

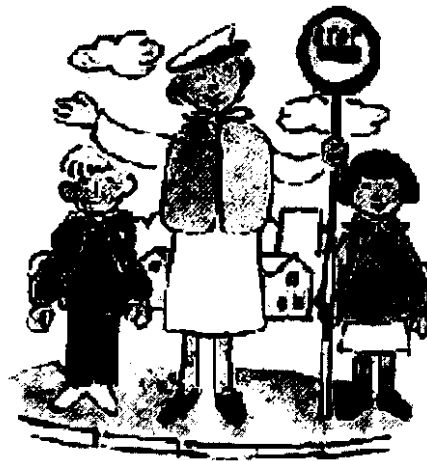


## **What is the Church?**

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### ***Catechist's Guide: Unit 7***

## **We are People who Live our Faith**



You will need to gather in the children's worksheets from the previous unit (unless this has already been done or unless they are keeping them at home).

Spend a few moments seeing what the children remember from their celebration of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

The aim of this unit is to think about how we are called to live out our faith. This will be done by reflecting with the children on a number of themes:

- ♦ They are now full members of the Church
- ♦ They have completed one journey but also started another
- ♦ At Mass we are reminded of the different ways in which we have answered the question 'What is the Church?'
- ♦ We need to find ways of living our faith in our everyday lives
- ♦ We remember other people who have been (or will be) involved in our life of faith.

In preparation for this session, you will need to be clear about the arrangements for any celebration that is to take place and what is happening about the presentation of certificates (if this has not already taken place).

## INITIATION

### What is the Church?

#### Children's Worksheet: Unit 7

#### We are People who Live our Faith

Many people will be happy that you have now been confirmed and celebrated your First Holy Communion - even some people that you don't know. Can you think of some of the people who will be happy?


These people are happy because they know that you have taken a very important step in

- Believing in Jesus
- Becoming a full member of the Catholic Church

Confirmation and First Communion mark the end of a special journey that you have been on over the past few months - a journey of preparation.



But there is another journey that you are on - being a follower of Christ - that lasts for the whole of your life.

So First Holy Communion is only the beginning. Now you will be able to receive Communion each time you come to Mass and be reminded about how much Jesus loves you and how he will help you throughout your life.



### Looking Back...

Over the past few months we have been thinking about different answers to the question 'What is the Church?' During Mass we remind ourselves of these answers:



We are People who

P \_ \_ y

We are People who celebrate

F \_ r \_ i \_ e \_ e \_ s



We are People who celebrate

G \_ d ' \_ W \_ \_ d

We are People who

F \_ l \_ l \_ w \_ J \_ s \_ s



We are the

B \_ \_ y of Ch \_ \_ \_ t



## Page 1

Help the children to think about some of the people who will be happy now that they have celebrated Confirmation and Communion, [e.g. their parents, teachers, grandparents, brothers and sisters, parishioners, the parish priest, yourself!]

Remind the children that these two sacraments complete their initiation into the Church. They are now full members. Their journey of preparation is over. However, they are on a bigger journey - one that lasts a lifetime - being a follower of Jesus.

They need to grow as followers of Jesus (as we all do) by coming along to Mass each week and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. This will strengthen them to live a life of faith.

## Page 2

Help the children to complete the words which will give them the titles of a number of the units that have been part of their preparation.

Remind them that these titles help us to think of parts of the Mass. Each time we celebrate the Mass we are able to reflect a little bit more on prayer, forgiveness, hearing God's Word, following Jesus, or receiving and being the Body of Christ.

So the preparation over the past few months has not just been for the two special celebrations (Confirmation and First Holy Communion) but to help them to take part in the Mass for the rest of their lives.

Encourage them always to think about the different parts of the Mass when they come to Church.

### Looking Forward...

At the end of Mass we are told to 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'.

This is an invitation for us to go out into the world and make it a better place by living our faith.



We are followers of Jesus, strengthened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and with the gift of Jesus in Holy Communion.

Draw some pictures showing how you can live your faith

At Home

At School

At Church

Near to where you live

**Jesus wants his followers to be happy  
and to share that happiness with other people**

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## Page 3

Ask the children about what happens at the end of Mass, after Communion. [Prayer, Notices, Blessing, Dismissal, Hymn]. These concluding rites are meant to help the community to go out from its celebration and live its faith in the week ahead.

Draw particular attention to the form of dismissal printed on their worksheet: 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. That is what living our faith means - finding ways to love and serve the Lord in our everyday lives.

Spend some time helping the children to think about what they might draw in the boxes to show how they love and serve the Lord in the different aspects of their lives. [Home, School, Church, Neighbourhood]

Emphasise the fact that Jesus wants them to be happy in loving and serving him. You might want to share with the children the gospel story about the beatitudes [cf. *Additional Suggestions and Resources No. 1*]

### At Home...

Make sure you have completed all your worksheets and then keep them together in your special folder.

You can look through the worksheets every now and then to help you remember some of the things you have done and learned during this time of preparation for Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Use this list to remind you of ways in which you can live your faith:

- Trying to spend some time in prayer every day
- Finding ways of helping your family and friends
- Working hard at school
- Going to Mass on Sundays

Don't forget to pray for those who have helped you during this time of preparation:

- Your parents
- Your catechist or faith friend
- Your teacher
- Your parish priest

When you are at Church:

- Say hello to some of the people who have helped you
- Pray for the next group of children who are preparing for these sacraments

This worksheet belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Page 4

*There is nothing for the children to complete at home on this page. Instead it offers them a reminder of four things which you might like to go through with them now (if time permits). Encourage them:*

to treasure the worksheets they have completed over the past few months and to look over them from time to time.

to think of further ways of living their faith, other than the suggestions given.

to pray often for those who have helped them (and will continue to help them) on their journey.

to keep in touch with you at Church and listen out for news about other children preparing for the sacraments.

*Get the children to write their name on the worksheet. Thank them for taking part, or tell them how much you have enjoyed working with them.*

## **Additional Suggestions and Resources**

### **1. The Story of the Beatitudes**

*Jesus told his followers that they would be happy if they lived in certain ways and this teaching applies to us today:*

Crowds of people were following Jesus, trying to see him and hear him speak.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he climbed a little hill and sat down.

His friends joined him and he began to tell the people how to be happy:

"Happiness is being gentle.

Happiness is wanting God in your life.

Happiness is longing for what is right.

Happiness is being generous always.

Happiness is putting God first.

Happiness is being a peace-maker.

Happiness is standing up for God.

Happiness is suffering for God.

Rejoice and be glad, your reward will be very great in heaven."