

A Religious Education book for year six

The human STORY OF GOD



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Religion tells the story of a God who enters human history and of an unfolding relationship in time with humanity, giving shape even to human experience.

This relationship is rooted in history and it takes form in concrete historical events and persons. It continues to be part of the cultures we live in and which in turn shape our daily living. As a renowned theologian once wrote, 'People are the words with which God tells his story'.

In our journeys of faith, the stories we read in the Scriptures continue to provide us with sure points of reference. As the structure itself of this Year Six resource book for Religious Education demonstrates, religion is not simply concerned with the retelling of past stories, but it is about a story that extends in time and space in the lives and experiences of people of every age.

This is true of all religions in the world, because all religions taken together represent the ongoing search and struggle on the part of humanity to grasp what lies beyond the daily experience of people. World religions in fact continue to transmit in each and every culture traditions of wisdom that enrich humanity and enlighten its search for meaning.

This explains why in this day and age, and in a world that is becoming more and more globalized, we cannot afford divisions among religions, let alone hostilities. Inter-religious dialogue today is a must because there cannot be peace and harmony in the world without peace among religions.

This book, the last in the series in Primary level religious education, opens wide the panorama in which the religions of the world stretch from primitive times to the present day. In particular, it singles out the Christian religion as the religion of the Incarnation, God who becomes man in the person Jesus of Nazareth. The Christian religion looks back to this concrete person in time, yet it is a story that unfolds in time unending.

What transpires mostly from this book is how God's human story continues to give shape to those who come to believe in him and let him be part of their daily living.

Rev Dr René Camilleri Delegate for Catechesis



...God's history becomes our own history and gives shape to who we are



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Unit 1: A love story



When one looks at the Mnajdra and Haġar Qim Temples one is impressed by the intelligence and strength of our forefathers, who planned and built these temples. It is also surprising that these were built so that our forbearers would have had a place where to meet as a community, and where to pray and offer sacrifices to their gods. This clearly shows that man always felt that there was someone greater who created them and gave human beings all that they needed. Many peoples built temples to worship their gods.

	V	E	Ν	U	S	D	т	Α	F	С	M	s	
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1 Search

In the word search find 12 names of Greek, Roman, Egyptian and Maltese gods.

Making connections The people of ancient times felt the need to turn to their gods and worship them. We too have this need. Think of four things which help us to turn to God our Father who loves us and write them down. The first one is given as an example.

Learning

1

2.

3.

4



Human beings have existed for thousands of years and passed through many different events and experiences. One of these events was when through Abraham and his wife, God started a new nation. In about the year 1850 before Christ, God called Abraham. This nation grew in number and settled in the land of Israel as promised by God. They passed through a lot of adventures some pleasant, others not. Many many people came and went until the time when we too were born. Through the use of a timeline, you will get a clearer picture of when important things happened throughout the ages.

Fill in

Fill in the timeline with the following words. At the top write the religious connection and below write the names which have to do with Maltese history:

Abraham • Moses • David • The Prophets
 • Knights of St John • The Church

Megalithic Temples
 St Francis

We are born
 Building of Mdina
 St Paul
 The Arabs





Look up information about this Apostle, whom we also refer to as our Father.

1. What was his name before he met Jesus?	
2. Where did he live?	
3. Where did he get his education?	
4. Whom did he meet on his way to Damascus?	
5. What did he do, once he decided to love Jesus?	
6. When and where did he die?	

Making connections .

Which is the quality you mostly admire in Saint Paul and that you wish to adopt?



A love story

Make a timeline of the major events of your life or of those who love you. Without knowing, someone was with us throughout this time. It is someone who loves us dearly and who guides us. He works in silence without us noticing, like a beautiful flower blossoming in the garden.

Our life is full of events such as this.

1.3

Timeline

1

Ask family members to help you fill in the timeline with important events which happened in your family.



Making connections .

God the Father truly loves me and guides me. I sometimes pass through happy times, whilst other times are not so happy. But God is with me at all times, and helps me in all that I need. Knowing this, what do you feel you should tell God who loves you? A love story

1.4

God so loved human beings that he did not want to leave them on their own. The Old Testament stories show how God was always with his people. But human beings did not always understand this, and they felt that they could live their life without God. So God called Abraham and through him started a new nation founded on the faith of Abraham. Isaac was born to Abraham and Jacob was born to Isaac. Jacob had twelve sons. The People of Israel then settled in Egypt but there they were suppressed and lived as slaves. Seeing the suffering of his people, God intervened through Moses to free the Israelites. After spending years in the desert, the People of Israel arrived at the Promised Land and God continued to communicate with them through the Judges, Priests, Kings and Prophets. Even when the people turned away from God, he continued to love them and showed them the way to true happiness. John the Baptist was the last prophet whom God sent to speak to his people.



Arrange the following names of important people found in the Old Testament. The sentences below can act as clues.

1. DMAA	•
3. SICAA	•
5. ESOSM	•
7. LOMSOON	



- 2. RHABMAA
 4. BOCAJ
 6. VIDDA
 8. AIAISH
 - 1. The first man
 - 2. He was ready to sacrifice his son
 - 3. Abraham's son
 - 4. His father was Isaac
 - 5. He freed the people from Egypt
 - 6. He was a shepherd and he was anointed king by Prophet Samuel
 - 7. He was a very wise king
 - 8. A prophet who announced the birth of the Messiah

Making connections 💉

When I hurt someone I should feel sorry and ask for forgiveness.

When I hurt God I

A love story

1.5









Around two thousand years ago, God chose a young lady of about fifteen years who was engaged to Joseph. Through the Angel Gabriel, she was asked to become the mother of God. Although she did not fully understand what was being asked of her, she accepted and gave the world a son, Jesus, the Son of God.

This is the beginning of the New Testament. After some years, a man called John the Baptist, preached about the coming of the Messiah. And in fact, after some time, Jesus came! Jesus gathered twelve men and he called them Apostles. They spent three years with him, whilst he preached and worked miracles. After Jesus' death, the apostles and disciples continued preaching in many parts of the world and even gave their lives for what they believed in. They were followed by many others who also gave up their lives for the Good News, amongst these, Paul of Tarsus and many other martyrs. This story of being witness to the Gospel of Jesus is still being lived by many who gave their life or lived in a way which is of an example to us. Amongst these we can mention Saint Augustine, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Saint Thomas More and many others, even some who lived recently.





Look up these saints and put them in chronological order.

Saint Stephen, Saint Peter, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Thomas More, Saint George Preca, Saint Maria Goretti, Saint Helen, Saint Pius V (Pope), Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Teresa of Avila.

1. 2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
0 7.	
8 . 9.	
10.	

Making connections

Choose three of these saints and write two of their qualities which strike you.







A love story

1.6



In the Bible stories we often see that God showed his wishes to human beings. He promised Abraham that he would be "father of many nations" and he promised Moses "a land flowing with milk and honey." He asked Moses to free the People of Israel from their slavery in Egypt. Through Moses, he then made an agreement of special friendship. He even gave them the commandments as a guide to live a better life. Through the prophets God continued to speak to his people and showed them their weaknesses so that they could correct their ways and live peacefully with him and with others. Jesus continued to communicate God's message and he gathered everything in one commandment of love: love God and your neighbour as yourself.

Fill in

Fill in the blanks so that you have the full list of commandments.



a. Do you think the commandments help us to lead better lives? Why?

b. What does the fourth commandment mean?



A love story



God's law is not distant from us, it is in fact within us! We call it our **conscience**. Conscience is God's voice speaking to us. It helps us to choose between what we should do and what we should avoid. It guides us to make the right decisions. We need to learn how to listen to this voice. Our conscience is shaped by what we learn and also through the guidance we receive from the Church, priests, our parents, teachers, catechists and others who help us to become better Christians. Our conscience helps us to behave in the same way Jesus would have behaved if he had been in our situation. So before taking a decision we should ask: "In this situation what would Jesus have said? What would Jesus have done?" An honest answer will help us to become more like Jesus. In this way we will move away from what is wrong and from what separates us from God, from ourselves and from others. Forming our conscience as christians is a lifelong process.

"What would Jesus say? What would Jesus do?"



Discuss the following situations and see what would be the right decision according to your conscience.



During break your friend asks you not to allow a particular classmate to participate in games because in the morning he had used rude words. What would you do?

Whilst walking you see an African youth who has just fallen down. He is asking for help. What will you do?

A friend has just played a joke on you and you were offended. Sometime later she has a Maths difficulty. You know how to help her solve the problem. What will you do?

Making connections .

It is not always easy to follow your conscience. Why?

So what should you pay attention to?



Making connections 💉

Read 1 Samwel 3, 1-10

Samuel really wanted to understand what he was hearing. What did he do?

Why do we sometimes not understand each other?

.....

What do we need to communicate better?

7	What remains do we have in Malta to show us that in ancient times people worshipped
	the gods? T and a
8	How did they worship their gods?
	They ps
9	What did you learn from the timeline you made about yourself and your family?
	G is with us.
10	Name three saints who are important in Church history.
	Saint, Saint, Saint

Unit 2: The Bible

2.1



The Bible is a series of books in which we find the story of God's relationship with his people over time.



The human story of God

Fill in the blanks

How many Testaments are there in the Bible?

Which Testament is the longest?

How many books are found in the Bible?

How many gospels are there? Who were the authors?

How many letters did the Apostles write?

Who were the Apostles who wrote these letters?

To whom did they write them?

What do we find in the Old Testament?

What do we find in the New Testament?

Which Testament is most important for us? Why?

Open the Bible randomly and pick a sentence. Read the sentence and think about what it means to you.



The Bible is one book or a collection of books which were written by different authors over a wide span of time This means that there are different styles of writing. In the Old Testament we find historical books. Others include messages, which the Prophets wanted to convey to the People of God. The New Testament includes the four gospels and a number of letters from the Apostles to the early Christian communities.

Fill in as required



letters, Old, book, before, New, birth, authors, message, Holy Spirit

The Bible is not made up o	of one	but of a series of bo	ooks, which
were written over a wide s	pan of time. They include	e different styles of writing	g. There
are stories, poems,	message	es from prophets and mo	any others.
This library of books is divid	ed into two: the	Testamer	nt and
the	Testament. The Old Test	ament speaks of what h	appened
the	e birth of Jesus. The New 1	estament is about all the	at happened
with the	of Jesus. The books	are not in the order tha	t they were
written. The	were all inspired	1 by the	They
wrote them in their own w	ords and in their preferred	d writing style. But what i	s important is
the fact that the	came acro	oss because they were in	nspired by the
Holy Spirit when writing.			

2.2

The Bible

The human story of God



- The first five books of the Bible are known as the 'Pentateuch' and it is said that Moses is their author.
- In the Bible, the phrase 'Do not be afraid' is written 365 times, the same number of days in a year! Is this a coincidence? If every day we trust in God, there is nothing that we should fear.
- The first question that God asks is, "Adam, where are you?" He is still asking the same question today to whoever is not on the right path!

Making connections .

