



Nottingham Roman Catholic
Diocesan Education Service



Creation and
Covenant

Branch 1

Y2 Planning for Advent 1

Version 1: September 2026

Branch 1: Creation and Covenant
Advent Term (1) – 6 weeks
The Big Question: Why do we care for the world?

Age 6-7 (Year 2) Learning outcomes:

The overarching theme of this year is Baptism. Baptism is the meeting point where people are reborn to a new life in Christ and become part of the Christian community. In the story of Noah, Creation is reborn from the waters of the flood. Pupils will encounter John the Baptist and journey through St Luke's Gospel as they come to know the signs in the gospel that Jesus is the Messiah spoken of by the prophets. They will consider how the power of the Holy Spirit transforms the lives of people in the writings of St Luke, for example, Mary, Elizabeth, and Paul, and consider how a life in Jesus calls people to be good neighbours. Pupils will also begin to think about good and bad choices (sin) and why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is needed. Pupils are not expected to know all these connections, but teachers can help them make connections between different branches to ensure that links between branches exist across each year as well as sequentially as they revisit a branch the following year.

Understand

U2.1.1. Retell in any form the Noah story (Genesis 6:9-9:17), focusing on Noah and God's promise to all living creatures in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:8-17).

U2.1.2. Know that psalms are prayed/sung to praise God and recognise that they are a different literary form in Scripture.

U2.1.3. Understand the term 'stewardship' and what it means for caring for God's world.

U2.1.4. Correctly use religious words and phrases to talk about the Sacrament of Baptism, as a sign of Jesus' love for all people and a welcome into the Christian family.

U2.1.5. Know that the Christian Bible is split into two parts, the Old Testament, and the New Testament.

Discern

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will be able to talk and think creatively and critically about what they have studied, for example, through:

D2.1.1. Responding to the way God's gift of Creation is expressed in a variety of creative and artistic ways, e.g., art, music, or poetry and talk about the reason for their response.

D2.1.2. Expressing a point of view, with a relevant reason, about why we care for God's world, making simple connections with God's promise to all living creatures in the story of Noah.

D2.1.3. Exploring the meaning of symbols used in an infant's Baptism in the Catholic Church.

Respond

During this unit of study, pupils will be invited to respond to their learning, for example by:

R2.1.1. Considering what they could do to care for God's world in their own lives and in the life of their local community. (RVE)

R2.1.1. Reflecting on the gift of Creation (awe and wonder). (RVE)

R2.1.2. Reflecting on how actions can help or harm themselves and others and what this could mean for their friendship with God.

