



What is the Church?

Parent Leaflet: Unit 5

We are People who Follow Jesus



Main Themes

The children, with their catechists, are looking at what it means to live as a follower of Jesus.

They are being asked to think about:

- ♦ How Jesus shows his love for us all, to the point of being crucified
- ♦ How we are called to imitate Jesus in loving and serving other people, using the gifts that God has given us
- ♦ The way we offer our gifts to God at Mass
- ♦ The special time of the Church's year that we call Lent
- ♦ The fact that the gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to live as followers of Jesus

The children are being encouraged to think about what they will do during Lent in terms of:

- ♦ Prayer - talking to God and listening to God
- ♦ Fasting - doing without some of the things we enjoy
- ♦ Almsgiving - sharing what we have with those in need

From Your Child's Worksheet

The Presentation of Gifts

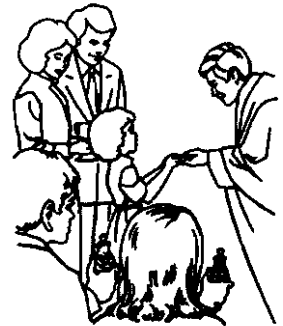
God gives us a lot of gifts that we can use in loving other people.

Complete these words to show some of those gifts:

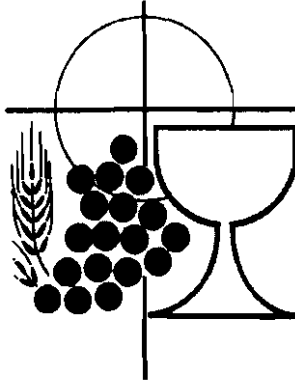
T _ m _ S k _ l _ s T _ l _ n _ s

Sometimes we are not able to help people ourselves but we can give money or other things which someone else can use to help them.

At Church we have collections which are used to pay the costs of running the Church and to help people who are in need. We give from what we have for the sake of others.



At Mass we offer our gifts to God.



After the Readings and Bidding Prayers, the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

The bread and wine are "fruits of the earth" and "work of human hands". They are wheat and grapes which people have made into bread and wine.

They represent all the gifts that we are offering to use, as followers of Jesus, in loving and serving other people.

For all the gifts that God gives us, we say:

Blessed be
God forever

What You Can Do To Help Your Child

Talk with your child about the ways in which people give time to helping in the parish community. Is there anything in the parish that you are involved in or could get involved in?

Encourage your child to give time to helping others, even if it is only in small ways - at home or at school. Help them to reflect on this at the end of each day: did they show love to others as Jesus did?

Talk as a family about what you can do in the season of Lent. You might decide to:

- ◆ Spend some time in prayer each day
- ◆ Give up some luxury on a particular day each week
- ◆ Donate money to a charity (such as St Joseph's Penny or CAFOD)

Come to Mass each Sunday so that your child can experience the Offertory when we offer gifts of bread and wine, symbols of human life and work, together with money to support the Church community and those in need.

Help your child to complete their worksheet - especially the last page.

Please keep your child's worksheet safe, so that they can bring it back to the next meeting with their catechist.

The Presentation of Gifts

"Between the liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the eucharist we have some rather quiet, practical moments. The collection is taken and the gifts and table are prepared. Bread and wine are brought by the faithful, but so are gifts of money. In this way we place what we have earned by our work within the holy time of Mass. Unwilling to separate our lives from our prayer, we bring something for the poor and the church from our wealth or our poverty."

(Cardinal Bernardin, *Guide to the Assembly*, page 15)