



Nottingham Roman Catholic
Diocesan Education Service



Desert to
Garden

Branch 4

Y1 Planning for Lent 2

Version 1: September 2026

Branch 4: Desert to Garden

Lent Term (2)

The Big Question: How does Lent prepare us for Jesus' death and resurrection?

Understand

By the end of this unit of study, pupils will be able to:

U1.4.1. Make simple connections between Jesus' time in the desert (Lk 4:1-13) and Christians praying and fasting for forty days in Lent. (RVE)

U1.4.2. Recognise that Jesus shows the importance of giving to others, making simple connections with the story of the widow's mite (Lk 21:1-6) and the season of Lent.

U1.4.3. Correctly sequence the events of the last week of Jesus' life.

U1.4.4. Recognise that angels bring God's message and are a sign the Jesus is the Son of God, truly alive.

U1.4.5. Recognise that the Church teaches that Jesus suffered, died, and rose again.

U1.4.6. Recognise simple connections between the use of ashes and the Christian belief that Lent is an opportunity for a new start.

Discern

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

D1.4.1. Asking 'I wonder' questions about the story of the last week of Jesus' life.

D1.4.2. Experiencing and reflecting on music or art that shows how Christian communities in another part of the world celebrate Lent and the last week of Jesus' life. (RVE)

By age 6, pupils will be exposed to opportunities to think creatively and critically about what they have studied through art and music, drawing on the global Christian tradition. They will talk about what they have learned, exploring their learning through asking questions, wondering, and imagining. They may express their creative or critical reflections through different mediums, such as writing, poetry, art, music, or dance

Respond

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

R1.4.1. Recognising that fasting in Lent is giving something up to help others and CAFOD Family Fast Day is a way of doing this.

R1.4.2. Considering what they might give up and choose to do to help others. (RVE)

R1.4.3. Reflecting on what they know about Jesus including the events of the last week of Jesus' life and his resurrection.

Desert to Garden – Year 1 (Lent 2)					
	Session 1 HEAR/BELIEVE/CELEBRATE/LIVE	Session 2 BELIEVE/CELEBRATE/LIVE	Session 3 HEAR/LIVE	Session 4 HEAR/CELEBRATE	Session 5 HEAR/BELIEVE
Learning focus	HEAR / BELIEVE To retell the story of Jesus’ time in the desert and know that we follow Jesus’ example.	HEAR / BELIEVE Recognise simple connections between the use of ashes and the Christian belief that Lent is an opportunity for a new start.	HEAR / LIVE To recognise that Lent is a special time where Christians pray, fast and help others. To understand that during Lent Christians give and fast and that CAFOD Family Fast Day is a way of doing this.	HEAR / CELEBRATE To retell the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem and reflect on the actions and thoughts of those around.	HEAR / BELIEVE To reflect on the story of the Last Supper and recognise that Jesus is the Son of God.
Recall and retrieval	What do you already know about Lent (think about the colours, actions and time)?	Pre-teach: what is Lent? Why is it an important time?	What happened in the desert? How many days was Jesus there? Why is that important?	Pre-teach: the key words of Jesus entering Jerusalem/Jesus in the Temple.	What were the key parts when Jesus enters Jerusalem?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - That Jesus spent 40 days in the desert. - That this is why there are 40 days of Lent. - We can follow Jesus’ example of praying and fasting or 40 days.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - That Ash Wednesday marks to start of Christians’ Lenten journey. - Some of the simple words, actions and symbols from the Ash Wednesday Liturgy. - About the use of ashes and how Christians have a chance to make a fresh start.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - About the story of the Widow’s mite and how this helps us during Lent. - That CAFOD Family Fast Day is a way of giving something up to help others during Lent. - That Christians choose to fast to follow Jesus’ example. Think of ways Christians can try to follow Jesus’ giving to others. - That Lent is a special time for praying, fasting and helping others. - That there are simple connections between Jesus’ time in the desert and Christians praying and fasting.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - The story of Jesus entering Jerusalem. - Some simple words, actions or symbols from the Palm Sunday Liturgy. - The story of Jesus in the temple. - Some of the thoughts and feelings of those who were there when Jesus entered Jerusalem.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - The story of the Last Supper. Recognise Jesus is Christ and Son of God. - That Jesus was telling the disciples what he was going to do. - How Jesus was showing his love to everyone.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U1.4.1. Make simple connections between Jesus’ time in the desert (Lk 4:1-13) and Christians praying and fasting for forty days in Lent. U1.4.2. Recognise that Jesus shows the importance of giving to others, making simple connections with the story of the widow’s mite (Lk 21:1-6) and the season of Lent. R.1.4.2. Considering what they might give up and choose to do to help others.	U1.4.6. Recognise simple connections between the use of ashes and the Christian belief that Lent is an opportunity for a new start. R.1.4.2. Considering what they might give up and choose to do to help others.	U1.4.1. Make simple connections between Jesus’ time in the desert (Lk 4:1-13) and Christians praying and fasting for forty days in Lent. U1.4.2. Recognise that Jesus shows the importance of giving to others, making simple connections with the story of the widow’s mite (Lk 21:1-6) and the season of Lent.	U1.4.3. Correctly sequence the events of the last week of Jesus’ life. D1.4.2. Experiencing and reflecting on music or art that shows how Christian communities in another part of the world celebrate Lent and the last week of Jesus’ life.	U1.4.3. Correctly sequence the events of the last week of Jesus’ life. D1.4.1. Asking ‘I wonder’ questions about the story of the last week of Jesus’ life.