•	The is the most frequently mentioned animal in the Bible.
•	The is the longest book in the Bible.
•	The last word in the Bible is
•	The first word in the Bible is



We treasure books about Maltese history because our ancestors tell us about the time before we were born. By reading these books we learn about our past and our ancestors. When we read the Bible, we would be discovering how faith in God developed. We can learn how the many different people answered this call and how God still speaks to us today.



Abraham

Using either the Bible or the internet, find the story of Abraham. Write down the points which strike you most and say why.

2.3

The Bible



The Old Testament

The Old Testament is divided into 46 different books. They speak about God's relationship with man since the beginning. Although God is central, God puts man at the centre of his love. From the beginning God enters the story of man to save him from whatever enslaves him. The promise of a saviour is very prominent in the Old Testament. In this way, after using various methods and through various people, God spoke to us through his Son.



The New Testament

In the New Testament we read about the life of Jesus, his work, death and resurrection. We also read about the first Christian communities. What was promised since the beginning came true, the Word became flesh, God became man. The New Testament speaks about the birth, the life and actions of Jesus until he gave up his life for our salvation. Through him God's love for us reached its fullness.



The Bible

2.4

We need to read and study the Bible so that we know what God wanted to say and what he wants to tell us today.

Answer the following

1.	What did God create first?
2.	On which day did God create the trees and the plants?
3.	What was the name of Abraham's son?
4.	To whom did God give the Ten Commandments?
5.	Which is the fifth commandment?
6.	What was the name of Moses' brother?
7.	In Our Lord's Prayer, which food do we pray to God to give us?



Making connections

St Joseph was Jesus' foster father. For what is this saint most famous and admired for?

8. We give importance to outward appearances but God sees the
9. Who gave his son a coat with many colours?
10. Who was thrown in a lion's den?
11. He killed a giant:
12. He is God's son:
13. What was the name of the mother of Jesus?
14. What was the work of St Joseph?
15. How many apostles did Jesus have?
16. Who was the apostle who betrayed Jesus?
17. Which sea did Jesus calm?



book

the page number

17

for Gotom you love, and go to the land of where bort'ah, and offer him there as a burnt hold hingering upon one of the mountains of mke hingch I shall tell you." 3 So Abraham openese early in the morning, saddled his waters, and took two of his young men with kin with, and his son Isaac; and he cut the k. ²⁰Anood for the burnt offering, and arose grew und went to the place of which God had becanid him. 4 On the third day Abraham

Isuand tests dorumum

d becamd him. * On the third day Abraham ived in thed up his eyes and saw the place afar is mother if Then Abraham said to his young a land en, "Stay here with the ass; I and the d will go yonder and worship, and ind Phicame again to you." * And Abraham y said tok the wood of the burnt offering, and in all third it on Isaac his son;* and he took in a said the dire and the her fire and the large So they. n all thid it on Isaac his son;* and he took in ar to ng hand the fire and the knife. So they not deent both of them together. 'And Isaac Spring dd to his father Abraham, ''My father!'' ave deand he said, ''Here am I, my son.'' He with nid, ''Behold, the fire and the wood; but have shere is the lamb for a burnt offering?'' d, ''I wAbraham said, ''God will provide him-if the lamb for a burnt offering, my ained am.'' So they went both of them ter whistehter.

r whigesther. d, ²⁶A 9 When they came to the place of who hhich God had told him, Abraham built me, an altar there, and laid the wood in order, I me, an altar there, and laid the wood in order, ay," 27 3d bound Isaac his son, and laid him on and gate altar, upon the wood, ¹⁰ Then Abra-two mam put forth his hand, and took the set sevalife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of rt, ²⁹Are Lono called to him from heaven, and "What id, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he we lamid, "Here am L" ¹² He said, "Do not black Your hand on the lad or do anothing we lamid, "Here am L" ¹² He said, "Do not) He saiy your hand on the lad or do anything will ta) him; for now I know that you fear be a word, seeing you have not withheld your is wel?", your only son, from me." ¹³And lied Beebraham lifted up his eyes and looked, we sword behold, behind him was a ram, where the second is the second second in the second second second is the second second

a the narder, as it is said to this day, "On the lod, 34, ount of the Lorn is shall be provided," ays in (15 And the angel of the LORD called Abraham a second time from beaven, sted Abr and said, "By myself I have sworn, brahamys the Lorn, because you have done 2 He sais, and have not withheld your son, son Isabur only son, 17 I will indeed bless you, id I will multiply your descendants as

Heb 11 J3: Acts 3.25; Gul 3.16. 23.4: Heb 11.9, 13.

GENESIS 23

the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹³ and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice," ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beer-sheba.*

Beer-sheba.* 20 Now after these things it was told Abraham, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: ²¹ Uz the first-born, Buz his brother, Kemu'el the father of Aram, ²² Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethu'el. ²³ Bethu'el became the father of Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abra-am's brother. ²⁴ Moreover, his concuham's brother. 24 Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore 23 Sarah lived a hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. ²And Sarah died at Kir'iath-ar'ba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. ³And Abraham rose up from before his dead, and said to the Hittites, 4 "I am a stranger and a sojourner among you; stranger and a solution and a solution of a bury-ing place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." ⁵ The Hittites answered Abraham, ⁶ "Hear us, my lord; you are a mighty prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of come combiners may are of in the choicest of our sepulchres; none of us will withhold from you his sepulchre, or hinder you from burying your dead." "Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. ⁸And he said to them, "If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, ⁹ that he may give me the cave of Mach-pe'lah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your pres-ence as a possession for a burying place." ¹⁰ Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hit-tites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, ¹¹ "No, my lord, hear me; I give you City, 11 "No, my ford, hear me's give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it; in the presence of the sons of my people I give it to you; bury your dead." ¹² Then Abraham bowed down before 22.16-17: Lk 1.73; Heb 6.13-14; 11.12.

the chapter

the footnotes

Making connections

Choose one of the verses you looked up and write down what you think it is telling you today.





The Bible contains a message of love from God the Father. So we can say that it is a love story for each one of us.



If a close relative went to live abroad, how would you keep in touch?

Put the following words in the right order and write down the sentence in the space below.
 WE BIBLE BY DURING TO EVERYDAY GOD LISTEN THE MASS OF OR READING THE WORD



Although we do not see God, we need to find a way to know what he is telling us. Through his teaching and healing, Jesus showed us God's love for us. How can we communicate with God? The Bible is like a long letter from God to us. It is a love letter which contains many stories from which we can learn. Even if we have a bad day, the Bible can be beneficial! There are many verses which can help us to feel better and many others which show us God's love for us.

During Sunday Mass we read and hear four texts from the Bible. These are from the Old and New Testaments.

The first reading: generally from the Old Testament

The responsorial psalm: generally from the Psalms, found in the Old Testament

The second reading: from the New Testament, an episode from one of the letters or from the Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel: an episode from one of the gospels found in the New Testament.

Jesus said that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. He is therefore God is assuring us that if we read the Bible we will live according to his will.

Write down the readings of next Sunday's liturgy and try to understand what God is telling you today:

First reading: Responsorial psalm: Second reading: Gospel:

Making connections 💉

When someone does something good for you, you feel grateful. What do you do when you are grateful?

What do you think you should tell Jesus to show your gratitude towards him?.....



The Bible refers to a number of places, these are important because of what happened there.

What happened?

Write something important which happened in each place.





2.7

The Bible

Jerusalem

Nazareth

Bethlehem



The Temple



The Empty Tomb



Golgotha



Mount Sinai

Making connections

Do you have a particular place at home where you can stay in silence and reflect?.....

O ot
2.8



Today, everyone has a Bible. The Bible has also been adapted for children so that they can find it easier to understand.

It is acceptable that we use a Children's Bible, but at the same time, since we are growing up it is time to become familiar with the actual Bible. With the help of adults we can find stories which we are able to read together. It is important that we become familiar with the Bible, so that the Word of God accompanies us throughout our lives, and in all that we go through. If I am accustomed to using it, it will become easier to understand. On the other hand if we are not familiar with the Bible it will be difficult to refer to it.

In the Bible, God speaks to all, not just to adults! In fact, in the Bible, we encounter many children. They too were important because God spoke through them. They were not extraordinary children. They were children like us. They lived as other children of the time. Isaac, Ishmael, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Josiah, the boy with the five loaves and two fishes, Jairus' daughter and the children Jesus blessed, were just some of the children mentioned in the Bible. There is also the child Jesus. The following are children mentioned in the Bible. Write something about each.



Making connections .

Imagine that you are Samuel or the daughter of Jairus. If you were asked to write about your experience what would it be? Share this with your friends.

My name is	••••••
My experience is	



Throughout the year in our families we celebrate various occasions for example family dinners or parties. The more special the event the more it needs to be planned in detail beforehand. At times we need to decorate the house, invite relatives and friends, we can also have music and give presents. The are happy occasions which create nice memories to remember and narrate for a long time after.

Fill in the blanks

Continue the following list, with other occasions we celebrate as a family

1

Choose the one which fits best

1. During happy family celebrations we feel that we need to:
a. start laughing b. celebrate together c. sing at the top of our voice
2. To celebrate in an appropriate manner, first we need to:
a. prepare well beforehand b. read books
c. we boast about what we are going to do
3. The things we need like food, music and decorations, should help to add to:
a. the jealousy between us b. our friendship c. unhealthy competition
4. After our celebration we need to:
a. stay on our own with our own thoughts b. keep everything to ourselves
c. share our joy with others

Making connections &





Fill in the blanks

Fill in with the words given below.



Apart from being national	, these days are greatly celebrated in
our country. The Armed Forces have a	along Republic Street. The
Archbishop of Malta celebrates	at St John's Co-Cathedral, and this is
attended by Malta's highest authorities. At th	e end of the mass the
is sung. Flower wreaths are laid on the	which commemorate these

events. For Freedom and Victory Days, the is held in the Grand Harbour.

mass • regatta • parade • monuments • holidays • National Anthem

Making connections

I need to understand that it is important to celebrate these events. They remind us of the important triumphs acquired by the Maltese in the past. They also remind us of their courage shown and the suffering they went through to get what they believed in. Is there something in your life which requires courage and you are making a sacrifice to achieve it? The calendar



Jesus is very important for us Christians. So during the year we celebrate the important events in his life through which we gained our salvation. These celebrations are not simply a remembrance, like feasts we organise as a family or as a country. Jesus

is a historical person yet he is beyond history because he is a man for all ages. He is still alive today and when as a community we celebrate our faith we relive the episodes that surround Jesus' life and with him we too can be winners.

Jesus' life



The following pictures show important episodes in the life of Jesus, and which we celebrate during feasts. They are not in chronological order. **Use the gospel of Matthew and Luke and under each picture write: a. the name of the episode b. the gospel c. the chapter and verse used**.



The descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church



When he suffered and died on the cross



When he entered Jerusalem on a donkey



The institution of the Eucharist during the Last Supper

3.3



When he rose from the dead and saved us from our sin



He was born to Mary in a stable in Bethlehem



When he was baptised by John in the River Jordan



When he ascended into heaven



When the wise men came to worship him and brought him gifts

Making connections

These celebrations help us to get closer to Jesus. Which feast brings you most happiness? How does this feast help you to get closer to Jesus?

3.4



We celebrate the most important events of Jesus' life over a period of one year. The Church Year, or the Liturgical Year, is divided into five main parts. The year starts with the first Sunday of Advent and ends with the feast of Christ the King.

Fill in the blanks

Use the following words

e	hristmas • coming • sacrifice • Jesus • purple • penifence er • four • Sunday • Lent • Mary • cross • Epiphany y • rising • descent • teachings • Friday • Green • Red • Thursday • King • Baptism • ascension
Advent starts	
period is	, Advent means, because we are preparing
for the coming of	
	. time reminds us of the birth of Jesus. It is a joyful time so we use . which symbolises light. During Christmas time we celebrate other feasts
like	
which reminds us	of the visit of the wise men.
	. is forty days of preparation for the most important feast of the Church:
Lent is a time of	and turning away from sin. The church uses a big

..... to remind us of Jesus' passion and death. During the last week of lent which starts on Palm and Good

Easter Time is a joyful time because we re	emember Jesus'	from the dead.
White is used to symbolise this	Easter time lasts fifty do	ays and during this
time we remember Jesus'	into heaven and the	of the
Holy Spirit on the Church.	is worn for Pentecost to refle	ect the love of God
and the strength of the Holy Spirit.		

By means of	19 CONNECTIONS S f the Liturgical Year we celebrate and relive the
main mome	nts of Jesus' life. In this way we enter into the
mystery of	Jesus' life so that with him and through him we
can pass fr	rom suffering to life and with him and like him we
have a sha	re in eternal life. What can we do so that we shar
in this ete	
100	



Important moments in our lives are those when we meet Jesus through the Sacraments. Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist are the Sacraments of Initiation because they are the beginning of our Christian life. In the early Church, these sacraments were celebrated together and administered to adults who chose to become Christians. These adults were called catechumens and after a time of preparation they were welcomed by the Christian community during the Easter Vigil. In time, these sacraments were received some time after birth.

Match

Match the sentences by writing the number in the corresponding box.

1		Sometime after birth, the baby	on the baby's head.
	2	On behalf of the baby, parents and godparents promise that	in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
1	۷.	they will believe in God	and sin is forgiven.
	3.	The priest pours water	and they reject Satan and sin.
_	4.	The priest says: "I baptise you	
-	5.	From this moment the baby starts to form part of the family of God	is taken to church by the parents to be baptised.
			THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

First Holy Communion and Confirmation (2)

Fill in the blanks, the first letter is ready.

At around the age	e of six years, it is	time for F		. H	
C	This is when we	e received th	e E	for the	first time.
Whilst showing us	the H	the p	riest says: "The	В	
Christ" and we an	swer "A	" J	esus wanted to	remain with u	us in the
Eucharist so he ins	tituted this Sacra	ment during	the Last S		By means of
the consecrated b	D	and w		. he wanted to	be food for
our souls, to help u	us in our journey t	to the house	of our F		

Underline the right answer

When we are about (ten, twelve, twenty) years old, we (forget, renew, receive) our Baptism by means of the Sacrament of (Confirmation, Reconciliation, Eucharist). Together with our friends we renew the promises which had been made by our (grandparents, parents, uncles) on our behalf on the day of our (Baptism, First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation). Together with our godparent we go to the (parish priest, monk, bishop) and he anoints our forehead with (water, chrism, ashes) and says, "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit." We receive the special strength of the (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and we become adult members of the Church. With his help we can be true witnesses of Christ.

• • •	Making connections The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom to grow up and mature as true Christians. Name some of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
-	

3.6



In life we pass through good and bad moments, like when we are sick or have problems. At times we do not show love to others or we have arguments and this breaks up our relationship. This is when we need to be healed. The Sacrament of Penance gives us the strength to reconcile ourselves with God and with others and so heal the conflict between us. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick gives strength through the anointing of the oil, which is a symbol of spiritual and physical strength, especially to the weak in health.

Put in the right order

Use numbers to put the Anointing of the Sick rite, in the proper order.

grace of the Holy Spirit the person feels the love and care of the Lord.

 Then there is a reading from the Word of God.
 If it is God's will, the sick person will be healed from his illness.

 If it is God's will, the sick person will be healed from his illness.
 Image: Comparison of the sick person is illness.

 After the reading, the priest, like Jesus, lays his hands on the sick person.
 Image: Comparison of the sick person.

 The priest starts by blessing the sick person and those present, with holy water, to remind them that Jesus also passed through suffering and death.
 Image: Comparison of the sick person's forehead and hands so that through the sick person's forehead and hands so that through the sick person is forehead and hands so that through the sick person's forehead and hands so that thead so thead so thead so thead so thead so the sick person's fore

Reading

Read the following passage from the letter of St James and fill in the blanks.

Is anyone among you in suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **(James 5, 13-16)**

- 1. St James is writing about the Sacrament of
- 2. In this Sacrament we use
- 3. This sacrament helps the sick by and
- 4. According to St James p...... will heal the sick.



Making connections .

What type of healing do these two sacraments bring?



Read the following passages from the gospel of Matthew



During Liturgical Celebrations and everyday life we are sure to meet with a priest. He is called to be a leader. Through his service he helps us to get closer to Jesus. Jesus spoke several times about the qualities of a good leader.

Reading

Read the following and match with the correct leadership quality. *The first one is ready.*



1.	Matthew 5, 13-16		He corrects with kindness and prays regularly.
2.	Matthew 6, 31-34		He preaches that the Kingdom of God is near.
3.	Matthew 10, 7		Celebrates the Eucharist.
4.	Matthew 18, 15-20		Seeks the Kingdom of God as a priority.
5.	Matthew 20, 26-28		He is of service to others.
6.	Matthew 26, 26-29	1	He is of a good example.

Jesus chose the bishops and priests to lead his Church. Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the Holy Spirit helps them in the mission for which they have been called.

Fill in the blanks

Use the words underneath. The first one is ready.



The Bishop • The Priest • The Deacon

He is the successor of the apostles.	The Bishop
He "serves".	
He gives himself to the service of the people with love, therefore he wears the Episcopal ring.	
He is ordained by the bishop to help in his diocese.	
He can baptise, read the gospel during mass. He can deliver a homily, visit the sick and give them the Eucharist, and is of service in the parish.	
He is considered as the shepherd of the People of God, so he holds the crosier.	
He represents the bishop.	
He has the authority to lead; therefore he wears the mitre on his head.	
He celebrates the Eucharist and forgives sin.	

Making connections 💉

It is good and admirable to regularly pray for vocations, so that more youth answer positively to Jesus' call to be of service to others. In so doing others can love Jesus more and live a better life. How can you be of service to others ?

at home
during play
in class

When a man and a woman decide that they want to get married it shows that they love each other and wish to start a family together. They are looking forward to spending the rest of their lives together in a loving relationship. They would be ready to give up things for each other and they would not allow anything or anyone to come between them. They would be ready to bring up children who are born from this loving relationship and as a family grow in their love for God. Through the Sacrament of Marriage, the couple would be inviting God to be part of their lives. In the Sacrament the couple are the most important persons and they promise God that they will love each other for all their lives.

In the Gospel Jesus refers to marriage and he explains God's plan for the loving relationship between a man and a woman. The first miracle was at Cana, during a marriage feast, to which he was invited together with his mother Mary and the disciples.

3.8

The calenda



Read the following passage: Matthew 19, 3-6 and fill in the blanks

The Pharisees asked Jesus
Jesus teaches us that marriage was created by
Jesus says that in marriage, man and woman become
Jesus also teaches that the bond of marriage



.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read the passage about the Marriage in Cana (Jn 2, 1-11). Draw the symbols that have to do with this miracle. Write in order of importance the persons mentioned in this miracle.





Christmas is a time of happiness, especially when we remember that the son of God became man for us. It is a time when we must think more of others.

In this box draw objects which remind you of Christmas





Making connections

Christmas is an important celebration. How should you start preparing for it?





If you were to ask St Nicholas to tell you how to become a better person, what do you think he would tell you? Christmas: the birth of Jesus



At Christmas we celebrate God's love for us shown in Jesus who became like one of us. Find a picture of Jesus and a photo of yourself. Stick them near each other in the middle of this heart. Find other pictures of people helping others, or are helping others – because this is the true message of Christmas. Jesus became man for us and we should be ready to help others.



Making connections .

As a class discuss ways of how you can help each other more or maybe help someone else who needs it. What do you understand by 'being there' for others?



Look up Matthew 1, 1-17 and there you will find Jesus' family tree, because like us Jesus had a family and forefathers. Remember that Jesus loves your family. So remember to pray for your family members so that they would be happy and learn how to live peacefully with others.



Christmas: the birth of Jesus

Δ.5



At Christmas it is also important to remember Jesus' mother, Mary. Let's not forget that she is also our mother! The following information is about this great woman.

> Encourage your family members so that today you recite the rosary and offer it for those mothers who are expecting a baby.

Name: Mary Date of birth: 8th September Place of birth: Nazareth Status: married (to Joseph) Work: housewife Children: one - Jesus Assumption: 1sth August Interesting fact: she was taken up to heaven with body and soul

Making connections .

We should remember that Mary loved Jesus very much. If you want to really love Jesus, what do you think you should pray to Mary to help you with?

Write a poem to our Lady

You can use the following words: Baby, joyful, mother, mouth, sin, hearts, veil, songs, Mary, strong



Saint Joseph is a very important person in this story. He was the one who took care of Jesus and was able to offer him a normal family life. The following are some facts about this great man.

Saint Joseph

Name: Joseph Place of birth: Nazareth Status: married (to Mary) Descendent: Judas' tribe (from the family of King David) Work: carpenter Feast: 19th March Patron saint: Universal Church, fathers Interesting fact: foster father of Jesus



Here are some other people who are also associated with Christmas. Discuss and fill in the blanks.

takes care of the sheep • archangel • two years • lowest • Assisi
Bethlehem • Museum • peace • God is my strength • Franciscan

- messenger of God Baby Jesus Gaspar Italy Asian priest
 - 9th May Persia Wise man from India wise man of Persia



Feast: 29th September

Patron saint: workers in the field

of technology

Interesting fact: Gabriel means

.....

The Shepherds

Name: Eder	
Place of birth:	
Descendents: Jews	
Work:	
Interesting fact: he forms part of	of
the	

class of the society of that time.







