



Nottingham Roman Catholic
Diocesan Education Service



Creation and
Covenant

Branch 1

Y3 Planning for Advent 1

Version 1: September 2026

Branch 1: Creation and Covenant

Advent Term (1) – 6 weeks

Big Question – How does caring for the world help change the world for the better?

Understand

- U3.1.1.** Revisit and remember the first Creation story from Genesis, recognising the author's use of poetic language to describe how the world was formed.
- U3.1.2.** Encounter the belief that human beings are made 'in the image of God' (Gen 1:27) and talk about what this might mean. (RVE)
- U3.1.3.** Make simple links between the first Creation story, the belief that all human beings are created equal, and an expression of the principle of Catholic Social Teaching about human dignity. (RVE)
- U3.1.4.** Describe stewardship by making simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and people's actions today (LS 88 on 'ecological virtues'). (RVE)
- U3.1.5.** Using some religious vocabulary, describe how either a psalm or a prayer they have studied praises creation.
- U3.1.6.** Recognise that in Laudato Si', Pope Francis teaches that human beings are called to have a loving relationship with God, with each other, and with the world (see LS 66). (RVE)

Discern

- D3.1.1.** Imagining how caring for the world could change the world for the better.
- D3.1.2.** Thinking about how all people should be treated equally and giving reasons that relate to the first Creation story (focusing on Genesis 1:26-31). (RVE)
- D3.1.3.** Suggesting meanings for an artistic expression of the goodness of creation, considering the maker's intention (e.g., St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of Creation). (RVE)
- D3.1.4.** Wondering why the author of the first story of creation suggests a holy day. (RVE)

Respond

- R3.1.1.** Making connections between experiences where people have not been treated equally and how this felt. (RVE)
- R3.1.2.** Spending time wondering about the blessings of creation in their own lives. (RVE)
- R3.1.3.** Reflecting on the prayerful words studied that give thanks for creation. (RVE)