Desert to Garden – Year 1 (Lent 2)					
	Session 1 HEAR/BELIEVE/CELEBRATE/LIVE	Session 2 BELIEVE/CELEBRATE/LIVE	Session 3 HEAR/LIVE	Session 4 HEAR/CELEBRATE	Session 5 HEAR/BELIEVE
Main teaching activity <i>If the school has another short-term planning format, this does not need to be included</i>	- Show image of the desert, ask pupils what this shows? - Introduce variety of pictures and explore/wonder about this story about Jesus might mean. - Read the Scripture ‘Jesus in the desert’. - Discuss the meaning of Jesus in the desert with key questions – where, hat why, how, why. - How long do you think he was there? - Where do you think Jesus went? - Why do you think he went there? - What do you think happened? - How do you think he felt? Why? - Introduce and talk about the word: temptation. - Explain to the pupils that Jesus was in the desert for 40 days and was tempted by the devil. This was the start of Jesus ministry and a way of preparing. He fasted and prayed. - Discuss that Jesus did not give in... he showed these virtues! - We can learn from what Jesus had done in the desert and through Lent, we do the same. We try to fast, we try to pray more, and we try to give to others. This way we can become each of these! - Explain that we can be like Jesus and follow His example through Lent. - Story book Template to retell the story of Jesus in the Desert.	- Discuss what they think Lent is? - Talk about what had happened in the previous Session – Jesus in the desert. Why? - Introduce and look at features – colour: purple? Discuss what we may be preparing for during Lent. Jesus dying on the cross Jesus rising from the dead. Jesus dying so that we can one day go to Heaven. - Explain that it is a time to start again, that we can say sorry. Why might we want to say sorry? We may have done something wrong. We might have hurt others that we love We may have hurt Jesus and God the Father by our actions and words. - Explain that Lent starts with Ash Wednesday. Does anyone know what it is? - Discuss what Ash Wednesday is. - Discuss palms being used on Palm Sunday – Jesus riding into Jerusalem. Discuss Jesus being praised and glorified... everyone singing Hosanna! Jesus is the King! Discuss the palms being burnt to make the ashes for the following Ash Wednesday. - Talk about the words spoken in the Liturgy – pupils can then act this out. - Explain this is a new start, a chance to start again and be better. - What will you do to make a new start? - Draw a picture of themselves and put on their own ashes. Sorry prayers prayer chain	- Go through what is Lent – use the symbols and images to support pupils in discussion (could use actual objects if wanted and explore as a class). - Explore Purple: what is the meaning – penance ad reflection, and where it is used? - Statements – Lent is a time to chance, our chance to say sorry, chance to start again, prayer, remind of Jesus’ actions. - Discuss what we are preparing for and why we may want to say sorry (examples on PowerPoint). - We repent, say sorry and ask for forgiveness from God. - Gospel Scripture: Widow’s Mite - Discuss what happened and what is Jesus wanting us to learn from this. - Jesus wants us to be like the widow. She gave up almost everything that she had to the Temple... to God. Did the rich people do the same? - What do we want to do? Be like Jesus in the desert – 40 days of praying, fasting and giving/helping others. - Carousel activities of how we may do each of these. Examples then given. - Complete Lent Promise activity. - CAFOD: Explore website of what Family Fast Day is and why this is important. - Explore reasons why we may do this. - Fasting means we are giving something up - Helping others like Jesus did - Raising money for people who need it - We give something up to help others - Create a Lenten Promise of how you are going to pray, fast and give to others. - Create a CAFOD invitation to invite others to join in the family fast day.	- Start with explaining that we are going to be thinking about the most important week in the Church’s Year – Holy Week. - Begin with objects such as palms, pictures of a donkey, Jerusalem, cloaks, Hosanna – ask pupils to explore and ask wondering questions. - Explain that today they will be acting out a story about Jesus and when he went into Jerusalem. - Share the Scripture with the pupils (use of Godly Play in wanted). - Discuss the story – questions. - Talk about the thoughts, feelings and words that we hear during the Scripture reading. - Allow pupils time to act this out in groups or as a class – questioning and supporting pupils to recall key points, how people must have felt and why they we do this. Think carefully about Jesus being praised as a King coming into Jerusalem. They are praising him with words such as Hosanna/Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. - Draw pupils to how this is shown during Palm Sunday Liturgy in Church and recall words that we hear in Mass each week. - Take pictures of pupils acting this out for a sequencing activity or model how to create a story map with words, phrases and feelings of different people (like Talk for Writing). - Drama activity to act out Palm Sunday. - Story Map of Jesus entering Jerusalem. - Draw pupils back to adult led discussion: explore the Scripture Reading – Jesus in the Temple. Discuss what this means and why Jesus may have been angry. - Reflect on ways that we can be better during Lent and become closer to God through our praying, fasting and giving to others.	- Begin with a range of religious art showing the Last Supper. Give pupils time to explore the pictures asking their own wondering questions, which they like the most and why. - Is there anything strange? - What do you think is happening? - What questions do you have? - What do you think is being said? Why? - What do you wonder? - Ask pupils what they notice in all of the pictures. - Use a Lectio Divina/Visio Divina style to read the Scriptures to the pupils. - Explore feelings surrounding this event – why is it important? How does it make you feel? What does it tell us about Jesus? - Act out as a class the Last Supper discussing the thoughts and feelings of Jesus and the disciples. Focus on the key words and what Jesus was saying. - Ordering sentences, work in groups to order the story through sentences or pictures. - Model Speech, thoughts and actions of the disciples. - Speech Bubbles/thought bubbles and action bubbles of disciples. Ordering the key sentences of the Last Supper
Adaptive Teaching Examples – Adapt to suit cohort	Close activity style to fill in the blanks for the story. Have a picture of Jesus in the middle of the page and write/cut and stick words around Jesus that show his virtues.	- Verbal prayer of saying sorry – record using technology. - Images of how they can show they are sorry vs images that don’t show this – sort into piles and use the ‘correct’ ones to add to their prayer chain.	- Draw their own image of how they will pray, fast and share. - Verbal prayer of their Lenten promise – record using technology. - Cloze activity style to fill in the blanks for the story.	- Stick in the photos of the pupils acting out Jesus entering Jerusalem and order. - Use playdoh/clay/Lego/puppets to act out the story of Palm Story.	- Use recording devices to get pupils to respond as a disciple/Jesus. - Teacher scribes responses. - Order pictures rather than sentences.