Saint Francis

Name: Francis
Place of birth:
Year of birth: 1181
Status: deacon
Work: he does good and
spreads
Feast: 4th October
Year of death: 1226
Patron saint:
animals, birds
Interesting fact: he started the
Order

and he made the first Crib



Saint George Preca

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Name: George Preca
Place of birth: Valletta
Date of birth: 12th February 1880
Status:
Work: spread the teachings of
Jesus Christ
Feast:
Date of death: 26th July 1962
Patron saint: The Society of
Christian Doctrine,



Interesting fact: he founded the Society of Christian Doctrine, MUSEUM and he held the first procession with

The Wise Men

Name: Melchior
Place of birth:
Race: Asian
Work: a scholar
Status:

Name: Balthasar
Place of birth: Arabia
Race:
Work: scholar
Status: wise man from Arabia



Name:
Place of birth: India
Race: Asian
Work: scholar
Status:

Interesting fact: the Wise Men visited Jesus in his home

when he was years old

Christmas: the birth of Jesus



Making connections

There are people and animals which are not mentioned in this narrative but they are still linked with the Christmas story. For example there is the innkeeper, Harold, the cow and the donkey and others. Choose one of these characters and imagine that he was being asked to talk about what happened that night. What do you think would be his story?

.....

.....

.....











Apart from people and animals, we also have symbols and decorations which are linked to this feast. With the teacher's help, write down something about the following Christmas symbols.







Making connections

The decorations and symbols help to make this celebration a happy and beautiful one. Can you make someone happier this Christmas? What can you do?



Many preparations and traditions that are tied to Christmas help us to live this celebration in a more engaging way and therefore help us to get closer to Jesus, who, like us was born as a baby.

Read and draw

In the space provided, draw something which is related to what you have read:



Advent

Advent starts about four weeks before Christmas. We remember in the three comings of Jesus. The first coming was when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, to save us. The second coming is his desire to live in our hearts and the third coming will be at the end of time. Advent is a time of preparation. During this time we prepare for his last two comings. Greetings and cards In the year 0AD the angels announced great joy to all those of good will. By means of our cards and greetings we are renewing these good wishes which took take place when Jesus was born. This is why we should send cards with pictures of Baby Jesus to relatives and friends ... even if they do not.

The crib

To remember this feast, many crib enthusiasts start preparing the crib from very early in the year. The centre of the crib is always taken up by the stable, where Jesus was born.

The novena

The novena starts nine days before Christmas. In this way we can prepare better ourselves for this holy day. The novena mass is held every day. We start to hear Christmas carols, and the church is decorated little by little to reach a climax on the 24th of December.

69

Christmas carols

Christmas carols have been sung for many, many years. When cars had not yet been invented, people went to mass either on foot or else riding on a cart. They sung these carols until they arrived. They continued singing until the church opened its doors and they could go inside.



The procession with Baby Jesus

The first canonized Maltese saint, George Preca was very devoted to Jesus. This can be seen in the procession with Baby Jesus. which he was the first to organise, on Christmas Eve. Children and members of the Society of Christian Doctrine take part in this procession, and they sing carols and read about the Christmas story. They also carry lanterns and lamps.

The Midnight Mass

The Midnight Mass forms the climax of this feast. If one does not prepare oneself in heart and in soul other preparations would be useless. If someone were to organise a party in your name and doesn't invite you, do you think that would make sense?

The Christmas sermon

The Christmas sermon started in the beginning of the twentieth century. At that time the altar boys were taught some sentences about Christmas and they repeated them to the congregation during Mass. This means that God includes everyone, even children, to deliver his message.

Christmas lunch

It is a tradition that on Christmas day, all the family (grandparents, aunties and uncles) meet at someone's house (someone who has a big enough room) so that they have Christmas lunch together. It feels great when we meet as one big family to celebrate this great gift from God.

Making connections

After listening, discussing and writing about this great event what would you draw to show what Christmas means to you?
Unit 5: Channels

5.1



Man was not created to live alone.

This is so true that in fact we say that man is a social being. This means that man feels the need to be with others, to communicate. He can communicate in various ways.These help him to express himself and at the same time to listen to what others have to say. He can help others and in turn be helped. So everyone can live a better life. We communicate on various levels, because we don't love or know everyone in the same way, therefore we do not always tell everyone the way that we feel.



People in my life

In the centre write your name. Fill in the rest with names of people you meet, they can be family members or others whom you rarely meet, for example: parents, catechists, bus drivers, sports coach, doctors and nurses, priests, postman and others. You surely know others whom you would like to include.

Making connections.

If you had to add Jesus in this picture, where would you include him? Do you think he fits where you placed him? Why? 5.2



When we meet someone we can use various means to communicate, since there are different ways to show our feelings or what is on our mind. We can use words, signs, body language, facial expressions, colours, hugs, kisses and many other ways. We call these, modes of communication. **Many of these ways of communication are universal, that is they are understood by everyone, others are only found in certain countries.**

Communication

What are these pictures telling us? Match the words or phrases with the right picture.

writing • agreeing • music • Braille • facial expressions • upset • words • colours





The human story of God



Making connections .



- What are the people in these pictures doing?
- What are these pictures communicating?
- What should I do when someone is communicating in this way?
- What do you think is the key factor to good communication?

Channels

5.3



Modes of communication change by time. People of ancient times communicated and worshipped their gods in ways which are hardly used today. In the temples they sacrificed animals and sometimes even children and adults. They did this to please the gods. In the first Book of Kings 18, 21-40, Prophet Elijah meets with quite a challenge when he confronts the priests about the false god Baal.

0000	Making connections In Elijah's time, people worshipped false gods. Even today we have false gods. These do not let us get to know God or get closer to him. Name three things which can be our false god because for us they are more important than anything else. The first one is done for you.
00	1. The computer

Fill in the blanks Open the first Book of Kings 18, 21-40 and fill in the blanks using the below words to compete the stories. fire • heavens • asleep • Carmel • worshiped • noon • three • challenges • altar • Elijah • Baal • bull 1. The Prophetspoke to the people and asked them to choose whether they would worship the true God or god 2. Elijah the prophets of Baal through a bet. This was done on Mount 3. The challenge was for the true god to send from heaven to burn the bull which was on the 4. The prophets started from early morning up until praying and calling Baal, but to no avail. Elijah told them to shout louder, maybe Baal was in meditation, or wandering away, or on a journey or Although they cried out louder, their prayers were not answered. 5. Elijah then told the people to build an altar with twelve stones, they put the on it, they poured water on the altar fortimes and Elijah prayed to God in front of everyone there. 6. As soon as Elijah finished his prayer, fire came down from and burnt the offering, the wood and the stones, and the water dried up. The people fell to the ground and the true God.



Unlike false gods, our God is not deaf and dumb. Our God is a living God and over the years he spoke to many people, amongst whom Abraham, with whom he asked to start a new people. He spoke to Moses and he gave him the commandments (sometimes we refer to them as the Decalogue: the ten words). God also spoke through the Priests, Prophets and Kings, and others whom he chose to deliver his word. Through the archangel Gabriel he spoke to Mary. He spoke to John the Baptist. Finally he also spoke to us through his son Jesus referred to as the **Mystery of Incarnation.** He showed us all his love by sending us his son who become one of us.

Find

5.4

Channels

Find the Letter to the Hebrews 1, 1-3 As a group, discuss and write what you understand by these verses.

God spoke to me

.....

Who am I?

- 1. I was married to Sara.
- 2. I had twelve sons.
- 3. I was my father's favourite and my brothers were jealous of me
- 4. When I was born my mother placed me in a cane basket and

let me flow on the river.

- 5. I led the People of Israel to the Promised Land.
- 6. I anointed the first King of Israel.
- 7. I encouraged the Jews who were in exile.
- 8. I foretold that a maiden would have a son and name him Emanuel.
- 9. I had a son in my old age and he was the fore runner of the Messiah
- 10. The Angel Gabriel appeared to me and said that I was to have a special son.

Making connections

.....

Today God speaks to me through:

1:			
2.			
۷			••••••
3.			
0,			•••••



Who is Jesus? He is the son of God who became man to **live amongst us** and to save us. He lived like us and he passed through the experiences as we pass through except that he had no sin. He spoke with the people, he listened to them, he helped them, he laughed and cried with them. He also healed many people, he taught many others and he comforted those who were suffering. Like a shepherd he cares for us, and he also gave up his life for us. Through the Eucharist we continue to celebrate this love for us. He is with us in the Eucharist, so that when we participate and celebrate the sacrament we become stronger and active members of his Body, which is the Church. We can look for God, however he is always searching for us and he finds us before we do because his love for us does not depend on our love for him. His love is infinite and is without any condition.

PHYHMFLMPBSUY	A R T
E J H T R K L H F H M I P O O B T L A Z A R U S R F P H Y H M F L M P B S U Y	R T
OOBTLAZARUSRF PHYHMFLMPBSUY	T
PHYHMFLMPBSUY	
-	н
H N P E P B P S Y L K S H	Α
A F R W S M A G D A L E N	Ε
SBARTHOLOMEWR	Y
HMYPCENTURION	В

3.....

Find ten names of people who met or were helped by Jesus. Write them down in the space provided.

4.....

The human story of God

INRI

Making connections 🖍

Choose one of these people and write what struck you in his attitude towards Jesus.

Write down what struck you about Jesus' attitude towards this person.

5.....

8	9	10

.....

7.....

5.6



It's a good thing and everyone wishes to be friends with everyone! However it is not always easy to understand and accept others. Often we hurt each other, sometimes unknowingly and at others on purpose. The Jews who lived before Jesus' time and even during his time, went against God's wishes in one way or another. For example amongst others we can mention when the Jews were in the desert, David, Peter, Mary Magdalene, the good thief and Saint Paul. Each of these in his or her own way did what they liked and went against God's will. Sin separated them from God but when they asked to be forgivien they found God waiting for them and welcomed them back.

The human story of God

Fill in the blanks with Biblical persons who sinned, were sorry for what they did, and asked for forgiveness:

- 1. As soon as Moses went to the Sinai, they went back on their word.....
- 2. He killed someone to be able to take his wife.....
- 3. He persecuted Christians.....
- 4. Although he said that he would not deny Jesus, he denied him three times.
- 5. Jesus drove out seven demons from her.....
- 6. He stole when he collected taxes.....
- 7. He accepted his sin and asked God to remember him.....

Name the three important steps which will lead us to true forgiveness.

1	
2	
3	

Making connections 💉

Why isn't it easy to ask for forgiveness?.....

How can you answer someone who says: "I forgive but I do not forget"?.....



As humans we are weak and we continually need to nourish our faith. As Christians the sacraments are instances which move us closer to God, allow him to enter into our lives and strengthens us with his grace. We allow him to enter into our lives so that he strengthens us with his grace. Grace is his presence within us which helps us move away from all that enslaves our thoughts and emotions which hinder our growth. This is when for example we are jealous of others, angry or to get revenge. These are thoughts and emotions that we cannot always control.

Channels

Therefore the strength of the Holy Spirit of God within us, is renewed through the sacraments which make it possible for us not to give in to these thoughts even if we have reason to. It is Jesus' Spirit within us which makes it possible for us to forgive, to be patient, not to submit to spiteful thoughts and to many other negative feelings. In Baptism, we are born to a new life in faith in Jesus. We start a journey along which we need to nourish our faith so that it grows and stays alive through the Holy Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation.