Creation and Covenant – Year 2 (Advent 1)					
	Session 1 UNDERSTAND/HEAR	Session 2 UNDERSTAND/DISCERN/HEAR	Session 3 UNDERSTAND/BELIEVE	Session 4 UNDERSTAND	Session 5 UNDERSTAND/BELIEVE
Learning Focus	HEAR / LIVE Know that the Christian Bible is made up of two parts and the first book in the Bible is Genesis.	HEAR / LIVE Know that God’s creation is a gift to us and that we should be stewards of God’s creation in our local community.	HEAR / BELIEVE Retell in any form the story of Noah.	RESPOND/BELIEVE Know the story of Noah, focusing on God’s covenant (promise) with Noah and all living beings in the sign of the rainbow.	HEAR / BELIEVE Express a point of view with relevant reasons of why we should care for all living things, referring to the story of Noah.
Recall and Retrieval	What promises have we made?	Creation Story from Year 1 (last year). <i>Pupils may not have covered this – review after teaching</i>	What is stewardship? How can we show stewardship to others?	What does promise mean? What promises did we make?	What did the Noah story teach us?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that we listen to stories about Jesus spreading God’s good news in the New Testament, but before that there are stories in the Old Testament where we learn about God and his love (Hebrew Scriptures). - that Genesis is the first book in the Bible – that it has the creation story in it. - the Old Testament has other stories in it especially about the great flood.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that God created the world as a gift to humanity. - that we are called to be stewards of God’s creation. - how we should show stewardship to others. - how a community in another part of the world cares for Creation.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that, in Noah’s time, people were not showing good stewardship. - that people were sinning. - that a sin is something that we do against God’s wishes. - that Noah was showing stewardship, and God decided to open a path to salvation. - God gave humanity another chance. It only takes one good person and there is hope! - the story up to chapter 8. Flood waters go down.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - the story in any form. - that God made a covenant - a promise - to Noah. - that a rainbow is the reminder of this promise.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that God’s creation is a gift to us and that we need to look after it. - why we should care for all living things in relation to the story of Noah.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U2.1.5. Know that the Christian Bible is split into two parts the Old Testament and the New Testament.	U2.1.3. Understand the term ‘stewardship and what it means for caring for God’s world. R2.1.1. Considering what they could do to care for God’s world in their own lives and in the life of their local community.	U 2.1.1. Retell in any form the Noah story (Genesis 6:9-9:17), focusing on Noah and God’s promise to all living creatures in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:8-17).	U 2.1.1. Retell in any form the Noah story (Genesis 6:9-9:17), focusing on Noah and God’s promise to all living creatures in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:8-17).	D2.1.2. Expressing a point of view, with a relevant reason about why we care for God’s world, making simple connections with God’s promise to all living creatures in the story of Noah.
Main teaching activity <i>This can be adapted to suit the needs of your pupils.</i>	- Work through the PowerPoint with the pupils. - Group task: Pupils think together about what they already know about the Bible, including any stories or books they can name. Add ideas to sticky notes, ready to share with the class. (Have the class Bible available to show pupils how the Bible is split into two parts and is made up of different books). - In mixed ability groups, sort Scripture images into Old and New Testament (include some Scripture known to the pupils and some new Scripture).	- Begin by discussing the story of creation. If pupils do not know this then read it to them. - Work through the PowerPoint with the pupils. - Create a poster detailing how they will be stewards for God’s world and how they will show stewardship to others in their own lives and in the life of their local community.	- Read pupils the story of Noah’s Ark. (There is a link embedded into Slide 4 for the Saddleback Kids video of Noah’s Ark if you wish to use this.). - Work through the PowerPoint to discuss what we learn from the Noah story. - Provide the pupils with picture cards to retell the Noah story. - Write the Noah story in their own words, using the picture cards to support.	- Work through the PowerPoint. Slide 3: In small mixed ability groups, act out the Noah story. Evidence with photos. - Reflection: Provide pupils with a rainbow template. God sent a rainbow as a promise to all living creatures. Write a promise to God of how they will show stewardship to others or to God’s world. If there is time, pupils could add one idea in each colour of the rainbow.	- Work through the PowerPoint together, allowing pupils plenty of time to discuss their ideas and encouraging them to give reasons (make connections with the story of Noah). Pupils will work in mixed ability groups to create a presentation detailing why we care for God’s world. Give groups time to express their points of view, with reasons, and to decide how they will present their ideas. Groups may wish to draw pictures, find images on laptops to share, etc. - Provide groups with a simple template to support with structuring their presentations. Ensure pupils make simple links with God’s promise to all living creatures in the story of Noah.
Adapt Adaptive Teaching (Dependent on needs in the class. Teacher to fill)	- Have cards labelled with Old and New Testament for pupils to sort. - Discuss what we learn in each Testament with an adult.	- Images showing stewardship to support pupils with ideas. - Key words on strips. - Stem sentences. - Use of drawing to show how they can be global neighbours if writing is a barrier.	- Provide pupils with a storyboard containing the images in order. - Pupils write a simple sentence for each image.	- Picture sequencing cards to support with drama. - Reflection: Write one or two ideas on the rainbow. Dictate or use a transcript if writing is a barrier.	- Use of dictation on laptops/iPads if possible. - Use of drawing pictures- or having a selection to cut and stick.