Desert to Garden – Year 1 (Lent 2)					
	Session 1 HEAR/BELIEVE/CELEBRATE/LIVE	Session 2 BELIEVE/CELEBRATE/LIVE	Session 3 HEAR/LIVE	Session 4 HEAR/CELEBRATE	Session 5 HEAR/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	Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity, true God and true man, and the saviour of the world. Temptation is an attraction or pull—either from outside or within—to act contrary to right reason and God's commandments. Fasting is a spiritual practice of penance and self-discipline where a person limits their food intake.	Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and repentance preparing Catholics for Easter. Believers receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads as a humbling reminder of human mortality and the need for spiritual renewal.	CAFOD stands for the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. It is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, an international development charity, and a member of the global Caritas confederation.	Palm Sunday —officially named Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord—is the final Sunday of Lent and the official start of Holy Week. It marks Jesus Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem and simultaneously foreshadows His upcoming suffering and crucifixion.	The Last Supper is the final meal that Jesus Christ shared with his apostles on the night before his crucifixion, during which he instituted the Holy Eucharist, established the Catholic priesthood, and gave a new meaning to the Jewish Passover.
Resources	Scripture	Paper chains Ashes	CAFOD Website information	Palms/green paper Cloak Costumes	Bread Juice
Diversity Links	Exploration of pictures of Jesus in the desert from different countries.		CAFOD links for international responses during Lent.	Range of art and videos that show exposure from different countries.	Crucifixion art work from around the world: EXAMPLES.
Checking for understanding (summative assessment)	Do pupils recognise one of the stories that they have heard, recognising these are religious accounts from the Gospel of Luke?	Do pupils recognise how Jesus is a light for all people and how they can bring light to their own families?	Do pupils recognise how people celebrate Candlemas?	Do pupils recognise some of the people that encounter Jesus and recognise that he is special?	Do pupils recognise some simple connections between Jesus’ announcement of his mission and how Christians are called to tell people about God’s love today?

