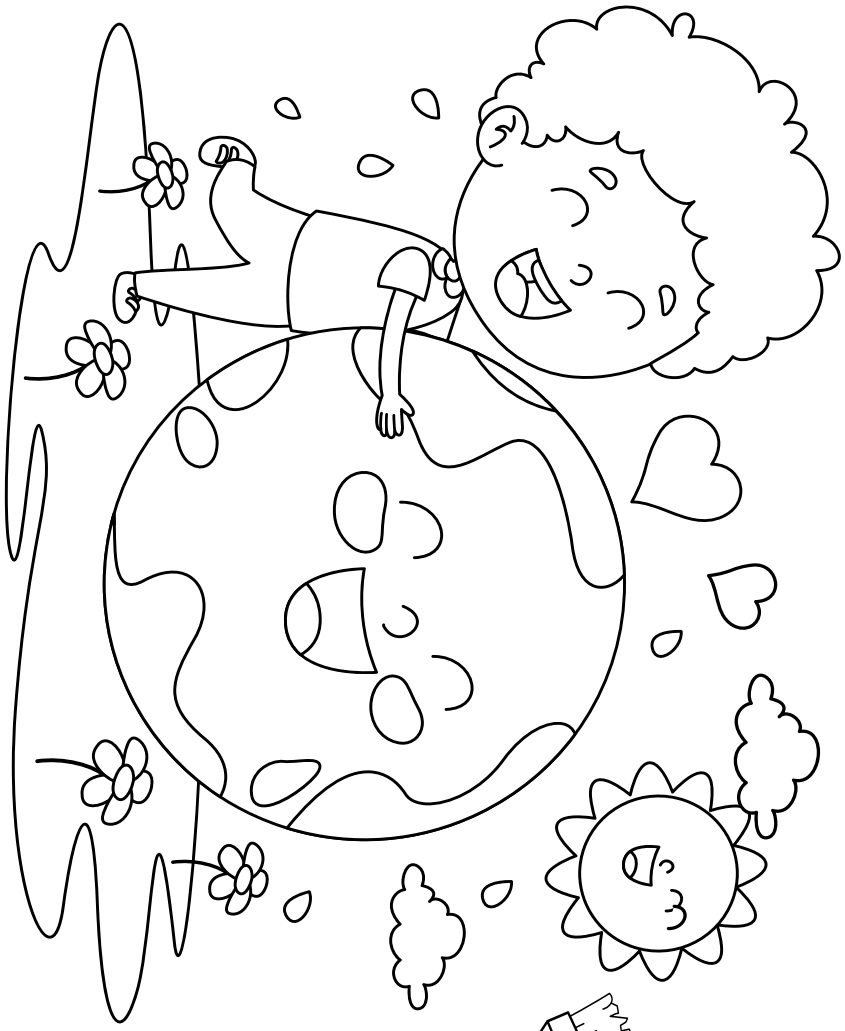
Explore:
Watch the following David Attenborough video about the wonderful world we live in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auSo1MyWf8g. Talk with the children about what images in the video they liked the most and why they liked them.

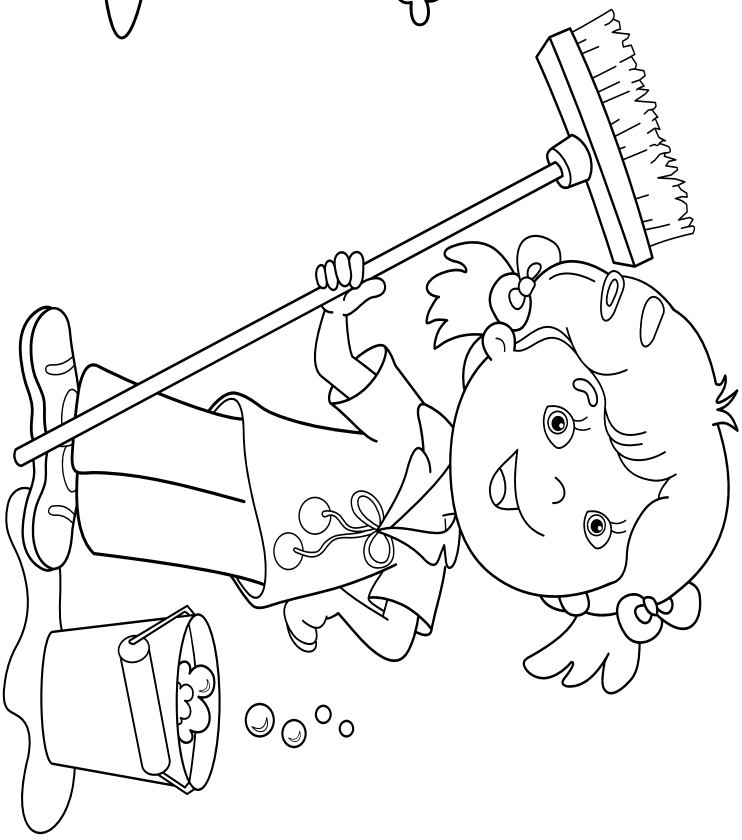
The world is part of God's Creation and it is important that we keep the world clean and healthy. Talk about what people can do to make sure the world can stay as wonderful as it is.

In Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si'*, we are reminded that we can often harm the environment through our actions. The climate continues to change, our sea levels continue to rise and many animals and plants are at risk of becoming endangered. It is up to us to work together to care for God's creation.

We should not litter and throw things away when they can be recycled. We should not waste water or electricity. Brainstorm what the class can do to make sure that we keep creation safe, wonderful and awesome.