Creation and Covenant – Year 3 (Advent 1)						
	Session 1 UNDERSTAND	Session 2 UNDERSTAND	Session 3 UNDERSTAND/DISCERN	Session 4 UNDERSTAND	Session 5 UNDERSTAND/RESPOND	Session 6 RESPOND
Learning Focus	HEAR Revisit and remember the first Creation story from Genesis, recognising the author’s use of poetic language to describe how the world was formed.	HEAR Encounter the belief that human beings are made ‘in the image of God’ (Gen 1:27) and talk about what this might mean. (RVE)	HEAR / BELIEVE Make simple links between the first Creation story, the belief that all human beings are created equal, and an expression of the principle of Catholic social teaching about human dignity.	HEAR / LIVE Describe stewardship by making simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and people’s actions today.	CELEBRATE Using some religious vocabulary, describe how either a psalm or a prayer we have studied praises Creation. Reflecting on the prayerful words studied that give thanks for Creation.	LIVE Recognise that in <i>Laudato Si’</i> , Pope Francis teaches that human beings are called to have a loving relationship with God, with each other, and with the world.
Recall and Retrieval	What can pupils recall about the Creation Story – complete a ‘mind-map’.	- Recall the creation story verbally to your partner. - Who did God created humans in the image of?	What are the Catholic social teachings?	What do we know about the creation story so far?	- How can we praise God? - What should we praise God for?	Recall the creation story. What does God say we should do?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - the first Creation story from Genesis. - how the author’s use of poetic language is used to describe how the world was formed.	Key knowledge Pupils will know that: - God created us in his own image. - all people should be created equally. - Pope Francis wrote Fratelli Tutti. - Fratelli Tutti reminds us that we should treat each other equally.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - the creation story. - that all humans are created equally and that we believe we are created in the image of God. - what the Catholic social teaching of <i>Human Dignity</i> means.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - about stewardship and make simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and people’s actions today. - the full story of Creation (Gen 1:26 – 31). - what the term <i>Stewardship</i> means. - that there are links between the creation story and the stewardship we show today.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - what a psalm is. - why people wrote psalms. - where we would find them in the Old or New Testament. - what is wonderful about our world. - what God asks and wants us to do. - why it is important to praise God. - how we show we are thankful for God’s creation.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - what Pope Francis is asking us to do. - ways in which we can show care for God’s world (stewardship) as part of our care for each other.
Key skills/ disciplinary knowledge	U3.1.1. Revisit and remember the first Creation story from Genesis, recognising the author’s use of poetic language to describe how the world was formed. D3.1.4. Wondering why the author suggests this as a Holy Day.	U3.1.2. Encounter the belief that human beings are made ‘in the image of God’ (Gen 1:27) and talk about what this might mean. (RVE) D3.1.4. Wondering why the author suggests a Holy Day.	U3.1.3. Make simple links between the first Creation story, the belief that all human beings are created equal, and an expression of the principle of Catholic social teaching about <i>human dignity</i> .	U3.1.4. Describe stewardship by making simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and people’s actions today (LS 88 on ‘ecological virtues’). (RVE)	U3.1.5. Using some religious vocabulary, describe how either a psalm or a prayer they have studied praises Creation. R3.1.3. Reflecting on the prayerful words studied that give thanks for Creation. (RVE)	U3.1.6. Recognise that in <i>Laudato Si’</i> , Pope Francis teaches that human beings are called to have a loving relationship with God, with each other, and with the world (see LS 66). (RVE)
Main teaching activity This can be adapted to suit the needs of your pupils.	- Read Genesis 1. - Describe (what, when, where) in any form, the first Creation story from Genesis, recognising the author’s use of poetic language to describe how the world was formed. ‘Turn and talk’ activities and whole class discussion - scripture detecting?	- Pupils to answer the question: Why should people be treated fairly? Encourage them to make links to Genesis scripture and Pope Francis. - Call to Action: What could we do to help? What would the impact be? - This work is to be completed in draft form and not in books so it can be added to and finished next lesson.	Add to the pledge that was started last lesson adding in <i>Human Dignity</i> to the scripture and Fratelli Tutti links to live out Catholic social teaching principles with creation at its centre.	Describe stewardship through words and pictures, making simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and the current day e.g. <i>In Genesis, God calls us to care for the whole of his creation therefore I will protect God’s creation by collecting litter.</i>	- Psalm Detectives: In groups pupils to be given examples of psalms 19, 139, 148. - Mind-map what is being praised and why they think this - colour code if needed. - Feedback discussion where possible – similarities and differences.	- Discuss as a class what we have learnt – what is Pope Francis asking us to do? - How does this tie into the creation story? Psalms? Fratelli Tutti? - Model a class letter. - Write an individual letter to someone in Year 2 stating how they should be stewards of God’s creation.
Adaptive teaching	- Provide chunked text (short sections with visual breaks). - Offer a simplified version or symbol-supported text using Widget. - Use audio recording of the scripture for pupils who benefit from listening. - Provide a storyboard with pictures for pupils to sequence.	- Provide graphic organisers (e.g., cause → effect). - Offer sentence frames: ‘People should be treated fairly because...’ ‘Pope Francis teaches us...’ - Give examples of unfair vs fair treatment using pictures. - Allow pupils to dictate ideas to an adult or use speech-to-text.	- Provide a template with gaps to fill: ‘I will show human dignity by...’ ‘Fratelli Tutti teaches us to...’ - Use symbol-supported pledge cards. - Offer choice prompts (e.g., ‘helping others’, ‘sharing’, ‘caring for creation’). - Allow pupils to draw their pledge instead of writing.	- Provide picture prompts of stewardship actions (litter picking, recycling, planting). - Use matching activities: match scripture → modern example. - Provide sentence starters: ‘God asks us to care for...’ ‘I can be a steward by...’ - Allow pupils to create a simple comic strip showing stewardship.	- Provide shortened extracts with key phrases highlighted. - Use visual icons for ‘praise’, ‘creation’, ‘God knows me’, ‘nature’. - Give pupils pre-prepared mind-map templates. - Offer colour-coded categories (e.g., praising nature = green). - Allow pupils to work with adult support or in mixed-ability groups.	- Provide key quotes from <i>Laudato Si’</i> and <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> in simplified form. - Use visuals: Pope Francis, earth, helping hands. - Give pupils agree/disagree cards to participate non-verbally. - Use ‘I notice / I wonder’ sentence frames.

