**School/Classroom**

**A Teaching Approach to Religious Education**

**based on the Liturgical Year**

**& Grow in Love**

**The Easter Season**

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| Easter Season | | |
|  | **Feast of the Ascension** | **Feast of Pentecost** |
| 2023 | **21 May** | **28 May** |
| 2024 | **12 May** | **19 May** |
| 2025 | **1 June** | **8 June** |
| 2026 | **17 May** | **24 May** |

**Liturgical Year: The Easter Season**

**Whole School:**

The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday and lasts for 50 days ending on the Feast of Pentecost. The word ‘Easter’ has its origins in old English and comes from the word ‘East’ with which we associate the rising of the sun, bringing light to our days. In the Christian tradition, Jesus, is the ‘light of the world’ and at the Easter Vigil a new Paschal Candle is lit from the Paschal Fire reminding us that Jesus brings light to the darkness. The Paschal Candle is lit at all liturgies during the Easter season and at the threshold moments of baptisms and funerals.

**Prayer Space/Display Boards**

The colour associated with the Easter Season is white, although gold and silver may also be used. Prayer Spaces should use these colours to mark the change from the purple of the Lenten Season. Consider making an Easter Garden as a way of demonstrating the joyful nature of this season. Holy water is blessed in all churches during the Easter Vigil and perhaps one of the classes could visit to the local church to take the newly blessed water back to refill Holy Water fonts in the school. Alternatively, you might ask your local priest/parish team member to bring some Holy Water to a school assembly from where it could be taken to replenish the Holy Water fonts. The Prayer Space can be transformed into a May Altar when the Easter season extends through the month when we honour and remember Mary in a special way.

**Grow in Love:**

There is a theme on Holy Week and Easter in each of the Grow in Love programmes. The lesson on Easter is usually the last in the theme.

**Feast Days Celebrated in the Easter Season:**

* **St Laserian/Molaise April 18**

*St Laserian is one of the patron saints of Kildare & Leighlin. St Brigid is our principal Patron, Conleth and Laserian are our secondary patrons. Both have their Feast Days during the Easter Season this year. Some of our schools in the Carlow/Kilkenny bear his name and will want to honour his memory today*

<https://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/folklore-of-ireland/carlow-folklore/st-laserian/>

<https://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-laserian-or-molaise-d-639/>

* **St Conleth May 4**

<https://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-conleth-450-519/> *Some of our schools and parishes in the Kildare area bear the name of St Conleth and will want to honour his memory today.*

* **Blessed Edmund Rice May 6**

https://www.erst.ie/ethos/the-story-of-edmund-rice/ *Some of our schools were originally founded by Blessed Edmund Rice (Christian Brothers) These schools will want to honour their founder on his Feast Day.*

* **Feast of the Ascension *See chart on page 2.***
  + Theme 8 Grow in Love 1st Class.
  + Theme 8 Grow in Love 2nd Class.
* **Feast of Pentecost *See chart on page 2.*** 
  + Theme 8 Grow in Love 1st Class.
  + Theme 8 Grow in Love 2nd Class.
  + Theme 8 Grow in Love 3rd Class.
  + Theme 8 Grow in Love 4th Class.
  + Theme 8 Grow in Love 5th Class.
  + Theme 10 Grow in Love 6th Class.

**Prayer Services Easter**

*These prayer services offer an opportunity to remind the children of the events leading up to the resurrection and preparing for them will help to revise and consolidate their understanding.*

* Junior Infants pages 171-172
* Senior Infants pages 205-208
* First Class pages 204-205
* Second Class pages 209-210
* Third Class pages 251-252
* Fourth Class pages 270-271

**Curriculum & Easter**

**Strand: Christian Faith**

**Level 1**

**•** Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday (Mk 16:6; Lk 24:5; CCC 638).

• Jesus appeared to his disciples after he had risen from the dead (Jn 21:1-14).

• Jesus ascended into heaven (Mk 16:19; Lk 24:51; CCC 659-64, 670, 673, 665-67).

**Level 2**

• On Easter Sunday, God his Father raised him from the dead (CCC 638).

• Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty (CCC 659–64).

• The Lord Jesus is still with us for he said, ‘I am with you always’ (Mt 28:20).

• Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us become holy and to help us pray (Jn 14:16-17; CCC 733, 741).

• The Holy Spirit came to empower the disciples at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13; MD 27; CCC 731).

**Level 3**

• On Easter Sunday, God the Father raised Jesus from death to new life in a glorious body. This is called the Resurrection.

• God our Father sends us the Holy Spirit to help us to be like Jesus.

• Jesus revealed himself risen from the dead to Mary Magdalene whom he commissioned as

‘apostle to the apostles’ (Jn 20:11-18; MD 16).

• After his Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us (CCC 659, 665).

• At his Ascension Jesus entrusted his life’s mission to the apostles and the Church (CCC 669).

• At his Ascension Jesus promised to be with us forever (Mt 28:20); the sending of the Holy Spirit as part of the promise.

• On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples to remain with them forever (Acts 2:1-13; AG 4).

• The gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church (CCC 732).