This is what is meant when we say that Jesus wanted to remain with us, to walk whichever path we choose, and he offers his light and guidance. The more we receive his love and forgiveness with an open heart, the more we are capable of loving and forgiving others.

Making connections 🖌

From our discussion on the parables what do you think that God is ready to do for us?

The human story of God

Fill in the blanks 1. To receive the sacrament of I need to follow thesesteps: 2. I think about my 3. I am.....for my sins. 4. I promise God that I will try not to again 5. I all my sins. 6. I do the gives me.



1. What would be another suitable title for this parable?

2. How is the mercy of the father shown?

3. What are the similarities between this parable and that of the Good Shepherd?



Channels

5.8



heard and discussed up to now.

Fill in the blanks

1.	Which is the third sacrament?		
2.	What was the name of Abraham's wife?		
3.	In Baptism we become	of God.	
	Who was Mary's son?		
5.	What did Jesus do for us on the cross?		
6.	Who is the first person of the Trinity?		
7.	In Baptism we become Jesus'		
8.	Man does not live on his own because he is a		being.
9.	The son of God became	for us.	
10	. The first head of th <mark>e</mark> Church was		
11.	Jesus was born from the family of King		
12	. How many sacraments are there?		
13	. When we are living in sin it is as if we are living i	٦	darkness.
14	. When Jesus instituted the Eucharist, he		······
	. What does the Holy Spirit give us?		
16	. When we live in God's grace, <mark>we are a</mark>	shining) for others.
17.	is Jesu	s' mother.	
18	. The people of ancient times, offered sacrifices	to their go <mark>ds o</mark> n	
19	. God gave the ten commandme <mark>nts to</mark>		
20	. When we love and respect other <mark>s</mark> , we resemble	Э	

Making connections

We spend most of our time in calss. What can we do to show more respect and love?

Unit 6: Symbols of love



When we were young, those who took care of us started to teach us and show us that we need to respect others, especially those older than us. We can therefore say that respect is first show towards the members of our family and those who take care of us. By time we started showing respect to others. The best way to show respect is to love others. Jesus loved us so much that he died for us.

Love and respect

Fill in the circles with symbols or words which show love and respect:



Making connections.

Do you think that when you respect you always win?

What is the real gain when there is respect and love?



We celebrate the feats of our patron saints in a great way. There is nothing wrong in keeping our traditions which today have become part of our culture. We should not forget however the reason behind these celebrations. The reason lies in the faith that we proclaim and which forms part of our identity. If the faith and worship aspect diminishes from these celebrations, then we are missing the real reason behind them.



The gospel of St John 2, 15 speaks of how Jesus behaved towards the sellers in the temple because he believed that the temple had to be given the respect entitled to it.

Answer the following

- 1. Who is the patron saint of your parish?
- 2. When is his/her feast day?
- 3. Do you know of some important episode from his/her life?
- 4. If you had to write a phrase about your parish patron saint, what would this be?

The human story of God

-0	Making connections .
-0	Making connect monstrate real happiness.
-0-	Mention two occasions where you can demonstrate real happiness.
2	
2	
6	
20	
-0	
-0-	
5	
6	
	91

6.3



At Christmas when we see the Wise Men adoring Baby Jesus, we realise and understand that God wanted to show himself to all mankind. God calls each and every one of us and so we must respect everybody, irrispective of one's religious beliefs. We know that there are many different religions and we must show respect to all. We came to know Jesus Christ when we became Catholic, Jesus told us that he compares himself to the Good Shepherd who recognises his sheep and they recognise him (John 10, 14). Once we get to know him we must follow him so that we will not be lost. Christ is the light that lightens our way.



Why do you think we should respect others who follow a different religion?

The Church

When we enter a church we see different things. Fill in with the following words:



Bible • water and wine • candles • Tabernacle • crucifix • chalice

- 1. The priest drinks from the, which is on the altar.
- 2. On the side altar there will be some lit
- 3. The showing the crucified Christ, hangs over the altar.
- 4. When the priest reads the gospel, he opens the and starts to read.
- 5. When it is time to receive the Eucharist, the priest gets the ciborium with hosts from the
- 6. The altar boy assists the priest and gets the cruets (small containers) which contain

F	ill in with these words	One of the words will be used more than once
	Menorah • God • Moses • Muslims •	Minaret • Mosque
1.	Instead of single candles, the Jews light a candelab	rum which is called the
2.	The means the light of	
	which symbolises the burning bush as seen by	
	when God spoke to him.	
3.	pray in the	and the tall tower like
	building on each mosque is called a	



When Jesus was dying on the cross he said: "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then onwards the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19, 25-27)

This means that Jesus wanted to give us his mother Mary as our mother. From that time onwards a bond was created between human beings and Mary, the mother of God. This relationship with Mary is significant because Mary always shows us the way to Jesus. Jesus said that: **"Where two or three gather in my name, there am I in the midst of them."** (Matthew 18, 20)

Therefore when we are gathered together as a family, in church, as a group, and we are praying, he is with us.

Fill in

Fill in with the words below:



neighbour • shortcomings • announced • gathered • Holy Trinity

- 1. Angel Gabriel to Mary that she was to become a mother.
- 2. Our Mother Mary was crowned by the
- 3. When we exchange a sign of peace, it means that we love our
- 4. "For where two or three are...... in my name, there I am

amongst them."

5. We should love our neighbour and forgive his

The Eucharist

The bond between us reaches its climax in the celebration of the Eucharist. When this is celebrated as a living liturgy it can increase unity within the community. This unity can be cleary shown when:



Making connections

What is the commitment that we should take on, both on a personal level and as a group so that we would be persons who encourage unity?

What are the things that create disagreements between us?

Symbols of love

6.5



Signs are very important in our life. We meet a lot of signs on the roads. If drivers do not understand these signs, there will be confusion. But although not written in words, these signs can be read just the same and they all have clear meanings.

Even in the way that we speak and communicate with each other we use signs and gestures that have meaning. However these signs do not necessarily mean the same in every country. This is clearly seen when people from different cultures give each other the sign of peace or greet each other.

It is customary to make the sign of the cross at the beginning of the day or before meals. This is also a sign which reminds us of a bigger reality, that there are three persons but one God who through the crucifiction of Christ, showed his great love for us. We find similar signs amongst other people and in all religions.

Signs show or indicate something, and they have a meaning. Signs are useless if we don't know their meaning. For example, the sign of the cross makes little sense to a non believer.





Read St Mark 10, 13-16

Read

Read this passage with your friends and discuss its meaning. Afterwards write down your thoughts and share them with the rest of the class.

Making connections 🖍

Our life is full of meaningful non verbal gestures by which we show others what we want to communicate. Find pictures of people with different facial expressions which show their feelings or the message they want to get across. Write down what you think they want to communicate. 6.6



Sometimes we use these flames in processions. One of these is the famous procession which takes place regularly at Lourdes at night. Thousands of people from different countries take part in this procession.

Generally when we hear the word 'fire' we think of the destructive fire. However fire can remind us of other things, even positive ones. Saint Peter, for example, tells us that fire purifies. In the book of Exodus, fire shows how God spoke to Moses through the burning bush. In the Acts of the Apostles, the tongues of fire on the apostles, show the strength of the Holy Spirit, when he descended on them at Pentecost.

Fire is also often linked to love.

NORI



What can be the effect of fire in everyday life?

The Gospel

Find Acts of the Apostles 2, 1-31

- 1. How do you think the apostles were feeling, when they were locked together?
- 2. What is the meaning of fire in this episode?
- 3. What happened to the apostles after this?





Bread is one of our basic needs to survive. But in the Gospel, bread has a much deeper meaning than a simple necessity to live.

Symbols of love

Bread has always been the most important food and maybe this is why Jesus chose bread as a symbol to remain with us so that we may live. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (John 6, 51)

Making connections 💉

In the events we mentioned, there was a change in the person/s whom Jesus met. What change can the Eucharist bring in you?





6.7

101

Complete these sentences ()

1.	"If anyone eats of this bread,	w
2.	Christ said: "This is my body	w
3.	We gather together	
4.	Christ chose bread because	

Fill in the blanks

As a group choose one of the following passages and after reading it well, fill in the blanks.

The multiplication of bread	Mk 6, 34-44
The multiplication of bread	Lk 19,1-10
Mary and Martha	Lk 10, 38-42



.....

Which passage did you choose?

Who was present for this meal?

Describe them before the meal

How were they during the meal?

How were they after the meal?



6.8

Jesus gave a new meaning to the vine which goes beyond the tree which bears fruit. If the vine is weak it will not give good fruit. Jesus compared himself to a vine, which gives good fruit. He said: "I am the vine and you are the branches" (John 15,5) and if we break our bond from him we cannot bear good fruit. This means that if we stay away from him we get confused, and it will be easy to get lost and to lose our way.

Answer

- 1

Fill in the grapes

In this bunch of grapes write down the good effect of wine made from grapes.







Elisa wanted to bake a special cake for her friend. First she mixed the margarine with the sugar. Then she added the eggs, some flour, water and some flavouring essence. She put the mixture in a cake tin and baked it. She was careful to set the right oven

temperature. When it was ready, she got it out of the oven and allowed it to cool. Finally she decorated it with chocolate and cherries, because that was the way her friend liked it. She then rested and was happy that the cake turned out perfect.



What do you think?

- 1. What do you think made this cake special?
- 2. Why did it have to be special?
- 3. What does this story tell us about Elisa and her friend?
- 4. What leads to true friendship and love?



Genesis

When God created the world, he thought and planned everything. He did this because he truly had a special love for mankind and he wanted to build a special relationship with him. **Find Genesis 1, 27-28**

- What is God doing in this passage?
 Why did God do this?
 Where did God show his friendship?
- 4. How can we show God's love for us and for others:i) with those who take care of us?
 - ii) with our teachers?



Bridges







You are now in the sixth year of primary school. The experiences you have passed through during these past eleven years and during your school years have made you who you are today. In Maltese we have a saying which states that one is judged by the company one keeps. This is in fact true because the experiences we pass through with

our family and friends have left an imprint on us and have influenced our way of thinking and our behaviour. The person we are today is a result of all this.

Discuss one of the nice experiences you had and which left an imprint on you. Then put down some points about this experience.



7.2



Making connections

God has created everything for you. What do you think you should do so that your friendship with him lasts forever? What can you do to take care of the environment around you?
7.3

Bridges

Man has always felt the need to look up to someone who is greater than himself. We Christians call this someone **God**.

Discuss in class

worship

What are your first thoughts when you hear the word religion?

Remember

What did primitive man feel about his gods? (choose the right answer)

- He felt that (he had to worship the gods, he had to till the fields).
- He worshipped the gods because (he believed that they could help him, he was as equal as the gods).
- This shows that (man is nothing without God, man was very much afraid of God).

Religion means a connection or tie with one's faith. When we believe, our hearts and minds are connected to what we believe. There are many religions. Ours is the Catholic Religion which is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Truths

Continue these statements which we believe in by choosing the right word from below.

