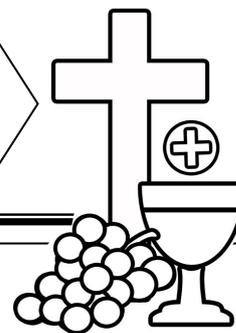




GUIDANCE NOTES FOR THE CATECHIST



PROGRAMME: This First Communion and Reconciliation programme is made up of 16 sessions. For each unit there are session plans for catechists, a worksheet for children as well as other resources such as flash-cards, images and also PowerPoint presentations. The length of the First Holy Communion/ Reconciliation programme varies from parish to parish. Catechists therefore may need to make changes to suit their parish needs. Our resources could be adapted for a longer or shorter course with fewer or more sessions. Care must be taken however not to leave out core aspects in the preparation for these two important sacraments.

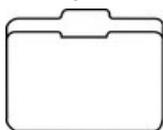
PRAYERS: Prayer should naturally be a core component of this Programme. It is crucial that time is set aside at each session for the group to pray together and to learn new prayers. See PRAYER BOOKLET for list of prayers children should learn or be familiar with. Children should be encouraged to learn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



WORKSHEETS: Worksheets for children also include a second sheet with Bible passages and/or other readings as well as a space for children to write their own prayer or reflection at home. Worksheets 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. Naturally they could also be used during the session as and when



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.



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.



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.



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.

