



CHILDREN'S LITURGY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCE

Information for Liturgy Group Leaders or Teachers

This resource can be used by a family Mass/children's liturgy group in parishes, or in a classroom setting. For each week during Lent there is a group activity for the group leader or teacher to use.

The activity relates directly to the Gospel reading for that Sunday and to the stories of María, Maya and Patricia, the three girls who feature on this year's Trócaire box.

This Lent, Trócaire is highlighting the different ways land is stolen from

vulnerable people – by corporate land grabs, by war or because they are women.

The families of María, Maya and Patricia face the fear of violence, hunger and never seeing their home again. You can show your love by supporting them.



Sing a song:

Sing 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands' as the children present their drawings during the children's liturgy gatherings.

Curriculum Links

Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland		
Strand	Strand Unit	Level
Christian Morality	Human Dignity	1,2,3,4
	Social Teaching of the Church	1,2,3,4
Liturgy and Prayer	Liturgical Year	1,2,3,4

Grow In Love	
Theme	Class
Lent	Infants–Sixth
St Patrick	First, Third, Fifth
Reconciliation	Infants–Sixth
Love for One's Neighbour	Infants–Sixth
Migration	Fifth
Easter Liturgical Season	Infants–Sixth

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Gospel: Luke (4:1–13)

Love and Wilderness

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit who led him into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. All that time, he had nothing to eat and he was famished.

The devil said to him, 'If you are God's son, then turn this stone into a tasty loaf of bread.'

Jesus replied, 'Scripture tells us that people do not live on bread alone.'

Then the devil tempted Jesus a second time by showing him a glimpse of all the kingdoms of the world. 'All this belongs to me', he said, 'but I will give this power and glory to you if you worship me.'

Jesus answered him, 'Scripture tells us to worship the Lord our God and serve him alone.'

The devil led Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem, and on its rooftop, he tempted him for a third time. 'If you are indeed the son of God,' the devil said, 'then throw yourself off, for Scripture says: God has ordered his angels to guard you and they will cradle you in their arms to protect you from any harm.'

Jesus said to the devil, 'Scripture also tells us: do not put the Lord God to the test.' Finally, the devil gave up trying to tempt Jesus, and he left him alone and waited for his next opportunity.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Patricia is eight years old and is the youngest in her family.

She lives in Uganda, a country in East Africa, with her mother, Evelyn, sister Flavia and brothers Ivan and Roni. Her other sister Barbara is away at boarding school and comes home during the holidays. Patricia's father died from an illness in 2011.

Ask the Children

- 1) What do we (Christians) do during Lent? Why?
- 2) How can we show our love to Patricia in Uganda?



Group Activity

Write down one thing that you love and are giving up for Lent on a heart-shaped piece of paper. Put a ribbon on it and hang it in a place that will remind you every day of your promise.

| Patricia (8) Uganda. Photo credit: Gary Moore



SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Gospel: Luke 9:28–36

St Patrick's Day and Homeland

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke

With the disciples, Peter, James and John, Jesus climbed a mountain to pray. While Jesus prayed, his clothes shone with dazzling white light as radiant as the sun, and his appearance was transformed.

Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared in glory next to Jesus and began speaking to him.

Peter and his friends were amazed by everything they saw, and Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, this is all so wonderful. I could build three shelters, one for each of you.'

At that moment, a cloud descended and covered them up on the mountain top, and the disciples were afraid. Then a voice from the cloud spoke, 'This is my son, the chosen one, listen to what he says.'

When the voice fell silent, the disciples found themselves alone with Jesus. The three friends told no one at that time about the wonders they had witnessed that day.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Patricia's family lives on an area of land with two traditional huts.

One hut is used for cooking and sleeping. The other hut is for storage. The roof is thatched with spear grass. It needs to be changed every three years.