Desert to Garden – Year 1 (Lent 2)					
	Session 6	Session 7	Session 8	Session 9 and Session 10 RECALL AND RESPOND (DISCERN AND RESPOND)	
	HEAR/BELIEVE	BELIEVE/CELEBRATE/LIVE	HEAR/BELIEVE	ASSESSMENT KNOWLEDGE CAPTURE	CELEBRATE
Learning Focus	HEAR / BELIEVE To know that Jesus suffered and died on the cross to show His love for everyone.	BELIEVE To recognise and know how other communities around the world celebrate Lent and the final week of Jesus’ life.	HEAR / BELIEVE To understand that the Angel brought a message from God and is a sign of Jesus as the Son of God.	Revision of Holy Week Recall Pupils will answer in the Big Question: How does Lent prepare us for Jesus’ death and resurrection? This could be presented in several ways.	
Recall and Retrieval	Ping Pong Questions. Pupils ping a question to the other team about the Last Supper. They answer and pong a question back.	- What does our school and parish do during Lent? - How are we trying to follow Jesus’ example?	Revisit Holy Week and sequence the events	Who said what? Pupils to match the Scripture speech to who said it! Key phrases/images matching activity.	
Sequence of Knowledge throughout the Lesson	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - That Jesus died on the cross. - Jesus rose from the dead. That Jesus showed his love to everyone on Earth and reflect on this.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: How Christians in another part of the world celebrate Lent and the last week of Jesus’ life.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - The story of the angel’s message. - That angels bring God’s messages on earth. - That the message is a sign of that Jesus is the Son of God. - Reflect and know Jesus’ resurrection.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: The events from Holy Week.	Key knowledge Pupils will know: - That Lent is a time of praying, fasting and sharing. Know that - Lent is a time for us to change, and Christians have an opportunity to start over. - That Jesus’ death and resurrection give us new life.
Key Skills/Disciplinatory Knowledge	U1.4.2. Recognise that Jesus shows the importance of giving to others, making simple connections with the story of the widow’s mite (Lk 21:1-6) and the season of Lent.	U1.4.5. Recognise that the Church teaches that Jesus suffered, died, and rose again.	R1.4.3. Reflect on what they know about Jesus including the events of the last week of Jesus’ life and his resurrection.		
Main Teaching activity <i>If the school has another short-term planning format, this does not need to be included</i>	- Begin by giving pupils pictures of the Stations of the Cross to order. Go around the pupils to discuss what they can see, what do they know, what does it show, how do you think Jesus felt? - Go through the order of the stations together – recognising that Jesus suffered so much, that people recognised that Jesus was the Son of God and that he died on the cross for us all because he loves us so much. - Go through the key questions together: How many stations? How many times did Jesus fall? Who was there? How did he feel? What words were said? Why did Jesus die on the cross? - Jesus loves us so much. - Jesus suffered so that we can go to Heaven. - We know that God loves us on Earth and in Heaven. - Get pupils to freeze frame some of the stations and talk about the feelings and actions happening at the time. - Guess the station of the cross – pupils to have pictures to decide which station it is showing. - Reflect on the importance of Jesus’ crucifixion. Pupils to create a piece of art of	- There are so many people around the world who prepare and celebrate Lent and Jesus’ last week too! - Look at a picture of all the flags in the world – can you find any that you know? Where might your family be from? - Do you think everyone celebrates in the same way? - How do you think it might be different? - Why do you think it may be different? - Remember... we are all Christians with faith in God. We are all God’s pupils. We may show it in a different way. We share the same faith. We all praise and thank God. - Listen to 3 pieces of music from around the world: pupils can complete reflection sheet if wanted. Pupils can work in groups to create a dance to the piece of music. - Explore 4 different events that are shared around the world. Pupils can use this to create a piece of D&T. - Music Reflection sheet on variety of music - D&T activity on the events (e.g. Kite making).	- Start with an envelope with an important message in. On the front, an angel shape. - What is an angel? Talk about what an angel is (pupils should remember that they are messengers from God from before Christmas). - Explain God would send the angels. - They would come to deliver a message. - They came to tell humans about something from God. - They are God’s messengers. - Pupils to have a piece of Scripture between two and read along with Teacher reading. What did the Angel say? Pupils to find it in the Scripture... HE IS RISEN! - Get pupils to find the description of the angels – as they aren’t described with wings! - What else did the Angels come to say... The Son of God has risen from the dead. - Could take the time to freeze frame parts of the Scripture with the pupils. - Spread the message – get pupils to go around the room telling people that Jesus, the Son of God, has risen from the dead! Pupils to understand that the Angels are a sign that Jesus, the Son of God is alive!!	- Opportunities to revise the unit and what they have learnt. Starting with Jesus in the desert, what is Lent, Ash Wednesday, how we prepare for Jesus’ death and resurrection through praying, fasting and almsgiving, discussion on how this is shown around the world, and forming into Holy Week. - Pupils to have key questions to respond to, to show their understanding of the meaning of Lent. Share as a class. - Pupils to talk about the order of Holy Week/Last week of Jesus’ life and this could be shared and modelled on the Whiteboard or Washing line the events before pupils could do this themselves. Revision Questions Holy Week ordering pictures. Question to answer: How can we prepare for Jesus’ death and resurrection? Pupils to show this in writing and drawing. - Pupils to take part in a celebration of the word which could be prepared in class or as a Key Stage. - Example given of the Stations of the Cross with prayers. - Pupils to be given the opportunity to answer the respond questions. Complete the respond questions before the celebration of the word.	