Creation and Covenant – Year 2 (Advent 1)					
	Session 1 UNDERSTAND/HEAR	Session 2 UNDERSTAND/DISCERN/HEAR	Session 3 UNDERSTAND/BELIEVE	Session 4 UNDERSTAND	Session 5 UNDERSTAND/BELIEVE
Go Deeper	(Teacher to encourage pupils to select an option from the Go Deeper suggestions below) 1  Can you link your learning to a story or teaching from the Bible? → Name a story, parable, miracle, or teaching of Jesus. 2  Can you explain why this is important? → Tell me more, give a reason, or explain your thinking. 3  How does this link to what Christians believe or do? → Beliefs, Prayers, Sacraments, or Church seasons. 4  How can you live this out? → What would this look like in your life, at school or at home? 5  What does this teach us about how to treat others? → Kindness, forgiveness, respect, fairness, love. 6  What question does this learning make you ask? → A “wonder” question about God, Jesus, or faith. 7  Which Catholic Social Teaching principle does this link to and why? → Dignity of the Human Person, Family and Community, Solidarity and the Common Good, Dignity of Work, Rights and Responsibility, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Stewardship/ Care for Creation.				
Key Vocabulary and Definition	Old Testament: The first part of the Bible is made up of 36 books. It teaches us about God and His love. All written before Jesus was on earth. Hebrew Texts New Testament: Stories about Jesus spreading God’s good news. Bible: This comes from a Greek word meaning book. Christians believe it is the most important book in the world. Through Sacred Scripture, God speaks directly to us. God: He is everywhere, above and below, today and tomorrow, without beginning or end. God was here when not even a grain of dust existed. And He will still be here when the world no longer exists. God is the one that all good in the world comes from. God is love. Creation: When things are made; how God made the world in seven days. Genesis: The first book of the Bible that teaches us about creation.	Steward: A good steward is one who does a good job taking care of something. If we want to be good stewards for God, we must take care of the many things God has given us. That includes our money, our friendships and family, our gifts and abilities, and our world. Stewardship: This is taking care of someone else’s things. God has given us everything we have and we need to take care of it. Local community: A group of people who all live in the same small area, near to one another. Father: God is our Father. God the Father is part of the Holy Trinity. (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit). Creation: The act of bringing something into existence; or the universe and everything in it (which Catholics believe God created).	God: He is everywhere, above and below, today and tomorrow, without beginning or end. God was here when not even a grain of dust existed. And He will still be here when the world no longer exists. God is the one that all good in the world comes from. God is love. Noah: Noah lived in a time of terrible sin, but he did not follow the crowd. He remained faithful to God and lived happily with his family. Sin: Sin is something bad you do even though you know you shouldn’t do it. Sin is also if you do not do something good although you know that you should do it. Salvation: This is making things right with God.	Covenant (promise): A promise between people and God. Rainbow: God’s covenant was symbolised by a rainbow. Sign: Signs help us to understand our relationship with God.	Point of view: Our personal way of thinking about or looking at something. Give reasons: We give reasons to explain our thoughts and ideas. Creation: The act of bringing something into existence; or the universe and everything in it (which Catholics believe God created). God’s promise: God’s covenant – the promise between people and God. Noah: Noah lived in a time of terrible sin but he did not follow the crowd. He remained faithful to God and lived happily with his family. Laudato Si’: This is a letter from Pope Francis to everyone on the the planet urging all of us to protect the earth; our common home. Pope Leo: Pope Leo XIV is our present Pope. The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church and the Bishop of Rome.
Resources	PowerPoint Scripture image cards for sorting (set per group)	Paper or books for posters Images of stewardship PowerPoint	Sequencing cards for Noah story PowerPoint	Picture sequencing cards for Noah story Rainbow templates (one per child)	Presentation template (one per group) Images of pollution/damage to God’s creation CAFOD Laudato Si video PowerPoint
Diversity Links		Show stewardship to people of all race, religion, culture, background, etc. (protected characteristics).			
Checking for Understanding (summative assessment)	- What do we learn about in the Old/New Testament? - Name a piece of Scripture from the Old/New Testament. - What is the first book in the Bible? - Name a piece of Scripture from the book of Genesis.	- Who created the world? - Name some things that God created. - What is stewardship? - How can we be stewards of God’s creation? - How can we show stewardship to others?	- Story circle to retell the Noah story (each child retells a sentence – pupils listen to one another and continue the story when it is their turn). - What is a sin? - How does God want us to act? (be stewards by...)	- How did God bring hope after the flood? - What is a covenant? - What was God’s promise to Noah?	- Why should we care for living things? - How can we care for living things?
Learning Focus	HEAR/BELIEVE Know that psalms are prayed or sung and are a different form of Scripture.	BELIEVE Know that Baptism is the first sacrament and that it is a sign of Jesus' love for everyone and a welcome into the Christian family.	UNDERSTAND/RESPOND Explore the meaning of symbols used in Baptism.	ASSESSMENT (refer to assessment slide) Reflect on the learning covered in Creation and Covenant: how actions can help or harm themselves and others and what this could mean for their friendship with God.	CELEBRATION OF THE WORD Plan a celebration of the word about the unit.

