



## RCIC PROGRAMME

### Unit 4 - WE CELEBRATE (1)



# The Sacraments of Initiation

### AIMS

1. To understand that as Christians we celebrate in many different ways.
2. To introduce the celebration of the Mass as our main celebration.
3. To identify and understand the meaning and importance of the first three sacraments and the signs and symbols related to them.



### KEY WORDS

- Sacraments
- Celebrations
- Baptism
- Eucharist
- Confirmation

### INTRODUCTION

- Ask children to give examples of what they do when they are happy. They usually want to share their happiness with others and **celebrate**. Invite the children to give examples of special occasions when they had celebrations, parties, etc in their families. Explain that in the Church we do the same - we often gather to celebrate. Today we briefly look at some of our main celebrations.

### RESOURCES

- Images/Posters for each of the sacraments of Initiation.
- Various items (or images of) used in the celebration of sacraments: *Example:* water; white garment, candle etc.

### MAIN

- Explain that the most important celebration is the **Holy Mass**: the celebration of the **Eucharist**. Briefly invite the children to provide examples how we celebrate at Mass: We sing, we pray, we share peace, we receive the body of Christ (for those who have already made their First Holy Communion). Say that we will be learning about the Mass later on in other sessions (Units 10-11).
- Also explain that there are so many other celebrations during the year. Invite children to mention any special dates or feast days of saints or of Our Lady that they know of. We will also be looking at these celebrations in another future session (Unit 9)
- Introduce the idea of the **Sacraments**: special **celebrations** that we have in our Catholic faith. When we receive any of these sacraments we move closer to Jesus. We show we want to be and remain his friends. Show images/posters showing the seven sacraments (see resources section). Say that today we are going to look at the first three sacraments, namely BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION. Together, these three sacraments are called the Sacraments of Initiation.
- Go through each of these three sacraments. Briefly talk about each of them to explain what happens in each of them. (See PowerPoint on the Sacraments.) Use captions showing key words, images or signs and symbols to match with the poster of each of the sacraments. Ensure children understand the purpose of each Sacrament and who it is intended for. Also explain that some are only celebrated once in our life (e.g. Baptism and Confirmation) while others we can receive regularly (e.g. Reconciliation and Holy Communion).
  1. **BAPTISM**: We become God's Children. We are now part of God's family: Christians. We receive the Holy Spirit and the original sin is forgiven. Symbols/signs used: Water, Easter Candle; White Garment etc (See worksheet for more details) One way of talking about this sacrament is through roleplay. Children can take roles of parents, Godparent, priest etc as the catechist talks through what happens at Baptism.
  2. **EUCCHARIST**: We receive the Body of Christ. Symbols/signs used: Bread and wine. We need to be free from big sins to receive communion and have fasted for an hour.
  3. **CONFIRMATION**: We receive the Holy Spirit. We become adult Christians. Symbols/signs used: Laying of Hands, Flame (Holy Spirit), oil of chrism.

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Remind that this year children in the group will be celebrating Baptism and Holy Communion.
- Lead a group prayer asking God to help everyone in the group in this time of preparation.

### NOTES

There is a Powerpoint presentation on the 7 sacraments on the SDC website. You may find it helpful to use as you go through each of the sacraments or for revision. See the link in Resources section on [www.sdc.me.uk](http://www.sdc.me.uk)

### ACTIVITY

- Roleplay activity while discussing Baptism.
- Worksheet 4: Hand out Worksheet for this session and talk about the different parts children have to complete at home.