- save us from what is wrong.
- Jesus is therefore our because, he showed us how to live so that we can go to
- After three days Jesusover death and he rose from the dead.

heaven • love • Saviour • beatitudes • won

Making connections

Why is it important to pray for Christian unity?

.....

Every year we have a week of

When is this week held?

prayer precisely for Christian unity.

- Jesus gave us the eight as a guide.
- The second person of the Holy Trinity is (the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit).

The Christian religion or Christianity has a long

history and it includes a number of divisions and from these we have the following: the Orthodox these emerged from the Protestants the Catholic Church

- the Catholics

There are various differences in these offshoots which emerged from the Christian religion. Ecumenism is the movement which works to bring these Churches which profess the same faith in Christ, closer together. These are not different religions but divisions in the Christian religion.



Christian religion shares a number of its faith beliefs with other religions, such as with Judaism and Islam. They all believe in one God who created the entire universe who loves us and who is our guide in life.

Religions

From what you know about the three Religions, discuss with your friends and mark the practices or beliefs which are the same for the three Religions.

- Prayer
- Sacrifices
- Whipping

- Fasting
- Mass
- Faith in the Virgin Mary
 Certain food is not eaten
- Belief in God

Belief in Jesus as the Son of God

Forgiveness

Arrange the feast or events according to the religion which practices them.

Christianity	Islam	Judaism

Palm Sunday • Pesach • Sukkot, Muhammed – Maulud • Christmas

Ed ul-Ftr • Eid ul-Adha • Epiphany • Easter

Ramadan • Lent • Shavuot • Rosh Hashanah

Making connections .

Look up and discuss the importance of dialogue among these religions.



We have the duty to transmit the message that we believe in, which is the message of love we have received from God. Without imposing anything on anyone Christian have to find the best way and best means to communicate to the world this message of Jesus Christ. We have to do this whilst respecting other religions, other beliefs and those who practise no religion. The way we communicate our belief to the world is very important.

What we believe in, is not only doctrine but it is also a way of life. Apart from knowledge there is also witness. Apart from what we know and what we learn, we should also consider our behaviour. In the Gospels, Jesus is very clear, if our behaviour does not reflect our beliefs than we are living a lie.

The Christian and others



1. Mention three ways of how a Christian can communicate to others his experience of God.

2. When someone is teaching about Jesus and the Gospel, this is called 'Evangelisation'. Malta has always had and still has a number of missionaries. These felt a calling and they left their families and country and went to far away countries, even non-Christian ones, to proclaim The Good News.

3. Continue these sentences

Jesus uses various methods so that move closer to him. He knocks

on the door of our and invites us to

0	Making connections
0	How can we evangelise our own surroundings and our friends?
00	What are the best ways we should use today to communicate the
P	Christian message?
9	



receive this love and how to share it with others.

Jesus

If you were to describe Jesus what would you write? Fill in the wall.



What do you know?

Fill in the following sentences with what you know about Jesus.

- He showed, respect and friendship towards everyone, even toward those who were 'different'.
- His teaching was for everyone and the were stories which could be understood by all.
- This shows that Jesus welcomed everyone and he wanted everyone to be

Making connections 🛃

Jesus communicated in different ways with different people. Bartimaeus was one of these lucky people who met Jesus and he also experienced his miraculours power and hear his word. He was one of the blind people upon whom Jesus performed a miracle. **Look up Mark 10, 46-52.**

Read the passage, think about it and answer the following:

otto-mono

• Why did Bartimaeus call out to catch Jesus' attention? • What was Jesus' reaction and how did he speak to Bartimaeus? • What do we learn from this miracle?



To be good Christians means that we are friends of God. In practice, we show this when we live up to what we believe in. In this way we are really true Christians.

Christian life

Fill in the blanks with the right words to show how we can be true Christians:

- We participate in the, especially that of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.
- We read and study the
- We allow Jesus to be our and we live by his example.
- We regularly and not only when in need.
- We help and obey
- We give from what we to all those in need.
- We follow the...... of Our Lady and the saints and we also pray to them to help us.
- We ask for good from those around us (parents, teachers, catechists, priests, etc.) when we have a difficulty or we are going to make some important decision.
- We those who hurt us, this is what Jesus did.

Our Conscience

Discuss the following with your friends.

- Through my actions, how do I show that I love God?
- What should I do so that through my words and actions I show respect towards God, others and myself?
- In church what should I do so that I give my full attention to what is taking place and to what is being said?
- How can I take care of my health?
- How can I respect my body and that of others?
- How can I be responsible for my things and those of others?
- How can I always say the truth?
- What can I do to show love towards my family and work towards unity?
- What can I do to be happy with my life?



The human story of God

Making connections.

Is it possible today to find time to pray as a family?

What can I do so that I find the time to pray?



In the Bible passage about creation, we find that God saw that everything was good. God created everything that was good. But from the beginning, in the relationships of human beings, there was jealousy and fighting. From the beginning, the devil wanted to instil doubt in the heart of human beings; doubt about God's goodness and kindness, about whether everything created by God was good and whether man really needs God in his life. But 'God is love' and love can overcome all this.

From the New Testament

Look up 1 John 4, 7-10 and fill in accordingly:

"Let us continue to love, for love comes from

showed how much he loved us by sending his one and onlyas a

sacrifice to take away our sins."



We should love, help and respect others without making distinction concerning colour, religion, intelligence or social position, just like Jesus did. In fact if we look at Acts 10, 34-35, we find the following words:

"I now realize how true it is that God does not show partiality but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right"

What do these words mean to you?.....

Making connections 🖍

Read this email properly:

My name is Issam and I am an Arab. I often hear my father talk about Malta and how kind and good the Maltese people are with everybody. He says that the Maltese have a different religion from ours. He mentioned Jesus and that you believe that he is the Son of Allah. He also told me that during Lent you make sacrifices to recall his suffering. Even we celebrate Ramadan. It is a month long and we fast from sunrise to sunset. I would like to learn more about your religion, especially about your religious celebrations. Regards *Issam*



Unit 8: Light and darkness

8.1

Our faith is founded on light. When we live our lives in the light of God's presence we are in the light. When we are no longer in his presence we are in darkness. In the beginning of his Gospel,

St John is very emphatic about this

darkness, and the darkness

has not overcome it." (John 1, 5).

our lives and he says:

"The light shines in the

contrast between light and darkness in

Making connections 💉

1. What lights up your life?

The human story of God

Fill in the blanks



hope • sin • separated • darkness • Moses • Damascus • power
punishment • joy • sun • light • oil lamp • Pascal Candle • love • Genesis

- 1. The gives us light and life. 3. Fire which gives off light shows the of God. 4. In the there is written that God created light in the first day and he light from 5. The Egyptians had to spend three days in darkness as a for not freeing the Jews from slavery. 6. God spoke to through a burning bush. 7. In Jesus' time the was used to light up a room. 8. On his way to to persecute Christians, St Paul saw a great light. 9. darkens the life of the Christian and also his friendship with God and with others. 10. As Christians we should be for all nations. 11. The is a long candle which represents the light of the risen Christ to the community. 12. The Christians should light up the life of others through patience
 - and
- 2. What darkens your life?

Light and darkness

8.2



Jesus is the one to show us the way to the Father. The greatest illuminating episode in Jesus' life is undoubtedly his resurrection. Here light wins over darkness. It is for this reason that the Easter liturgy starts with the service of light.

Easter – Halleluia!

Write the number near the correct sentence so that the story is in the right sequence as told in the gospel of Matthew. The first one is done for you.

	The angel told the women not to be afraid, he knew that they were looking for Jesus.
	They went to the disciples to tell them the news.
1	Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.
	The guards were so afraid when they saw him that they did not move from where
	they were.
	The angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled over the stone.
	Jesus told them to go tell the disciples that he would meet them in Galilee.
	The angel also told them to go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead.
	Whilst on their way to give the news, Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you."

1



Making connections Making connections Making connections of the dead? Today, how can we proclaim the message of Jesus' resurrection?



When Jesus rose from the dead he won over the darkness, death, sin, evil and suffering. As his disciples, we can also share in his victory.

















Read from the gospel according to Matthew 25, 1-13

The Wedding

Read this parable together with your group and create a mime of this parable where Jesus invites us to wait for him. However whilst waiting for him, through the way we live, we can be wise or foolish. This is another contrast of light and darkness.

Discuss with the rest of the group

- What does the wedding feast represent?
 Who is the bridegroom?
- 3. What does the waiting for the bridegroom mean?.....
- 4. What does being wise mean in this parable?
- 5. What does foolishness mean?
- 6. What does it mean to have oil in the lamp?

Making connections .

Give examples of situations from our daily life where we are wise and where we are foolish.

Light and darkness

The meening of the Easter celebrotion

Easter is the greatest Christian feast. It is the feast where we renew in each one of us Christ's rising from the dead and the freedom from all that which keeps us enslaved to evil or to ourselves. Therefore, Easter is also a celebration of joy which should fill the heart of the believer with the fact that what we are celebrating truly happened in Jesus Christ and will also happen to us.



1. Mention situations which make it difficult for us today to believe that Jesus won over evil.

Wordsearch

Find the following words. The first one is done for you.

- paschal candle baptism vows white blessing fire
- water resurrection vigil readings hymns eucharist

a	w	r	р	q	е	t	u	d	q	w	У	w	р	r
q	t	b	a	р	t	i	S	m	t	r	I	a	u	е
v	a	i	s	i	р	r	w	f	h	a	е	t	h	s
i	е	k	с	t	у	b	d	g	t	q	z	е	у	u
g	d	u	h	е	ο	v	ο	w	S	j	x	r	f	r
i	a	r	a	f	q	k	р	h	u	у	ο	d	j	r
I	j	р	Т	у	S	W	f	i	r	е	с	v	a	е
w	u	S	с	u	z	е	m	t	I	n	е	g	u	с
е	q	i	a	h	a	i	q	е	t	w	р	m	W	t
r	У	r	n	j	р	S	g	k	h	у	m	n	S	i
у	0	d	d	у	с	е	x	a	r	u	f	b	Z	ο
е	n	r	Т	k	w	v	ο	z	р	q	a	r	u	n
h	b	T	е	S	S	i	n	g	t	S	t	u	g	у
r	е	a	d	i	n	g	S	b	v	n	m	j	q	S
р	0	I	w	у	g	е	u	с	h	a	r	i	S	t

2. Mention situations where Jesus' victory can be seen in concrete terms.



The Easter Vigil is a celebration which is held on the eve of Easter and it is divided into four parts:

- The service of light
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of Baptism
- Liturgy of the Eucharist

The celebration starts on the outside of the church, where the celebrant blesses the new fire from which the Paschal Candle is lit. It is then placed in the centre from where it can be clearly seen. It represents the risen Christ, our true light.

-0	Making connections Why do you think that Easter is the greatest Christian feast?
200	
0	From the way we celebrate Easter, does it show that it is in fact the greatest feast?
999	

Continue these sentences

Match column A with column B by filling in the middle column with the numbers from 2 to 11. The first one is done for you.