Activity:
Complete the colouring sheet about taking care of our world and, as a class, decide on a weekly target that will help to keep our home, school and parish a clean and happy place. Students can also develop a class poster on climate action and offer tips to help us reduce, reuse and recycle in our daily lives.





Friday – Living Life and Facing the Future

28 January 2022

Consider:
Jesus' Resurrection shows us that God's love is so strong that not even death can overcome it.

In a Catholic school, as a community, we live in the hope of the Resurrection, which is a sign of God's love for us.

Jesus' stories teach us to be hopeful, to do our best each day, to be kind to others and to live as a community that loves God.

The parable of the Lost Sheep gives us hope that God's love is for each and every one of us.

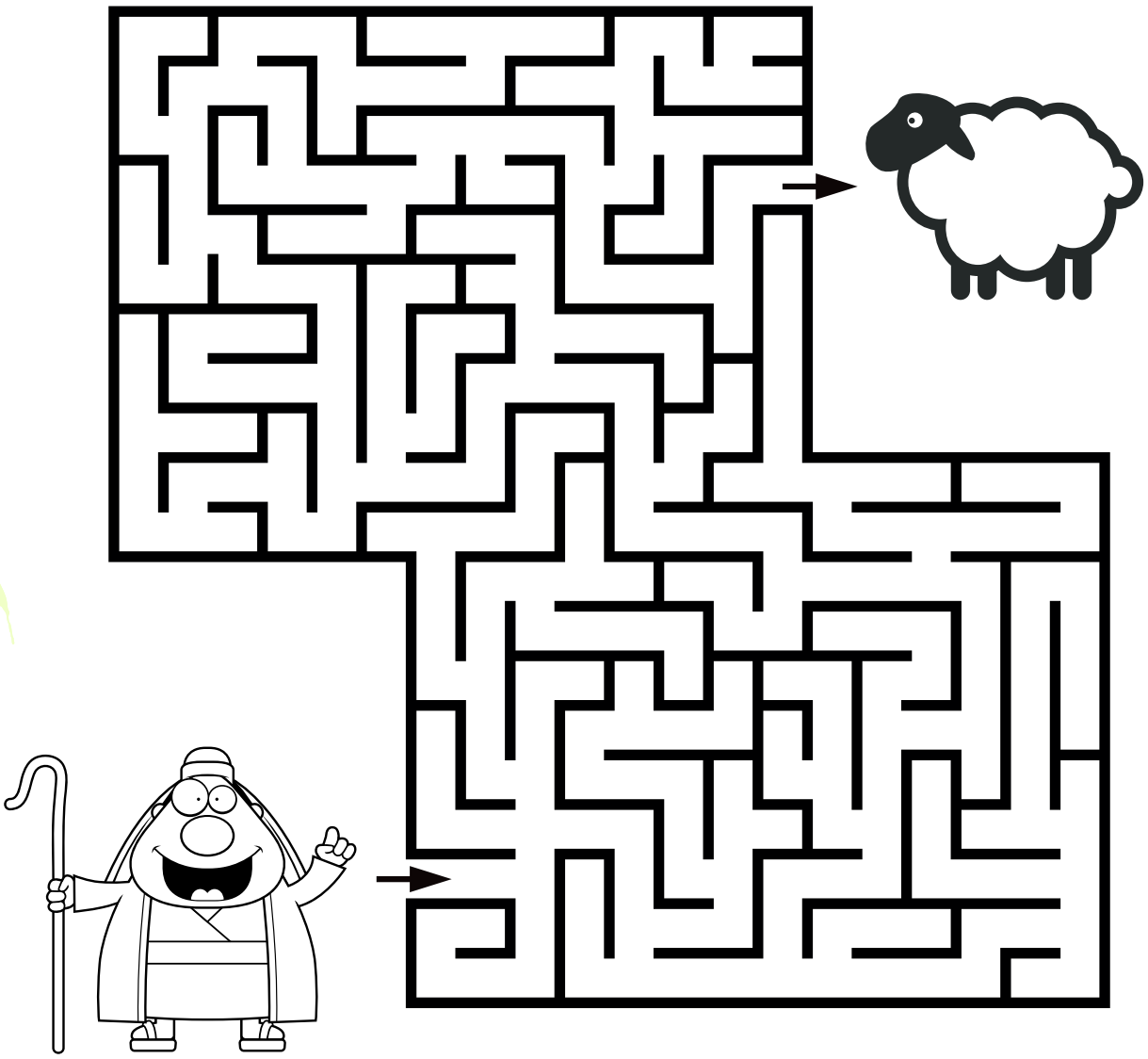
Explore:
Remind the children how much God loves each one of us. Even when we make silly decisions or do silly things, God doesn't turn his back on us. Can we think of times when we show God's love in our actions? Can we think of times when we don't show God's love? The children can work in pairs or groups to give answers. These can be written on the board.

Jesus' parable (or story) of the Lost Sheep shows God's love for us. A video of the parable of the Lost Sheep can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Ry2MaMyvGo.

This story gives us hope that God will always be there for us and that by following Jesus' lessons, we can get closer to God. We show this through caring for and being kind to ourselves, to others and to the world around us. That way, we can hope make the world around us more like the kingdom of God, where everyone is welcome.

Activity:
The children can complete the worksheet on the Lost Sheep.

The children can celebrate the message of hope by singing along with any of the songs below, or a song the children have learnt from *Grow in Love*.

This Little Light of Mine: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCN893hzueQ.

Circle of Friends: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCN1W_Re34s.