• The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and Son to help us become more like God (CCC 682-747).

• The Holy Spirit guides and cares for the Church (GS 11; LG 4; CCC 739, 747).

• The Holy Spirit will remain with us forever (CCC 729)

**Level 4**

**•** Jesus’ Resurrection: Physical and transforming (CCC 631-58).

• When Jesus Christ was glorified after his Resurrection, he sent his Spirit to those who believe in him (CCC 690).

• The risen Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us when we were baptised.

• Jesus poured out on his disciples the Spirit promised by the Father (LG 5).

**Strand: Word of God**

**Level 1:**

• Jn 21:1-14. Jesus’ appearance (Tiberias)

**Level 2:**

• Mt 28:1-8. The empty tomb.

• Mk 16:1-8. The women at the tomb (read first).

• Jn 20:1-10; 11-18. Disciples at the tomb.

• Jn 20:1, 11-18. Mary Magdalene meets the Risen Jesus.

• Acts 2:1-12. The first Pentecost.

**Level 3:**

• Mt 28:1-10; Lk 24:1-12. Women at tomb.

• Mt 28:16-20. ‘Go therefore …’

• Jn 20:1-9. Peter and John at tomb.

• Jn 20:19-23. Jesus appears to his disciples.

• Jn 20:19-29. Doubting Thomas.

• Acts 1:6-11. Ascension of Jesus.

• Acts 2:1-13. Pentecost.

**Level 4:**

• Jesus’ death and Resurrection establishes a New Covenant, this one between God and those who become one with Christ (LG 9; CCC 73, 613). In the New Covenant, Jesus promised us peace, reconciliation with God and eternal life.

• Lk 24:13-35. The Road to Emmaus.

• Lk 24:36-49. Jesus appears to eleven disciples.

• Lk 24:50-3; Acts 1:1-11. The Ascension and second coming of Christ.

• Jn 20:1-18. Mary and Peter at tomb.

• Jn 20:11-18. Mary meets Jesus.

• Acts 1:12-14. Prayerful waiting for the Holy Spirit.

• Acts 2:1-13. Pentecost.

**Strand: Liturgy and Prayer**

**Level 1:**

• Easter is a time to remember that Jesus rose from the dead.

• The Paschal candle reminds us that Jesus is alive.

**Level 2**

• On Easter Sunday Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

• Easter Sunday celebrates God giving new life to Jesus. Jesus is alive and with us now.

• God raised Jesus from the dead to be with us.

• The Paschal candle is a reminder of ‘Jesus the Light of the World’. It is lit during the Easter season, for Baptisms and funerals.

• At Pentecost the Church family celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Good News of Jesus.

**Level 3**

• Easter is the greatest feast of the Church’s year when Christians celebrate the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

• During the Easter Season Christians celebrate their new life in the risen Lord.

• Pentecost: the celebration of new life in the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.

• Jesus returned to his Father in heaven on Ascension day.

• On Sunday, the Lord’s Day, the Church remembers the Lord’s Resurrection by resting from work and by gathering to celebrate the Eucharist (SC 102; 106; CCC1163, 1166, 1167, 1193; Gn 2:1-3; Deut 5:15).

**Level 4**

• Easter is a time to celebrate Jesus’ death and Resurrection, his glorification and the sending of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1163).

• Easter celebrates Jesus’ Resurrection: the victory of life over death, good over evil.

At Pentecost the Church celebrates the fulfilment of the promise given by Jesus that he would send the Holy Spirit to the apostles to enable them to continue his work on earth, while they waited for his return on the final day of judgement.

• Pentecost: the celebration of the beginning of the Church and the power of the Holy Spirit to make every day holy.

**Strand: Christian Morality**

**Level 2**

• The Holy Spirit helps us to live like Jesus.

**Level 3**

• The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to love God and one another.

**Level 4**

• The Holy Spirit inspires and guides people to do the right thing (CCC 1697).

• The Holy Spirit helps people to love what is good and shun evil (CCC 1810).

**Revise & Learn Prayers & Responses**

***Encourage children to bless themselves properly and intentionally at the beginning and end of prayer times. Lead by example***

* **Level 1:**

Sign of the Cross

Grace Before Meals

Responses at Mass: Alleluia, Thanks be to God

* **Level 2:**

The Confiteor

Responses at Mass as they prepare for First Holy Communion

Prayers before and after Communion

* **Level 3:**

Hail Mary

Apostle’s Creed

* **Level 4:**

The Nicene Creed

Mass Responses

Come Holy Spirit

Teacher: ­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| The Easter Season | | |
| Information | | Notes |
| Liturgical Season | Easter: White/Silver/Gold |  |
| Feast Days  Other Themes | St Laserian  St Conleth  Blessed Edmund Rice  Ascension  Pentecost |
| Prayer Space Elements  To be added during the Month |  |
| Prayer/s to be Revised/learned |  |
| Prayers to be prayed Morning, Lunch Time, Evening |  |  |
| Grow in Love Theme/s to be Explored |  |  |
| Homework to be Assigned |  |  |
| Opportunities for Curricular Integration |  |  |