There are those which we commemorate during the Easter Vigil celebration which is longer than usual. Other symbols have a social and cultural connection.

Discuss with your friends symbols which are linked to Easter and write them in the space below

Liturgical symbols

Socio Cultural Symbols

8.6

Light and darkness

Making connections 🖍

These people knew Jesus. How did the news that Jesus had risen from the dead effect them?

Peter	
	100





.....



If we look for the light of the risen Christ in every situation that we go through, we help ourselves to mature.

What do you think?

Read the following situations and mark TRUE or FALSE.

	TRUE	FALSE
I do my duties, well		
I fight with others and call them names.		
I do not go to Sunday Mass.		
I obey my parents and those who wish me well.		
I do not speak with people of other religions or who are not Christians.		
I only help at home when I feel like it.		
I help those in need.		
I pray to God and I thank him.		
I do not take care of my health.		
I only study religion for my exam.		
I sincerely forgive those who hurt me.		
I read passages from the Bible.		
I boast of the good that I do.		



Making connections 💉

In your life, when do you really celebrate Easter?



Although not only Christians celebrate Easter, it is only Christians that consider Easter as Jesus' resurrection.

Easter

8.8

From the pictures below describe the Jewish and Christian Easter.









••••••		 •••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
•••••	••••••	 ••••••
••••••		 •••••
••••••		 ••••••

.....

.....

Making connections .

Let's imagine! Write a sentence or draw a picture to describe the meaning of Easter.



9.1



We do not all live in similar environments. This results in different ways of thinking, of speaking, of dressing up, of eating and of behaving. This is the reason why there are different religions and different cultures. Religion has to do with what people believe, whereas culture includes traditions and the way of life which give people an identity and makes them different from others.

Fill in the blanks Image: Comparison of the blanks Use suitable words Image: Comparison of the blanks a. Monotheistic religions are those Image: Comparison of the blanks b. Polytheistic religions are those Image: Comparison of the blanks

Culture

If we look at a map of the world we see that it is divided in different continents. Each continent has its own characteristics and each country its difference. These differences make up the different world cultures. In a world of such diversity it is not easy to always find harmony. There are positive aspects to this multicoloured diversity. However there is also the negative side when these differences lead to conflicts, wars and hatred between one race and another, between one nation and another.

The human story of God

Making connections 🖍



Why do these differences in reality lead to conflict and at times even to hatred?

Can you think of a gospel story where Jesus shows us how to behave with those who are different from us? Write it in a few words and share it with the rest of the class.

.....

In Malta we have people coming from different cultures, therefore of different religions.

Apart from showing them respect and love, we should also behave as Christians. What should be our attitude towards them?





We cannot ignore the differences which exist among the people of the world. Although there are these differences, mainly emerging from the diversity in religion and culture, we can just the same, live in peace. We need to celebrate these differences. Diversity should not prevent peace but on the contrary we can make it possible to create an environment where everyone can live peacefully together.

Differences

Although there are many differences, the fact that we are all human makes it possible for us to have a lot of things in common. Mention 5 commonalities. The first one is ready.





Read the following: St John 4, 1-42

Read the episode about the Samaritan woman. After discussing the following questions with your friends, write down your answers below.



1. What is the similarity between the episode and the subject we are discussing?

.....

- 2. What resulted from the religious and cultural background here?
- 3. How did Jesus behave towards the Samaritan woman?

Making connections &

- 4. How did the Samaritan woman behave towards Jesus?
-
- 5. Why do you think there was a change in the Samaritan woman?

6. How do you think her character helped her to change?

9.3



Jesus continually invites us to follow him because he is the light of the world. If we follow him we too can be light for others through our way of life. He tells us that not only can we be light but also salt to the world. Just think what a little light can do in pitch darkness and the change in flavour a pinch of salt can give to food!

You are the salt of the earth

Read Matthew 5, 13-16 and see what Jesus is saying

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has loses its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Draw

As a group discuss what can you draw to show the message of this passage.





B. What are the properties of light? Write down these characteristics in the oil lamps.



Making connections .

How can I be light to others? Jesus told us: you are the light of the world. Today, how can you be light to others? Give 5 examples of how you can be light in your surroundings.



Jesus centred his mission and message on one commandment: the commandment of love – love God and love your neighbour. Therefore the greatest deed one can do is to love.

Mime

Create a mime to show what true love is. Share it with the rest of your class and write down the thoughts which come out of this mime.

Jesus' words (Matthew 22, 34-40)



But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

What is this passage showing us?

Making connections 💒

Which part of the song 'Love shine a light' do you like best? Write down why.

In real life, how do you think that love can shine a light?

Love shine a light, in every corner of the world Let the love light carry, let the love light carry Light up the magic, for every boy and girl Let our love shine a light, in every corner of the world.

And we're all gonna shine a light together All shine a light to light a way Brother's and sister's, in every little part Let our love shine a light, in every corner of my heart.

And we're all gonna shine a light together All shine a light to light a way Brother's and sister's, in every little part Let our love shine a light, in every corner of my heart Shine a light, in every corner of my heart.


In the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, we meet with two very important episodes. In the first chapter we read about the Ascension of Jesus into heaven and in the second chapter we read about the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles (Pentecost). Before ascending into heaven, Jesus told the apostles about the strength that the Holy Spirit would give them. This would enable them to show his light in all corners of the earth, amongst different cultures and to all races. However they could not start on their mission before they would receive the Holy Spirit, therefore they waited in Jerusalem. The Church was born on the day they received the Holy Spirit and the apostles went out to proclaim the message of Jesus.

Making connections 💉

1. What was the greatest change the apostles went through with the coming of the Holy Spirit?





Look up the following in the New Testament, Acts 1, 4-11 (the Ascension) and Acts 2, 1-13 (Pentecost) and then fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

1. Jesus told the apostles to stay in and wait for theas promised. (Acts 1, 4) 2. The apostles were to be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout in and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1, 8) 3. As they were looking up into the, seeing him rising into heaven, two men dressed insuddenly stood by them and told them: "Men of why are you standing here staring into heaven?" (Acts 1, 10-11) 4. When the day of arrived, they were all in one place. Suddenly there came from heaven a 5. The people who were in Jerusalem asked: "Are not all these who are

2. Why do you think that even today we still need the coming of the Holy Spirit?



John Paul II, who became pope in 1978, worked a lot to achieve dialogue among the different religions and to create a good relationship among people of different beliefs, coming from different cultures.

John Paul II was the pope who travelled the most in different countries of the world. In many of his messages and during his many travels he never stopped proclaiming Jesus Christ and at the same time appealing for unity and dialogue in favour of human dignity and the universal call for sainthood. Until the very end he continued to be a light to the world even though old and physically sick.

His teachings

What does John Paul II teach us? Fill in the blanks

•	John Paul II was born on
•	He worked a lot to achieve unity among people of different
	and different cultures.
•	He was a man who respected every
•	He was truly a for all the world and he is a role
	because he never gave up.
•	He visited countries to proclaim the message of
	Jesus Christ.
•	He was very much devoted to the
•	He spoke variousso that he could bring Jesus'

message to the entire world.

Lanterns



Look up!

From books or from the internet find out about the following:

- What was his situation under the Communist rule whilst he was a priest and a Bishop in Poland?
- He left us a lot of important beautiful teachings about man's journey towards God.
 Can you name the encyclical which he wrote about human dignity?.....

Making connections 💉

John Paul II went through a lot of suffering both as a child and as a young man when he lost his mother, his brother and his father and later, when he was faced with the agony of his people. Why do you think he was loved so much as a pope and how did he manage to attract so many people towards him?.....



Mother Teresa was born 26th August 1910 in Albania. Her name was Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. She is better known as Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She founded the Missionary Sisters of Charity. She says that her date of birth was 27th August because it was the day that she was baptised. She used to say that she was Albanian, she had an Indian citizenship because of the many years that she lived and worked in India and in faith she was a Catholic sister. Although her calling was universal, her heart only belonged to Jesus.



Lanterns

The human story of God Making connections 🗲

Read the following sentences about Mother Teresa and see how they can help us in our lives. Mother Teresa wanted her sisters to spend an hour praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament every day.

Mother Teresa lived with the sisters and they were like a family.

Mother Teresa helped the sick and did not mind touching them.

Mother Teresa saw Jesus in everyone but mostly in the poorest of the poor. She visited many countries but mostly ones which were poor, a lot of sick people or were at a war.

Mother Teresa in her dealings with people, never made any distinctions between people of different cultures or religions



9.8



In this chapter we learnt that from the human point of view, people, although coming from different cultures and religions, are all united. As Christians we should always love and respect others because everyone is a human being. Therefore it is right to start right now to nurture an attitude of acceptance and respect towards the dignity of others.

Activity

Search the internet and find the word LOVE and RESPECT in the following languages.

pact othe



Maltese	Imħabba	Rispett
Italian		
French		
Spanish		
Russian		
English	Love	Respect
Indonesian		
Japanese		
Portuguese		
Zulu		
Arabic		

ind pictures of different countries, cultures and religions. Write down what comes to mind when you see these pictures.

Making connections 🖍

How do you think we can truly show love and respect towards others? What can hinder this?

151



Imagine that you want to buy something you longed to have. Write some points which you would say to the person who is to buy it for you to convince him/her.

Communicating with God

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

We do not speak with those who care for us and with our friends, only when we need their help! It comes naturally to speak to them as often as we can. It is right to do the same with God. It could be that since we do not see God in human form, we forget him, or else we make up some excuse for not speaking to him. But he is always there, waiting for us to become conscious of his presence.

Making connections

After listening to Enzo Gusman's Telefonata minghand il-Mulej, write down your message or else draw the message to show God that you really wish to speak to him and to remember him.





The timetable

Here you have an hourly timetable for two days: Sunday and Monday. Fill in with what you did during these two days.

SUNDAY

07:00
08:00
09:00
10:00
11:00
12:00
13:00
14:00
15:00
16:00
17:00
18:00
19:00
20:00
21:00
22:00.
23:00
23.00

MONDAY

07:00	
08:00	
09:00	
10:00	
11:00	
12:00	
13:00	
14:00	
15:00	
16:00	
17:00	
18:00	
19:00	1.
20:00	
21:00	2
22:00	3
23:00	5^{4}
O CONTRACTOR OF	

From your timetable, reflect on the time you spent playing, studying, reading, at school or in prayer. Show this by means of a **pie chart**. Afterwards answer these questions.



- 1. You spent most time doing what? 2. You spent least time doing what?
- 3. Where are your priorities? 4. So what are you noticing?

When we love someone, we communicate with this person in various ways. Today it is less difficult because there are different ways of modern communication. St George Preca used to say: Nothing is difficult for the one who loves!

Making connections .

- 1. After doing this lesson, read the following sentence from the Bible: "For in him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17, 28)
- 2. What does this tell you about God?.....
- 3. What does it tell you about yourself? Do you think you need self-control to love God?



