



Nottingham Roman Catholic
Diocesan Education Service



Desert to
Garden

Branch 4

Y1 Teachers' Guide

Version 1: September 2026

This booklet is offered as a theological guide for teachers. Although the information provides some context for the whole branch, it will be most useful for teachers as they deliver the first few sessions and lessons within the branch.

Teachers' Guide: Branch Four: Galilee to Jerusalem – Y1

Notes for teachers

- For pupils, the focus of this branch is to learn a little about the season of Lent as a time to prepare for Easter and to know the story of the last week of Jesus' life, his death, and resurrection.
- The Resurrection is revisited in the next branch, so this branch concludes with the women meeting the angel by the empty tomb. As in branch two, the visible angelic presence points to the divinity of Christ and to the message of God the Father, Creator of all that is seen and unseen. In the life of many pupils,
- Easter is about chocolate and is a lesser festival than Christmas. Introducing the pupils to Lent allows them to understand how Christians prepare for Easter as the high point of their year. As in branch two, religious education lessons are not the sum of pupils' experience in learning about the seasons of Lent and Easter.
- Pupils will experience Lent traditions as part of the school's prayer life and through the charitable activities in Lent as part of a school's Catholic life. In this branch, the narrative strand of St Luke's gospel is paused to tell the story of Jesus' Temptation in the wilderness to facilitate pupil's learning about Lent.
- Teachers may want to reorder this account into branch three, depending on when Lent begins.
- The dramatic events of the last week of Jesus' life, Holy Week for Christians, are a powerful narrative. Jesus goes from being hailed as the Messiah on Sunday to being crucified as a blasphemer on Friday.
- It is essential pupils experience reflective time to think about these stories and what they mean in the context of the previous branches. Jesus' life shows his humanity alongside his divinity. Through the scripture stories they have heard, pupils have learned about the importance of forgiveness, how an encounter with Jesus changes some people forever, and how Jesus gives himself to others.
- The story of the end of Jesus' earthly life and his resurrection from the dead form part of this narrative. Pupils aged five or six may not yet understand words such as sin, but the stories they have encountered show how Jesus draws people to himself and through him to God the Father. In suffering and dying, Jesus bears the pain of our sins, our turning away from God.
- In Jesus, God knows what it is to experience human degradation and suffering, and through Jesus, humanity is called to know the love of God on Earth and in heaven (CCC 622-623). It is a lot to take in as an adult!
- Children are at the beginning of their learning journey, and their first points of learning are to know that Jesus' life story does not end with death but with resurrection.

General guidance: Pupils of all ages should be aware of the Bible as the sacred text of the Christian faith, and teachers should reference a Catholic translation in religious education lessons. As teachers select age-appropriate texts to share with pupils, it is important to note that some children's texts still contain antisemitic tropes that portray the Jewish people as responsible for the death of Jesus. This is contrary to Church teaching (CCC 597).

Wherever possible, resources for teaching should always look to diverse representations from the Universal Catholic Church. Teachers must teach the RED content through the lenses of Hear, Believe, Celebrate, and Live but do not have to follow the lenses in sequence. Key vocabulary is provided for guidance, not assessment purposes.

Branch 4

CCC Links	Knowledge lens content
Temptation in the wilderness YC 88 CCC 538-540 Holy Week YCfK 31, 35 YC 96-103 CCC 585, 610, 623 The empty tomb YCfK 37, YC 105, CCC 640 Lent YC 186 CCC 540 Resurrection YCfK 37-38, YC 105 CCC 640-644, 656 Lent YC 186 CCC 540, 1095 Lenten observance YCfK 135, YC 151, 345 CCC 538, 1434, 1438, 2043	Hear By the end of this unit of study pupils will have studied the following key texts: • Jesus enters Jerusalem (Lk 19:28-38) • Jesus teaches in the temple (Lk 19:47-48) • The widow's mite (Lk 21:1-6) • The last supper (Lk 22:7-23) • The Crucifixion and death of Jesus (Lk 23:33-46) • The angel's message (Lk 24:1-8) For Lent: • Jesus is tempted in the desert for 40 days (Lk 4:1-13) Believe By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches: • That Lent is a special time for praying, fasting, and helping others as Jesus taught us to do. • Jesus died and rose again. Celebrate By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: • Some simple words, actions, and symbols from the Ash Wednesday liturgy and the Palm Sunday liturgy. • Lent is when Christians prepare for Easter by thinking about how they could be closer to God by praying, giving up things that are not needed (fasting), and giving to those in need. • Experience music or art that reflects how Christian communities in another part of the world celebrate Lent and the last week of Jesus' life. Live By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: • Fasting in Lent is a way of giving things up to help others and for Catholics, CAFOD Family Fast Day is a way of responding to this call. • Fasting, praying, and giving to others are ways of following Jesus' example.
Key vocabulary	
Temptation Last Supper Crucifixion Resurrection Ash Wednesday Palm Sunday Lent Easter Family Fast Day	

