

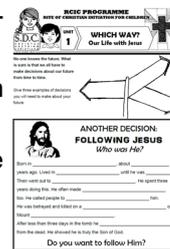
Catechists' Notes

PROGRAMME: This is a catechism programme for the Sacraments of Initiation especially Baptism, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Such programmes are sometimes referred to as **RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION for CHILDREN (RCIC)** but other names for similar groups and programmes are used in different parishes. These are usually groups of older children and young people of different ages and who are not part of the main First Communion programme of the parish. The way the Sessions of this programme are organised is aimed for groups of children who prepare for Baptism at the Easter Vigil followed with a few more sessions after Easter and the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation some time later around May or June. Adjustments may be needed in lesson sequencing if a different pathway is used. Sometimes children on this programme also prepare for CONFIRMATION. These resources in this section do not include preparation for CONFIRMATION. To view resources and planning for other sessions for Confirmation see another section of our website (www.sdc.me.uk/confirmation).

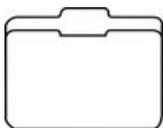
PRAYERS: Prayer should naturally be a core component of this Programme. It is crucial that time is set aside at each session for the group to pray together and to learn new prayers. See PRAYER BOOKLET for list of prayers children should learn or be familiar with. Children should be encouraged to learn the basic prayers by heart and use the Prayer Book for their personal prayers at home too.



WORKSHEETS: Worksheets for children are designed to be printed out as a two sided document and handed out to children to complete at home ideally with guidance from parents. They include spaces where children can jot down notes and information or make their reflections. Naturally they could also be used during the sessions as and when needed.



FOLDERS/PORTFOLIO: Children should be encouraged to complete the worksheets regularly and to keep them in a folder to build a portfolio of work and reflections as the programme develops.



PARENTS: Involving parents in a programme like this is of utmost importance. Apart from planning for parents meetings to discuss the key elements of the programme parents should be encouraged to talk to the children at home about each session and help them complete the tasks on the worksheet. We suggest that at least 2 parents' meetings are held along the course.



LITURGICAL SEASONS: As the programme develops remember to make links with special days or liturgical seasons such as ADVENT, LENT, Feasts of Our Lady etc. Prayers and reflections related to the Liturgy could be included in the Final prayers too.



DIFFERENTIATION: Remember that different children learn in different ways and at different speeds. Care must be taken to provide opportunities for each child in the group to learn and contribute to the group according to their abilities.



LINKS/REVISION: All units in this programme are part of an integrated programme. It is very important therefore for catechists to make links with other units/topics covered in the programme and also to revise key points already covered rather than approaching the programme as a series of units in isolation from each other. Revision, reminders and creative links help reinforce understanding of key themes.