Through prayer we open up our hearts to God. We speak to him about what we are going through, both about the good and the bad ones. It is not enough to use books to pray. We need to use our minds and hearts to speak to him like the children who speak with confidencce with the ones they love.

Open up your hearts

thoughts

From the following list, choose those words which show you what you need to do to open up your heart to God. Draw a circle round the word which you think helps you most to open up your heart to God.

study

nice words

love sincerity

computer

fear

silence

faithfulness

Making connections

1. Why do you think it is necessary for you to pray?

2. Write down 4 reasons why you should pray.

Prayer

10.4



The ingredients for prayer are as important as the ingredients for anything else that you do. Silence is one of the ingredients which is definitely necessary. To be in the presence of God we need to be silent. We cannot hear God in the noise.



From what you have heard up till now, on the fingers write down the names of people for whom we should pray.

Say a prayer

Apart from helping us, prayer should also help those around us. In prayer, God helps us to remember that we need to pray for those who are going through different sufferings.

> On the palm of the hand, write a prayer for one of the persons you mentioned above.

Making connections 💉

There is an episode in the gospel about the disciples of Emmaus. They met Jesus whilst travelling. When they saw that it was becoming night they told Jesus: **Stay with us, for it is nearly evening** (Luke 24, 29). Read this beautiful experience and answer the following: Why do you think the disciples wanted him to stay with them? Do you think you want Jesus to remain with you as well? Why?



Jesus often went to a secluded place to pray. One day, the apostles asked him to teach them how to pray and he taught them the 'Our Father'. This is therefore a special prayer because it is Jesus who taught it to us. As his children, in the Our Father we bring to God our wishes and needs. It is the prayer which shows us how we should pray.

> Our Father, who is in heaven, Holy is your Name; your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

Find the following

- Mark in red, where in the Our Father, we praise God.
- Mark in red where we show him that we want to do what he wants us to do.
- Mark in blue where we pray for material things.
- Mark in green where we ask for forgiveness.

The Our Father



Look at the Our Father. As a group you are going to be given a part of this prayer. Draw it and then share it with the rest of the class.

Making connections 🖍

Which part of the Our Father strikes you most? Why?

10.6



The Bible is a library of books. Amongst other things it shows of how certain people communicated with God. The Book of Psalms is one of the Scripture books which was used by people before Jesus' time as a prayer book. We still use it today! Apart from this book we have the Gospel which is also divided into more than one book. The Gospel may also be used as a guide to pray.

Psalms

Can you remember these?

- a. What do you find in the Bible?.....
- b. Why can we use it for prayer?.....
- c. Apart from the Psalms, which book can help you to pray?.....



a.Use the book of Psalms and see how many different types of psalms there are. b. Find a Psalm of praise. What is this psalm is telling you? Share this with the rest of the class.

Read the following

"In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." Luke 6, 12-16

Making connections 💉

From this passage, what is Jesus telling you about prayer?



In the gospel we find that Jesus often retreated to the hills away from all the noise to communicate with his Father in heaven.

Prayer

10.7

As a man, Jesus felt the need to pray before doing something. For example he prayed before he started preaching and before he chose the apostles. Just like Jesus we too need to find time to pray, especially in important moments in life.

Let us pray



a. When you hear the phrase 'lets pray' what comes to mind? Fill in the circles below.



Making connections.

What does prayer mean to you?

b. When can you have these moments of prayer? Fill in the question marks.



c. What can distract us from praying?

Mass



Maria and Albert were twins. Every morning they woke up, they washed and had breakfast. Afterwards, before school together with friends who lived nearby they attended for Mass. Maria used to say that Mass was the greatest prayer.

a. Why do we refer to mass as the greatest prayer?

b. What should we do so that mass is a living prayer and we genuinely participate in it?

c. How can prayer help us to bring a change in our lives?



The need to pray

From what you have heard, discussed and experienced throughout this last chapter, write 3 things which impressed you and convinced you about the need to pray and which will help you to communicate better with God.

Making connections 💉

After seeing "Letters to God" answer the following questions. a. What is the main message of this film?

b. Personally, what does this film tell you?

Which prayer? These are pictures of children praying. Underneath each,

write down the prayer which you think they are saying.





Unit 11: Called to be saints

11.1



In his love, God gave human beings all that was needed so as to be able to live happily and well. But the greatest thing that God did was to create man in his image. Human beings are the masterpiece of all creation.

Fill in the blanks

isby this merciful God. When he becomes conscious of this

he can then.....to this love by

him back. This love is shown when man lives and he

.....him through others in whom he sees God himself. In this

loved • get to know • as he should • saint • answer • heaven • invitation • serves • loving

The power of your love

Let us listen and reflect on the words of the song Power of Your Love. Afterwards illustrate the part which you like best.



The power of your love

Lord I come to you Let my heart be changed, renewed Flowing from the grace That I have found in you And Lord I have come to know The weaknesses I see in me Will be stripped away By the power of your love .

Rit:

Hold me close Let your love surround me Bring me near Draw me to your side And as I wait I will rise up like the eagle And I will soar with you Your Spirit leads me on In the power of your love

Lord unveil my eyes Let me see you face to face The knowledge of your love As you live in me And Lord renew my mind As your will unfolds in my life In living every day By the power of your love





When our parents or someone else says "Bless you" they are wishing us blessings and good things. Even Jesus used this phrase on various occasions to show who the blessed really are.

The blessings

Called to be saints

11.2

Read the gospel of Matthew 5, 1-12

Find Matthew 5, 1-12. Here you will find the so called Beatitudes or Blessings.

Read them and fill in with Jesus' words.

- Blessed are, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are those who....., for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall
- Blessed are those who hunger and, for they shall be satisfied.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall
- Blessed are....., for they shall be called sons of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are you when others insult you and and utter all kinds of

.....against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Which situation



Match Column A with Column B by finding which situation fits with the right beatitude.

	Column A	Column B
1	Those who are poor in spirit	Antoine tried to do what is right but his friends laughed at him. He continued to do what he knew was right.
2	Those who mourn	Nathan's friend forgot the book which he had borrowed from him. Nathan said: "Don't worry. Try to remember to bring it with you tomorrow."
3	The meek	Kyle does not think badly about what he sees and the people he meets.
4	Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness	Laura is sad because of something which happened in her family. She is praying that things will get better.
5	The merciful	Simon respects everyone and he is sweet in his manners. In fact he has many friends.
6	Those who are pure in heart	Jessica is not happy when things are not fairly done and she tries to speak out or to arrange things where possible.
7	The peacemakers	Jeremy tries to help in any way he can and he shares what he has.
8	Those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake	Rebecca tried to restore friendship between two who quarrelled during break time.

Making connections 💉

Can you give a reason why these eight sentences are called the beatitudes?

11.3



The word "saints" means truly loving God and living close to him. Saints are not only those whose name is preceded with the word "saint", but they are all those who are in heaven, those who died in a close relationship with God, even if in a way known only to him. We can also call "saints" those who are still alive and have chosen to love God through others. This is the communion of saints which we refer to in the Creed.

Communion





From what you have heard during the lesson, why are these groups of people called 'communion'? What connects them together?

Together with your friends, recite the Creed and write down the part where this Communion is mentioned.



Making connections 🖍

At the age of eleven what can hold you back from becoming part of this communion of saints?

I attend catechism classes I do not use the internet to waste time 11.4

The others come before me: Saint Damien of Molokoi

It is not easy; in fact it is difficult to consider others before you. But from an early age, when he had just become a priest, Saint Damien thought about others, especially those who were seriously ill. Before he thought of himself he thought of others and in the end he gave up his life for them. He truly lived out what Jesus said: "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15, 13)

Jesus' words

How can one live these words of Jesus in one's daily life?



On the other hand what can hinder us from living it in our daily life?



0

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for, one's friends (John 15, 13)



It is not always easy to choose. It is in fact not easy at all to choose the right from wrong since usually you have to suffer to reject what is bad. Saint Mary Goretti made a choice and she paid for it. Although her choice brought with it suffering, it also made her a saint.

What do you know about Maria Goretti?

Look in books or on the internet to be able to answer the following questions:

a. Where was Maria Goretti born and where did she live?

b. What was her father's name and how did he die?

c. When was Maria Goretti declared a saint?

d. When is her feast day?

e. Maria Goretti is patron saint of

Making connections .

If you were to describe her life, what would you write about:

Her behaviour at home

Her love for learning Her help towards others Her character What can you say about these different aspects of her life? 11.6



We do our utmost to achieve happiness and joy in our life. But not everyone takes the right path which leads to true and everlasting joy. Chiara was a happy person. She enjoyed going out with friends, listening to music, dancing, swimming and she loved playing tennis. Because she was always happy and she had Jesus' love in her, they called her Chiara Luce, meaning light.

1

WORK

What would you do?

First discuss the life of this saint and then write down how you should behave in these different situations:

a. You disagree with your parents.

b. You have friends in need.

c. People you know are sick.

Find three stories in the gospel which show the above situations, namely: disagreement with parents | friends in need | sick persons

Making connections .

C

In the flames write down 5 adjectives to describe Chiara Badano and which you can practice in your life.



The human story of God



We believe that God calls everyone to follow him. He does this in different ways since not all are called to follow in the same way, like when different people reach the same destination through different routes. How wonderful it is to recognise what God wants from us! We can do this amongst other

things through learning, asking for advice and evaluating our wishes depending on the circumstances we are passing through. The decision regarding our vocation needs to be taken seriously. Therefore one should do his outmost so that he can identify the vocation God wishes him to take.

Mission

Mention 5 persons who have different vocations and write down their vocation. Also write down the mission of each vocation.

Making connections 💉

Vocation

Write down what you understand by Vocation.

How do you think you can become aware of your vocation?



Everything we do, if done properly will require a certain amount of sacrifice. This is very true if we want to become saints. Many think that it is difficult and nearly impossible to become a saint and therefore conclude that very few become saints. However, in reality God calls everyone to follow him and since it is God who is calling us, we need to believe that he will give us the necessary help to achieve this.

Saints Someone said

Whatever you have to do, DO IT Whatever you have to do, DO IT WELL Whatever you have to do, DO IT IN TIME This is the way to become a SAINT!

Class discussion What does the above tell us about God's call?

11.8

Picture

Find pictures or draw something to show what we can do to become saints.



Making connections

Choose a picture or drawing from the above and say why we become better people if we do this.



1 2 has		



Religion tells the story of a God who enters human history and of an unfolding relationship in time with humanity, giving shape even to human experience. This relationship is rooted in history and it takes form in concrete historical events and persons. It continues to be part of the cultures we live in and which in turn shape our daily living. As a renowned theologian once wrote, 'People are the words with which God tells his story'.

In our journeys of faith, the stories we read in the Scriptures continue to provide us with sure points of reference. As the structure itself of this Year Six resource book for Religious Education demonstrates, religion is not simply concerned with the retelling of past stories, but it is about a story that extends in time and space in the lives and experiences of people of every age.