Ask the Children

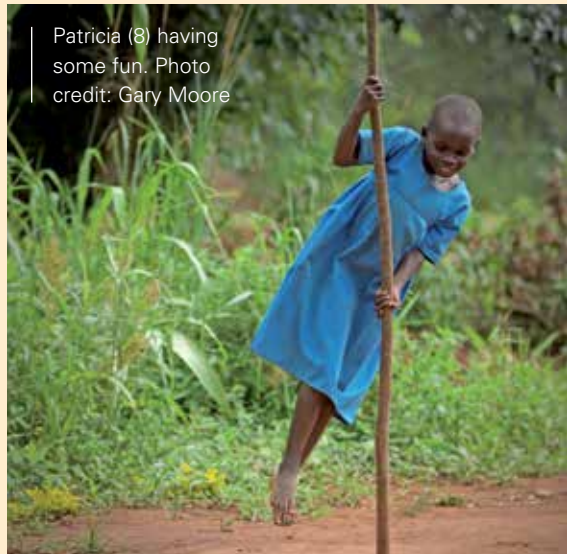


- 1) What do you know about St Patrick?
- 2) Patricia and Patrick are popular names in Uganda. What do you know about your name and the names in your family?

Group Activity

Draw your own name and make decorations around the letters.

Patricia (8) having some fun. Photo credit: Gary Moore



THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Gospel: Luke (13:1–9)

Saying Sorry is Very Important

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke

Some of the people told Jesus about the Galileans who had been killed by Pilate, while offering sacrifices to God.

Jesus said to them, 'Just because they were killed doesn't mean that they were worse sinners than anyone else. Think of the eighteen people in Siloam who died when the tower fell on them. Do you think that proves they were guiltier than anyone else in Jerusalem? Indeed, it does not. And I tell you that you will all come to the same end unless you turn away from your sins.'

Then he told them a parable: 'A man went to check how many fruits were growing on a fig tree in his vineyard, but he found there were none. So he sent for his gardener and told him, "This tree has grown no fruit for the last three years. Cut it down and make space for another." But the gardener said to him, "Master, give the tree one more year so I have time to feed and care for it. If it still has no fruit on it, then cut it down."' "

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

María is nine years old. She lives in Guatemala, a country in Central America.



She shares her home with her mother, Adela, her father, José, her two older sisters, Jessica and Ana, and her two older brothers, Walter and Edgar. Edgar's wife, Flavia, and their son Joel also live in the house.



Ask the Children

- 1) Tell us about your family. Who lives with you?
- 2) Can you remember a time when you said you were sorry?

Group Activity

Draw a picture of the people who live with you.

María (9) playing with a leaf pinwheel, Polochic Valley, Guatemala. Photo credit: Manuel Morillo

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Gospel: Luke (15:1–3, 11–32)

Love, Forgiveness

(The Prodigal Son) and Mother's Day

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke

A crowd of tax collectors and other sinners had gathered around Jesus, much to the anger and disdain of the scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus overheard them complaining, he told them a parable: 'There was a man who had two sons and the younger one came to his father and said, "Father, give me everything that one day will belong to me, so I can enjoy my riches now." The father did this, and his son set off to look for adventure. He travelled to a distant land and spent all his money enjoying himself.

'There was a famine in that land and the young man found himself penniless and hungry. "If I stay here, I will surely starve," he thought, so he decided to return to his father and ask for his forgiveness.

'The father saw his son coming and ran to welcome him. As he hugged him, the young man said, "Father, I am so sorry. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father told his servants to prepare

a feast and to bring the finest clothes, and they began to celebrate.

'When the man's other son returned home from working in the fields, he asked the servants, "What is the reason for such a celebration?" When he heard their explanation, he was filled with anger and refused to join the party. So his father came looking for him, and the son said to him, "I have been hard-working and loyal and never once did you throw such a party for me. Yet you are happy to do so for my brother who has been greedy and selfish and treated you very badly." The father answered his son, "You are always with me, and everything I have belongs to you. Your brother who was lost has been found. He is not dead after all, but alive, and it is only right that we should celebrate his return with joy.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

María's house is made from wood. She does not have running water or electricity in her home.



Her family uses the river to wash themselves, their clothes and their dishes. They have a small solar panel to charge a battery for a light. When that doesn't work, they use candles. María helps her mother to wash the dishes and clothes, bring maize to the mill, feed the chickens and look after her baby nephew. María's father and brothers work on the collective fields called the 'milpa'. María loves the houses and church in her community.

Ask the Children

- 1) Are there times when you have helped at home, as María does?
- 2) How does your family show their love to you?

