

CHURCH

Community of Disciples

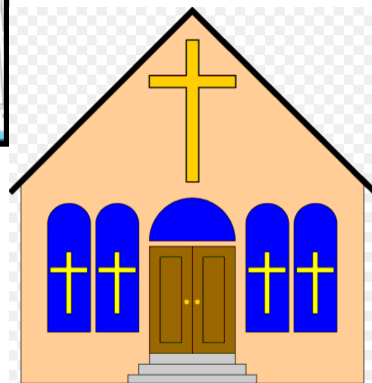
Te WHANAU A TE KARAITI



ACHIEVEMENT AIMS

In their study of Church - Community of Disciples, children will gain and apply knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to understand:

1. that the Church as a community of disciples in communion with Christ through the Holy Spirit, is a sign and sacrament of God's Kingdom or Reign on earth as it is in heaven.
2. that the Church consists of all the baptised, and its mission is to continue Jesus' mission to teach and proclaim the gospel to all.
3. the Church is the whanau - family of Christ, called together by the Holy Spirit through the gift of faith, sacrament and the word to be a reconciling, worshipping, serving, celebrating community.
4. the importance of Te Wa - the journey or pilgrimage of life in whanau - family and Church.
5. that the Catholic Church throughout the world is present and manifested locally in the diocese and parish and is led by the Pope and the Bishops, as successors of the apostles.



Our over arching statement that guides us during our learning about the Church.

“We belong to a faith community inspired by the teachings of Jesus and are called by the Holy Spirit to be living signs of Christ in the world”.

Year 1 Programme

Learning Strand – CHURCH – Community of Disciples – TE WHANĀU A TE KARAITI

Lesson Focus: Belonging

We belong to and participate and celebrate in communities such as our family-*whānau*, our school and our parish. The Church is a community of Christ's followers or disciples called together by the Holy Spirit to carry on Christ's mission in life today.

Talk about

- how proud you are of your children
- how belonging to your family-*whānau* is important because you care for – *manaaki* and show *aroha* for each other
- what are the good things about belonging to a family, the school and parish you belong to
- how the people in the Church today carry on the ways Jesus lived, eg caring for the sick, helping others, spending time with people

Plan to



- take your children to Mass on Sunday
- invite your parish priest around for coffee or a meal so you can get to know him
- attend a parish function as a family
- draw children's attention to other people who belong to your parish
- do something for someone who is sick, include your children and explain why you are doing this
- put your name on the parish roster to take part in a parish activity and include your children



Year 2 Programme

Learning Strand – CHURCH – Community of Disciples – TE WHANĀU A TE KARAITI

Lesson Focus: Gathering, Celebrating, Living God's Presence

Our local parish as it gathers, celebrates, lives and prays as a community, is a part of the Church which Jesus founded and is a sign which brings about God's presence and love in the world. Belonging to a parish is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Plan to

- have a family meeting and review the privileges and responsibilities of being part of your family
- allocate simple family responsibilities to each family member and plan a way to check on these
- attend Sunday Eucharist together and celebrate God's presence in your lives



Take time to

- think about some questions about your parish
- identify the people who live nearby who belong to your parish and introduce your children to them
- offer to help someone in need in your parish and tell your children about it, involve them in the activity and explain how this is the way people share in the responsibility of being part of the parish
- praise each other for responsible behaviour

Year 3 Programme

Learning Strand – CHURCH – Community of Disciples – TE WHANĀU A TE KARAITI

Lesson Focus: Called to be like Jesus

The Scriptures record how Jesus called his disciples and apostles to follow him. Those who have been initiated into the Catholic Church through the *Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist* are also called to carry on the mission of Jesus. They do this by worshipping God and serving and loving others and always acting with *tika* and *pono*.