Creation and Covenant – Year 2 (Advent 1)					
	Session 6 UNDERSTAND/BELIEVE	Session 7 UNDERSTAND/DISCERN/HEAR	Session 8 UNDERSTAND/DISCERN	Session 9 and Session 10 RECALL AND RESPOND (DISCERN AND RESPOND)	
Recall and Retrieval	What are the two parts of the Bible called? What can we learn in each part?	What did we learn about in the story of Noah? What covenant (promise) did God make with Noah?	What is a symbol? What is Baptism a sign of? Describe how the symbol of water is used and what it represents.	What is a sin? What is forgiveness? How can we be stewards of the earth? How can we show stewardship to others?	Who created the world? What special job did God give to us? How can we be stewards of the earth?
Sequence of Knowledge throughout the Lesson	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that we can pray and praise in many ways. - that in the Hebrew texts there are poems/songs called psalms. - that psalms are a different form of Scripture. - that psalms praise God.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that Baptism is the first sacrament. - that the sacrament welcomes us into Jesus' family. - how the baby is welcomed into the church at the start of the Baptism ceremony. - the meaning of the symbol of water.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that the sacrament welcomes us into Jesus' family. - the symbols of Baptism (water, anointing with Oil of Chrism, white garment, light - Baptismal Candle, Easter Candle). - the meaning of symbols used in Baptism. - that the 'Our Father' prayer is prayed during a Baptism ceremony.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that a sin can harm our friendship with God. - that God created a path to salvation so that we can be forgiven. - that we are called to be stewards of God's creation. - how we should show stewardship towards others.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that all that is, comes from God. - that we can pray and praise in many ways.
Key Skills/Disciplinary Knowledge	U2.1.2. Know that psalms are prayed or sung to praise God and recognise that they are a different literary form of Scripture.	U2.1.4. Correctly use religious words and phrases to talk about the sacrament of Baptism as a sign of Jesus' love of all people and a welcome into the Christian family.	U2.1.4. Correctly use religious words and phrases to talk about the sacrament of Baptism as a sign of Jesus' love of all people and a welcome into the Christian family. D2.1.3. Exploring the meaning of symbols used in an infant's Baptism in the Catholic Church.	R2.1.2. Reflect on how actions can help or harm themselves and others and what this could mean for their friendship with God.	R.2.1.1. Reflect on the gift of God's creation (awe and wonder). D2.1.1. Respond to the way God's gift of Creation is expressed in a variety of creative and artistic ways e.g. art, music, or poetry and talk about the reason for their response.
Main Teaching activity <i>This can be adapted to suit the needs of your pupils.</i>	- Work through the PowerPoint. - Pause the video at different points to allow for discussion. - Have class Bible ready to show the pupils the Book of Psalms. - Slide 6: Create a peaceful atmosphere before starting to read Psalm 139. Encourage the pupils to listen carefully to the words and to think about what they mean. - Work together in groups to put your own actions to the Psalm (this could just be a small section of the Psalm).	- Work through the PowerPoint. - Saying sorry: Take a few moments to think about the things they want to say sorry for (prompt with questions). Pupils can share their ideas if they wish or just think about it. - Create a prayerful atmosphere: Write a word or draw a symbol on your stone to represent what you want to ask God's forgiveness for. Just as water washes away sins at Baptism, we are now going to use water to wash away the things that we have written on our stones. - Take turns to wash stones.	(If possible, have the symbols of Baptism to show the pupils. Use pictures if not). - Work through the PowerPoint and discuss the symbols and their meanings. - During a Baptism ceremony, the 'Our Father' is prayed. Let us say this together now. - Draw and label the symbols, write the meaning for many of the symbols. <i>This lesson could be completed through a visit to the parish church, with the priest leading the discussion about Baptismal symbols.</i>	- Work through the PowerPoint with the pupils. - Provide pupils with a broken heart template. Ask them to record on one side actions that can harm themselves and others, and to record actions that can help themselves and others on the other side. - Write a short reflection about what each side could mean for their friendship with God. 'If I act like this, then...'	- Work through the PowerPoint with the pupils. - Choose an artistic way to express the gift of Creation. - As a class, plan a celebration of the word about the unit, incorporating the above art activity such as a display of artwork around the prayer area, performing their music or poem. - Give pupils a choice of the Scripture used during this topic.
Adaptive Teaching	- Provide a small section from the Psalm with images to support. - Use of actions to show the message of the psalm- video for evidence- dojo/seesaw etc. - Stem sentences for written task on PowerPoint.	Role play using the symbols as in a Baptismal ceremony- video for seesaw/dojo etc.	- Draw and label symbols. Match symbol meanings to symbols with support. - Role play using the symbols as in a Baptismal ceremony- video for seesaw/dojo etc.	- Pupils record ideas pictorially and label. - Have pictures of harmful/unharmful actions instead to sort. - Verbally record reflection.	Reflection on the respond using pictures/transcription/dictation.
Go Deeper	(Teacher to encourage pupils to select an option from the Go Deeper suggestions below) 1  Can you link your learning to a story or teaching from the Bible? → Name a story, parable, miracle, or teaching of Jesus. 2  Can you explain why this is important? → Tell me more, give a reason, or explain your thinking. 3  How does this link to what Christians believe or do? → Beliefs, Prayers, Sacraments, or Church seasons. 4  How can you live this out? → What would this look like in your life, at school or at home? 5  What does this teach us about how to treat others? → Kindness, forgiveness, respect, fairness, love. 6  What question does this learning make you ask? → A "wonder" question about God, Jesus, or faith. 7  Which Catholic Social Teaching principle does this link to and why? → Dignity of the Human Person, Family and Community, Solidarity and the Common Good, Dignity of Work, Rights and Responsibility, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Stewardship/ Care for Creation.				