Desert to Garden – Year 1 (Lent 2)					
	Session 6	Session 7	Session 8	Session 9 and Session 10 RECALL AND RESPOND (DISCERN AND RESPOND)	
	HEAR/BELIEVE	BELIEVE/CELEBRATE/LIVE	HEAR/BELIEVE	ASSESSMENT KNOWLEDGE CAPTURE	CELEBRATE
	Jesus on the cross – pupils to what is shows and why Jesus died on the cross for us. - Stations of the Cross ordering activity - Stations of the Cross - Artwork and reflection.		- Drama – pupils to act out the message as a class. Postcard as the Angel - iPad – pupils to create their messages by videoing themselves sharing the Good news!		
Adaptive teaching examples – Adapt to suit cohort	Order the Stations of the Cross as a group activity – adult led or on their own (reduce the number of stations to order).	- Work as a group to make their own music. - Adult led group work. - Resources to be ready cut if need be.	- Ipads – pupils to create their messages by videoing themselves sharing the Good news! - Continue with drama as a group. - Use playdoh/clay/Lego/ puppets to act out the message.	- Provide a planning template with sections already labelled (Gather, Word, Response, Mission). - Use prayer-writing frames with prompts linked to the Big Questions. - Offer a word bank containing key religious vocabulary from the unit. - Provide examples of simple prayers to support pupils who need a model. Use a checklist of required elements so pupils can monitor completion of their plan.	
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?				
Key Vocabulary and Definition	The Stations of the Cross is a 14-step Catholic prayer and spiritual pilgrimage that retraces Jesus Christ’s final journey carrying the cross to Calvary. It centres on meditation on Christ’s suffering, spiritual companionship with Jesus, and uniting personal daily struggles to His sacrifice.	Lent is a 40-day solemn season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends before the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. It is a time of spiritual preparation and penance to commemorate the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, leading up to the celebration of Easter.	Palm Sunday , officially called Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, marks the triumphant arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem, the beginning of Holy Week, and the final Sunday of Lent. It bridges the gap between the joy of welcoming Christ as king and the solemn sorrow of his impending crucifixion.		
Resources	Station of the Cross Pictures from different cultures.	Music and Art from different communities. Events from different communities (pictures).	Envelopes		
Diversity Links	Stations of the Cross found from different countries: EXAMPLES in PowerPoint.	A variety of communities from around the world shared with actions and music: Spain https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQKkVSqAO2A Italy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83kndEsHqMc South Africa https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSw57M1O6gk&t=87s	Religious art reflecting diverse communities of the Angel’s message.		
Checking for understanding (summative assessment)	Do pupils recognise know the story of the crucifixion?	- Do pupils recognise that different communities around the world celebrate Lent differently? - Can pupils remember that we pray, fast and give to others during Lent?	- Do pupils recognise know the message that the Angels gave? - Can pupils say that the Angels are messengers of God and show that Jesus is the Son of God?	- Do pupils recognise sequence the story of Holy Week? - Can pupils reflect on why this is the most important week in the Church’s year?	