Talk together about

- people who could be seen as modern day *messiahs* in the political sense, Nelson Mandela, Dame Whina Cooper, the Dalai Lama
- how people are initiated into the Catholic Church – by the *Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist*
- what having *faith* means – the *faith* in which we believe, ie the Catholic *faith* and the *faith* by which we believe, ie the gift from God to each person to respond to in their own unique way.
- different ways people become members of a group, team etc – initiation
- discuss the ways the Church carries on the mission of Jesus in the world today – caring, loving, helping, being with people in their times of need, showing respect for everyone especially those whose *tapu* has been violated or hurt



At family prayer

- read John 1:29-30, 35-39 and talk about who it is that says “Come and see” to people today
- pray the Creed, page 53 and talk about what Catholics believe

Year 4 Programme

Learning Strand – CHURCH – Community of Disciples – TE WHANĀU A TE KARAITI

Lesson Focus: Called to Service

Through *Baptism* all are called to *holiness*, lived out through various *vocations*; single life, *marriage*, religious life or *priesthood*. As members of the Church, they are called to carry out its mission of service.

Talk about

- different *vocations* people have in life, eg the single life, married life, religious life and *priesthood*, and identify people who have these *vocations*
- how it is through their *baptism* that people are called to become *holy* – *tapu* by living out their *vocation* as well as they can
- ways family members can grow closer to God, which is growing in *holiness* – *tapu* and *mana* by doing what they are responsible for as well as they can
- what we mean when we say the word Church

At family prayer

- read Matthew 25:31-40 and reflect on it as a family asking yourselves about the ways you feed the hungry, give drinks to the thirsty, give clothes to those who need them, welcome strangers, care for the sick and visit the imprisoned. Remember “feeding” people is not just giving them food and people are imprisoned by many more things than prison bars
- pray together for people you have read about in our country who need help

Plan to

- take part in a parish activity which helps and serves others
- have a box for family members to collect clothing, toys, etc which can be passed on to the St Vincent de Paul outlet
- add your family’s name to parish *ministry* list – for readers, music makers, cleaners



Year 5 Programme

Learning Strand – CHURCH – Community of Disciples – TE WHANĀU A TE KARAITI

Lesson Focus: The Church Celebrates

Central to the life of the Church is worship of God through prayer, proclamation of the Word and celebration of the sacraments. Central to this worship is the weekly celebration of the *Eucharist* on the Lord's Day.

Bring to children's attention

- that one of the most important things that the Church does is worship God, ie pray, give thanks and glory to God
- that worship can happen in many ways but the celebration of the *Sacraments*, the proclamation of the Word are central to the life of the Church
- different ways people put into practice the Gospel by loving and caring for others – showing *manaakitanga*, which is also a way of worshipping God because by their actions they are proclaiming the Word of God – *Te Kupu a Te Ariki*
- how Jesus saved people from suffering and hardship when he was on earth and how this saving work is carried on today through celebrating the *Liturgy*, because Christ is present there bringing healing and strength – *Hohou Rongo* and *mana*, to all people who are present



Take time to

- buy and place a copy of the *Liturgical Year* Calendar in a prominent place at home and talk about the seasons and what they mean
- go to *Eucharist* as a family

Year 6 Programme

Learning Strand – CHURCH – Community of Disciples – TE WHANĀU A TE KARAITI

Lesson Focus: The Church as a Pilgrim People

The Church is a Pilgrim People on a life journey – *Te Wa* towards God. Since the time of the early Church, Christians have used their different gifts to spread the Good News. Within the Church people follow different *vocations* such as the Religious Life, the Single Life or Marriage.

Take time to

- read the stories about Peter, Paul, Stephen in the *Acts of the Apostles*
- note people today who are persecuted for what they believe
- discuss how the Good News was spread in Early Church times and compare it with how it can be spread today
- encourage members of your family to use their gifts for the mission of the Church, eg become a reader, sing in the choir, make music, arrange the flowers, count the money, type the parish bulletin, do the parish gardens, help with Children's *Liturgy*, visit the sick or elderly in the parish, make things for the mission stall



Plan to

- invite a single person, the parish priest or a religious sister or brother for a meal
- pray together that each member of your family will recognise and respond to God's call to them
- include single people in your family or parish in your family celebrations

Talk about

- what we mean when we say our Church is a Pilgrim People, eg people on a journey of *faith* sharing experiences, strengthened by prayer, the Word of God, the *Sacraments* and the support of the community on each stage of *Te Wa* – the journey of life
- what it would have been like in the Early Church, what would have been good and what would have been difficult, and the differences between the Early Church and our Church today