Creation and Covenant – Year 2 (Advent 1)					
	Session 6 UNDERSTAND/BELIEVE	Session 7 UNDERSTAND/DISCERN/HEAR	Session 8 UNDERSTAND/DISCERN	Session 9 and Session 10 RECALL AND RESPOND (DISCERN AND RESPOND)	
Key Vocabulary and Definition	Psalm: Psalms are prayers to praise God. Scripture: This is a piece of text taken from the Bible. Praise: Praise is celebrating who God is and what He does. King David: David was a strong but modest shepherd who became God's choice to replace Saul as king of Israel. Some of the Psalms in the Bible were written by King David.	Sacraments: The Sacraments are living signs of Jesus' love for all people. The first sacrament is Baptism. Baptism: Baptism is the first sacrament which welcomes people into the Christian family. Sign: Signs help us to understand our relationship with God. Christian family: A group of people who model themselves on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus: Jesus is the Son of God.	Baptism: Baptism is the first sacrament which welcomes people into the Christian family. Sign: Signs help us to understand our relationship with God. Symbol: An object or picture used to represent an idea, thought or action. Water: In Baptism, water represents that we are reborn into a new life in the Christian family. Light: Jesus is the light; His light is for everyone. White garment: This symbolises that the baby is clothed in Christ. Anointing with the oil of Chrism: This is a sign that the baby has joined the Christian family and has a special friendship with Jesus. Easter candle: This is a symbol of Christ's resurrection. Baptismal candle: This reminds us that the light of Christ has entered the child's life. Our Father: Jesus gave us The Lord's Prayer to let us know that God wants us to talk to Him each day, through prayer, and to share what's in our heart.	Sin: Sin is something bad you do even though you know you shouldn't do it. Sin is also if you do not do something good although you know that you should do it. Salvation: Salvation is a gift from God. We can get salvation when we believe in Jesus; and when we talk to God about our sins and say sorry. Forgive: To forgive someone means to no longer hold sin against the person who has sinned against you. When we forgive someone, we mend our friendship with them. Stewardship: The duty to care for something. Catholics believe that God gave them the duty to care for the earth and everything in it.	
Resources	Copies of Psalm 139 (or sections of the psalm) Images for a section of the psalm PowerPoint				Scripture from the topic Liturgy planning resources Resources for artwork
Diversity Links		Awareness of other religions and beliefs.			
Checking for understanding (summative assessment)	Do the pupils recognise: - What is a Psalm? - In which part of the Bible is the Book of Psalms?	Do the pupils recognise: - What is Baptism? - Why are infants baptised? - What does water symbolise?	Do the pupils recognise: - What are some symbols of Baptism? - What is the meaning of the symbols?	Do the pupils recognise: - How can we harm our friendship with God? - How can we rebuild our friendship with God? - What are some actions that can help ourselves or others?	Do the pupils recognise: - What did God create for us? - How can we show that we are thankful for all that God has given to us?