Group Activity

Make a thank-you card to tell your family how much you love them and are thankful for them.

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Gospel: John (8:1–11)

Please Don't Judge, and Be Kind

A reading from the Gospel of St John

Jesus was teaching in the temple when the Pharisees brought a woman to stand before him. This woman has been caught doing something wrong, and the law says that she should be stoned. 'What do you think?' They asked, because they wanted to trick Jesus.

After a few moments, Jesus stood up and said, 'Let the person who has never done anything wrong throw the first stone at her.'

The crowd that had gathered began to leave one by one, until Jesus and the woman stood alone. Jesus said to her, 'Has anyone thrown a stone at you?'

'No, sir,' she answered.

'Then I have forgiven you,' he said.

'Now go and sin no more.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Maya is ten years old. She lives in a rented house near a refugee camp in Lebanon with her mum, dad, older brother Farid and younger brother Nabil, older sister Amira and younger sister Reem.



Ask the Children

1) In today's Gospel, God calls us not to judge. What does God mean by this?



| Syria

2) Maya's family are kind to each other. Can you tell us how kind you are to your family?



| Lebanon

Group Activity

Draw a picture of you doing something kind for others.

Maya playing with a skipping rope. Photo credit: Simon Walsh

PALM SUNDAY | Gospel: Matthew (21:1–11)

The Journey of Jesus to Calvary

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew

Jesus and his disciples arrived at Bethphage on the Mount of Olives just outside Jerusalem. He sent two of his disciples to the next village to collect a donkey and her colt.

'If anyone stops you, tell them that they are for me and will be returned,' he said.

And so it was that the prophecy was fulfilled: 'Tell Zion's daughter: see your king drawing near, humbly riding on a donkey and her colt.'

They brought the animals to Jesus, and put cloaks on their backs so that Jesus

could ride on them. When the people heard that Jesus was coming, they laid their cloaks on the road before him and pulled branches off the palm trees to wave in the air. The crowds grew more and more excited, and shouted at the top of their voices, 'Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the one sent by the Lord.'

Excitement filled the whole city, and some people asked, 'Who is this man?'

The people answered them, 'It is Jesus the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Maya's favourite food is mujaddara, a lentil and rice dish. She helps her mother to cook.

Her family eats meals together in the kitchen. After they are finished eating, Maya helps to clean the dishes and the rooms. Sometimes she plays afterwards.



| Lebanon



| Syria

Amira (11) eating food cooked by the family.

Photo credit: Simon Walsh

Ask the Children

- 1) Tell us about the longest journey you have ever made?
- 2) What food would you bring with you on your journey?

Group Activity

You have seen a picture of the food from Maya's table. Draw a picture of your favourite food.



EASTER SUNDAY

Gospel: John (20:1–9)

Jesus is Risen, Let Us Celebrate

A reading from the Gospel of St John

Before sunrise on Sunday morning, Mary of Magdala went to the tomb. As she reached the entrance, she saw that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. She ran to the disciples saying, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they have put him.'

Peter and another disciple, John, ran to the tomb and found it just as Mary had described, with the linen burial cloths

lying on the ground. The cloth, which had been wrapped around Jesus' head, lay rolled up separately from the other pieces of cloth. Peter went in to the tomb first, followed by John.

Until this moment, they had not understood the Scriptures, which had said, 'He must rise from the dead.' But now they saw, and they believed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY

In today's Gospel, Jesus is risen. We celebrate today.

We can do this by helping and praying for others. In the past six weeks of Lent we have heard stories from María, Maya and Patricia in Guatemala, Lebanon and Uganda.

We learned about their lives and their challenges. We can say a special prayer for each one of them today at our get-together.

Ask the Children

- 1) When you hear really good news, how do you celebrate?
- 2) Say a prayer here today for María, Maya and Patricia, our new friends over Lent.

Group Activity

Make an Easter card to tell your family you want to celebrate because Jesus is risen.

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Photos on page 1: María (9), Guatemala. Photo credit: Manuel Morillo; Maya (10), Lebanon. Photo credit: Simon Walsh; Patricia (8), Uganda. Photo credit: Gary Moore