Creation and Covenant – Year 3 (Advent 1)						
	Session 1 UNDERSTAND	Session 2 UNDERSTAND	Session 3 UNDERSTAND/DISCERN	Session 4 UNDERSTAND	Session 5 UNDERSTAND/RESPOND	Session 6 RESPOND
	- Offer sentence starters: ‘On day 1, God created...’ ‘The story takes place...’ - Use a word bank with visuals. Allow pupils to respond in any format: drawing, oral recording, matching pictures, or writing. - Provide a ‘poetic language’ example sheet with simple explanations (e.g., ‘God said...’ = powerful words). - Give pupils discussion prompt cards with symbols. - Use talk frames: ‘I think people should be treated fairly because...’ ‘Genesis teaches us that...’ - Use small-group adult-supported discussion for pupils who find whole-class talk overwhelming.	Use highlighted key words to support focus.		Use colour-coded links between scripture and actions.	Provide picture-based psalm summaries for pupils who struggle with abstract language.	- Provide a letter template: Greeting; What stewardship means; What Y2 can do; Closing. - Offer word banks with pictures (e.g., ‘care’, ‘protect’, ‘God’s creation’). - Allow pupils to draw and label instead of writing full sentences. - Use voice recording for pupils who struggle with writing. - Provide sentence starters: ‘Dear Y2...’ ‘You can care for God’s creation by...’ ‘This is important because...’
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	Genesis - the first book of the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Bible. Creator - God, the divine being who created the universe and everything within it.	Fratelli Tutti - <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> was the third encyclical of Pope Francis, subtitled ‘on fraternity and social friendship’; it was released in 2020.	Catholic Social Teaching - Catholic social teaching (CST) is a comprehensive framework of principles that guides Catholics on how to live out their faith in the world, promoting social justice and the common good.	Stewardship - Stewardship is a theological belief that humans are responsible for the world, humanity, and the gifts and resources that have been entrusted to us.	Psalms - The Psalms express the delight of the Lord in his people and their delight in him. They show the deep love which exists between the two. The Psalms are both personal and communal.	Laudato Si’ - <i>Laudato Si’</i> translates to ‘Praise be to You’ in English. It is the first phrase of Pope Francis’s encyclical, which is a formal letter written by the Pope to all members of the Church on a particular topic. This particular encyclical is on the care for our common home and addresses the environmental crisis.
Resources	Children’s Bibles	https://missiontogether.org.uk/films/ - Sr. Eulie video Genesis 1:26-27 <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> CAFOD animation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWpolo3mlgk	Living out CST information https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/cst-pack-for-pupils Fratelli Tutti primary school guide.docx (live.com)	Laudato Si’ animation Genesis 1:26-31	Psalms 139, 148 and 19 Examples of Psalms of Creation. Possible musical adaptations: Psalm 138 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7rFlzHuH9s Psalm 19 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALwxYcNZ4Ug psalm 149 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAZCXICPUsc	Laudato Si’ animation

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Diversity Links	Explore a variety of artistic depictions of the scripture passage, from a range of cultural viewpoints.	Refugee visitor - if you know of one OR https://missiontogether.org.uk/films/ - Sr. Eulie video.	Global human dignity.	Universal church – global neighbours.		Global stewardship.
Checking for understanding (summative assessment)	Show some understanding of the first Creation story from Genesis, recognising the author's use of poetic language to describe how the world was formed.	Know, and encounter the belief that human beings are made 'in the image of God' (Gen 1:27) and talk about what this might mean.	Show an understanding of the Creation story, making links to it and the belief that all human beings are created equal, and an expression of the principle of Catholic social teaching about human dignity.	Show some understanding of stewardship by making simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and people's actions today (LS 88 on 'ecological virtues').	- An understanding of some religious vocabulary, and how either a psalm or a prayer we have studied praises creation. - Reflecting on the prayerful words studied that give thanks for creation.	To know that in <i>Laudato Si'</i>, Pope Francis teaches that human beings are called to have a loving relationship with God, with each other, and with the world.

