



Nottingham Roman Catholic
Diocesan Education Service



Desert to
Garden

Branch 4

Y6 Teachers' Guide

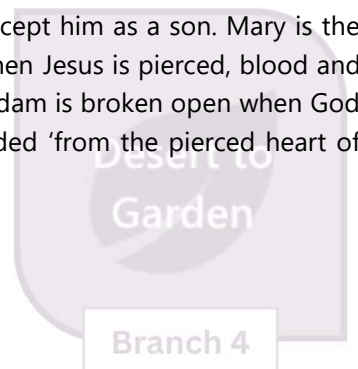
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This booklet is offered as a theological guide for teachers. Although the information provides some context for the whole branch, it will be most useful for teachers as they deliver the first few sessions and lessons within the branch.

Teachers' Guide: Branch Four: Galilee to Jerusalem – Y6

Notes for teachers

- As the Church moves through the season of Lent, pupils will look at the rich symbolism of St John's account of the end of Jesus' earthly life. St John's gospel looks to bring out the significance of all that Jesus did in light of his resurrection, though this is not understood by those present at the time.
- Pupils should recognise from the previous branch that the narrative works on two levels: an account of what happened and a revelation of Jesus' divinity. They are encouraged to spend time studying at least one of the scripture passages read in greater detail, some examples of which are suggested below.
- However, these are not the only symbolic meanings to reflect upon, and pupils should be encouraged to reflect on the stories personally.
- Additionally, St John uses images of light and darkness or water to increase the poetic richness of his text. St John's passion is the central narrative at the Good Friday service.
- Teachers may want to use this reading to bring to life the drama St John's account provokes.
- In the anointing at Bethany (Jn 12:1-11), St John sets in motion the events that will lead to Judas' betrayal of Jesus and the Crucifixion. Lazarus is present at the meal, which must have been a talking point! Mary anoints the feet of Jesus with an expensive oil which Judas sees as a betrayal of their mission to the poor. However, readers know the anointing signifies Jesus' kingship and preparation for his burial.
- As with the gift of myrrh, it foreshadows what is to come. Foot-washing was part of Jewish life and religious ritual and washing feet and hands before a meal was a common practice. Priests washed before entering the sanctuary (Ex 30:18-20).
- Having had his own feet anointed days before, Jesus acts as a servant by washing his disciples' feet. In this action, Jesus sets an expectation for Christian leadership. He also shows an extraordinary image of God.
- The disciples, especially Peter, do not understand what is happening. Pupils could consider the symbolism of water and the humility of Jesus. They may also notice that St John's Last Supper account differs from the other gospels' accounts.
- In St John's account of the Last Supper, the agony in the garden that occurs in the other three gospels is not described. Jesus knows 'that the Father had put everything into his hands' (Jn 13:3), and he follows the Father's will, which contrasts with Adam's defiance of God's will. Instead, Jesus shares wisdom and insights with his disciples, including a new commandment (Jn 13:33-34) that shows the way to true discipleship is the love of neighbour.
- Jesus has just demonstrated service by washing their feet, but still, Peter does not understand what is being asked of him. Peter still relies on himself, offering to lay down his life for Jesus, then attacking one of the High Priest's servants with a sword.
- The arrest (Jn 18:1-11) happens dramatically after dark. Jesus 'the lamb of God' (Jn 1:30) is arrested on the evening of the day of preparation when Jews would slaughter the Passover lamb. St John presents Jesus as the Paschal lamb, which links back to Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac and with the first Passover meal in Exodus (12:46), where the lamb's bone remains unbroken.
- These are short examples of how pupils could explore a close reading of one of the gospel texts. All pupils should notice that John begins and ends Jesus' ministry with the figure of Mary. She calls Jesus to start his ministry by turning water into wine and stands by Jesus as he addresses her from the cross.
- Jesus invites the beloved disciple to accept Mary as his mother and Mary to accept him as a son. Mary is the mother of all Christians as Jesus entrusts his followers to her from the cross. When Jesus is pierced, blood and water flow from his side. At this moment, St John invites readers to recall that Adam is broken open when God creates woman, and Jesus is broken open at that moment the Church is founded 'from the pierced heart of Christ' (CCC 766).



CCC Links	Knowledge lens content
Anointing YC Holy Thursday YCFK p63 YC 99 CCC 610-611 Pilate YCFK 32-34 Crucifixion YCFK 35-36, YC 101 CCC 613617, 622-623 Last Supper YC 99, CCC 610-611 Mary YCFK 150, YC 85, CCC 963966, 973 Holy Thursday Mass YC 99, CCC 610-611	Hear By the end of this unit of study, pupils will hear the following key texts: • The anointing at Bethany (Jn 12:1-11) • Jesus washes his disciples' feet (Jn 13:1-17) • First farewell discourse (Jn 13:33-38) • The arrest of Jesus (Jn 18:1-11) • Jesus before Pilate (Jn 18:28-40, 19:4-6) • The Crucifixion (Jn 19:17-22) • Jesus and his mother (Jn 19:25-27) • The death of Jesus (Jn 19:28-37) Believe By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches that: • At the Last Supper Jesus showed his love by washing his disciples' feet. • Jesus showed his love by dying on the cross. On the cross he took on the guilt and pain of the whole world to bring the world back home to God's perfect love. (See Article 4 Apostles' Creed.) • Mary is the mother of all Christians. Celebrate By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: • That Mass on Holy Thursday recalls Jesus' actions at the Last Supper, including washing the feet of the apostles. • The Stations of the Cross are a prayerful reflection on Christ's journey to the cross. Live By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: • The Stations of the Cross are prayed by Christians around the world and model the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. • Explore different representations of the Stations of the Cross or prayers of the stations in different places in the world, e.g., Via Crucis in Rome, the high stations in Lourdes. • Encounter some artistic representations of the Holy Week as depicted in the gospel of John, for example, Sieger Koder 'The washing of feet', or extracts of St John's passion by Bach.
Key vocabulary	
Bethany anoint discourse Pilate Crucifixion Holy Week Stations of the Cross	

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