



Galilee to
Jerusalem

Branch 3

Y3 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 Three: Galilee to Jerusalem – Y3

Notes for teachers

- In this branch, pupils will encounter the Gospel of St Matthew. Matthew's gospel is divided into seven books. The first contains the birth and infancy narratives, the last describes Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection, and the five books in between give an account of the life and ministry of Jesus. In parts of this gospel, St Matthew gathers similar stories and accounts as they all point to the same message.
- The scriptural texts studied in this branch draw from two sections: a narrative section on ten miracles and a sermon on parables. Jesus may not have performed ten miracles in sequence or told parables one after the other, but St Matthew puts them together as they all indicate a greater truth about building the Kingdom of God.
- Parables are one of Jesus' teaching methods. In using them, he prompts listeners to think differently. Who would think a kingdom could be like a seed? He roots many of his parables in his time's domestic and agricultural habits, which may need some explaining to pupils today.
- For example, in the parable of the sower, we see a farmer so generous with expensive seed he lets it fall onto the path or stony ground. Such an idea would have captured the imagination of an audience who would be more familiar with carefully preparing soil and sowing expensive seed only where it would grow. As a literary form, they are story puzzles which would prompt conversation about what Jesus meant, a conversation that continues to this day.
- The miracles Jesus performs are signs of the kingdom of God. On a human level, they show his compassion. As the Son of God, he understands the possibilities of the created world and that the experience of human suffering will pass away in the kingdom of God. So, at a 'cosmic' level, the miracles are signs of his power and ability to prompt people into a new way of thinking. In the Our Father, Jesus invites people to pray for God's kingdom to come.
- The miracles show that when a person's heart is fully opened to the possibilities of faith, as with the centurion, lives can be transformed. Pupils should not expect to understand miracles but rather to ask questions about how they call Christians to a deeper understanding of how to build the kingdom of God or, to put it another way, to experience an epiphany.
- Epiphany means to reveal. Following the Christmas season, the Sunday gospels cover a series of epiphanies in the account of his baptism and the wedding feast at Cana. In the Magi, St Matthew shows that all nations welcome the Good News of salvation through the incarnation of Jesus. The Magi bow down before him. He is Lord. He is the saviour of the world.
- St Matthew is writing for a community with Jewish heritage, whereas St Luke emphasises the recognition of Jesus by the poor shepherds. The gifts that the Magi bring point to Jesus as king and the one who will proclaim the kingdom of God.
- Teachers may wish to revise the Sacrament of Reconciliation from the previous year if some pupils are being prepared for this sacrament in their parish at this time.

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



CCC Links	Knowledge lens content
Miracles YC 91 CCC 547-549 Parables CCC 54 Magi CCC 528	Hear By the end of this unit of study, pupils will hear the following key texts: Miracles, either: • Cure of the centurion's servant (Matt 8:5-13) or • Cure of a paralytic (Matt 9:1-8) Parables, either: • Parable of the Sower (Matt 13:4-9) • Parable of the Sower explained (Matt 13:10-17) or • Parable of the yeast (Matt 13:33) or • Parable of the treasure and of the pearl (Matt 13:44-46) For Epiphany: • The visit of the Magi (Matt 2:1-12)

CCC Links	Knowledge lens content
Magi CCC 528 Kingdom YC 89 CCC 541-546 Miracles YC 91 CCC 547-549, 515 Parables CCC 546 Our Father YCfK 149 YC 517 CCC 2794-2796	Believe By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches: • The Adoration of the Magi shows that all people are seeking Jesus and he comes for the whole world. • The kingdom of God begins in all those who open their hearts to God's love. • The miracles that Jesus worked expressed his love for all people and were signs that the kingdom of God was beginning. • Jesus' parables to show the choices people must make to accept his invitation to the kingdom. Celebrate By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: • Praying the 'Our Father' helps Christians to continue to build the kingdom begun with Jesus. Live By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: • About the life of a saint who worked to build the kingdom of God.¹⁵¹

Key vocabulary	
Kingdom of God miracle parable Magi Adoration Epiphany	