Creation and Covenant – Year 3 (Advent 1)				
	Session 7 UNDERSTAND / DISCERN	Session 8 UNDERSTAND	Session 9 and Session 10 RECALL AND RESPOND (DISCERN AND RESPOND)	
Learning Focus	BELIEVE/LIVE Imagining how caring for the world could change the world for the better. Explore the words of St Francis and how we can trust this with some of the things happening in our world today.	HEAR / CELEBRATE / LIVE Spend time considering the blessings that they have in their own lives.	BELIEVE / CELEBRATE / LIVE Assessment (refer to assessment slide) – Imagine how caring for the world could change it to be a better place. How could caring for the world change the world for the better?	RESPOND Celebration of the Word Assessment – Knowledge capture
Recall and Retrieval	How should we treat God’s creation? Why?	What did the Pope ask us to do in <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> and <i>Laudato Si’</i> ?	Recap on the meaning of stewardship, and on the words of Pope Francis, through <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> .	Complete a knowledge capture of the key knowledge outlined on the knowledge organiser.
Sequence of Knowledge throughout the Lesson	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - about the Canticle of Creation. - that St Francis praises God for some of the wonders of the natural world. Francis believed that everything in the natural world was a gift from God and, as such, deserved to be appreciated and valued.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - that Pope Francis encourages us to ‘live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again’. - The Season of Creation runs from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) each year. - we give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to act to protect the earth our common home.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - background information about <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> - Introducing the animation - Taking action Fratelli Tutti primary school guide.docx (live.com)	Key knowledge Pupils will know: the core knowledge outlined throughout the unit.
Key Skills/ Disciplinary Knowledge	D3.1.1. Imagining how caring for the world could change the world for the better. D3.1.3. Suggesting meanings for an artistic expression of the goodness of creation, considering the maker’s intention (e.g., St Francis of Assisi’s Canticle of Creation). (RVE)	D3.1.3. Suggesting meanings for an artistic expression of the goodness of Creation, considering the maker’s intention (e.g., St Francis of Assisi’s Canticle of Creation). (RVE)	U3.1.4. Describe stewardship by making simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and people’s actions today (LS 88 on ‘ecological virtues’). (RVE)	R3.1.2. Spending time wondering about the blessings of Creation in their own lives. (RVE) R3.1.3. Reflecting on the prayerful words studied that give thanks for Creation. (RVE)
Main Teaching activity <i>This can be adapted to suit the needs of our pupils</i>	- Imagine you were Saint Francis; how would you feel about the state of the world today. - Record your thoughts and feelings.	Write / draw / paint our own modern-day version for; The Season of Creation. https://cafod.org.uk/pray/season-of-creation	- Pope Francis asked us all to be global neighbours. How will you be a global neighbour? - Create a list of actions to do within school. - Create a list of actions you could do at home <i>A Charter to Live By?</i>	- Complete a knowledge capture of the core learning outlined from the knowledge organiser. - Plan and prepare for class-based celebration of the word.
Adaptive Teaching	- Provide a feelings word bank with symbols (e.g., sad, hopeful, worried, grateful). - Offer emotion emojis pupils can point to. - Use sentence starters: ‘If I were Saint Francis, I would feel...’ ‘I would think that the world is...’ - Allow pupils to respond in any format. - Drawing Saint Francis with speech bubbles. - Recording their voice. - Writing key words. - Using a storyboard. - Provide picture prompts of modern issues (pollution, kindness, animals, nature).	- Offer templates such as: A blank frame for drawing; A simple comic strip; A ‘before and after’ nature scene. - Provide art choices: colouring pencils, collage materials, digital drawing, painting. - Give visual examples of Season of Creation themes (care, unity, nature, peace). - Provide key phrases pupils can stick on or copy: ‘Care for creation’; ‘Protect our common home’. - Use step-by-step instructions with pictures.	- Provide choice boards for actions (sharing, recycling, helping others, saving energy). - Use two simple lists with icons: ‘At school I can...’ ‘At home I can...’ - Offer sentence starters: ‘I will be a global neighbour by...’ - Allow pupils to: Draw actions; Match pictures to categories. - Use stickers to select actions. - Provide examples to model thinking: ‘At school: hold the door open; ‘At home: turn off lights’.	- Provide a simplified version of the knowledge organiser with visuals. - Use fill-in-the-blank or matching tasks instead of open writing. - Offer multiple-choice questions with pictures. - Allow pupils to highlight or circle key ideas rather than write them. - Provide graphic organisers: Mind maps; Sorting mats; True/false cards. - Allow pupils to dictate answers to an adult or use speech-to-text.

Creation and Covenant – Year 3 (Advent 1)				
	Session 7 UNDERSTAND / DISCERN	Session 8 UNDERSTAND	Session 9 and Session 10 RECALL AND RESPOND (DISCERN AND RESPOND)	
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	Canticle – A canticle is a scriptural hymn, a song-prayer drawn from the Bible, that is used in liturgical worship. These canticles are similar to psalms in form and content but are found outside the Book of Psalms.	Repent - To experience a genuine change of heart, turning away from sin and towards God. It involves sorrow for one's sins, a firm resolution to avoid them in the future, and a desire to make amends for any harm caused. Common home - In the context of Pope Francis' encyclical <i>Laudato Si</i> , ‘Our Common Home’ refers to the Earth and all of its inhabitants, highlighting the interconnectedness and shared responsibility for its well-being. It's a call to recognise that the planet is a shared resource and that environmental issues affect everyone.	Pope Francis - He chose Francis as his papal name in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. Throughout his papacy, Francis was noted for his humility, emphasis on God's mercy, international visibility, commitment to interreligious dialogue, and concern for the poor, migrants, and refugees.	Revisit and review all vocabulary from the unit of work.
Resources	Canticle of the Sun (CAFOD version) Canticle of the Sun (Video) Song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32_NLkVcdQU - read	https://cafod.org.uk/pray/season-of-creation	Fratelli Tutti primary school guide.docx (live.com)	Assessment resources. Prayer and liturgy planning and evaluation resources.
Diversity Links	Pollution within a global context.	Universal church links.	Helping my global neighbour.	
Checking for understanding (summative assessment)	Do the pupils recognise: - Know about the Canticle of Creation . - Know that St Francis praises God for some of the wonders of the natural world.	Do the pupils recognise: Know that Pope Francis encourages us to ‘live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again’.		Outcomes from the Respond and Celebration of the word.