



## RCIC PROGRAMME

### Unit 9 - WE CELEBRATE (3)



# The Liturgical Year

### AIMS

1. To reflect on special days and seasons of the Church's Liturgical year.
2. To be able to identify and understand the meaning and importance of special feasts during the Liturgical year.



### KEY WORDS

- Liturgical Year
- Feasts
- Seasons

### INTRODUCTION

- Remind children about Christian celebrations especially the celebrations of the Sacraments discussed in Sessions 5 and 6. Remind that our main celebration is the Holy Mass or Eucharist and say that we will be talking about this in our next two sessions.

### RESOURCES

- Poster with diagram of Liturgical year or Power-Point Presentation.
- Vestments - Different colours

### MAIN

- Introduce this session's theme: the **LITURGICAL YEAR**. Explain that this does not follow the calendar year but starts with the first Sunday of Advent and follows through to the end when we celebrate the feast of Christ the King.
- Explain that during the Church's Liturgical year there are many special days or seasons. Each of these has a special meaning and as Christians we celebrate them every year - hence the importance of knowing what each feast or season represents.
- Also explain that special colours are associated with different seasons, namely:
  - ⇒ **PURPLE**: Advent and Lent. (usually also used for funeral services)
  - ⇒ **WHITE**: Celebrations such as Christmas and the Weeks after, Easter Sunday etc.
  - ⇒ **GREEN**: Ordinary Time.
  - ⇒ **RED**: Special feasts of the Holy Spirit like Pentecost Sunday and feasts of Martyrs.
- Talk about the diagram on the front side of Worksheet 9. Colour in the different parts using the 4 colours shown above. Explain that the priest wears these colours at mass too and show chasubles if available. (also see PowerPoint presentation that can be used with this session).
- Move on to the second side of Worksheet 9. Invite children to write brief notes and talk about each of the Feasts or seasons in the list (see PowerPoint slides), example:
  - ⇒ **ADVENT** - 4 Sundays before Christmas - We wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus.
  - ⇒ **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** - 8th December - Mary conceived without sin.
  - ⇒ **CHRISTMAS** - 25th December - The Birth of Jesus.
  - ⇒ *Etc.*

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Use the Prayer Book.
- Create a prayerful atmosphere.
- Introduce the group to a few prayers including some that children are not familiar with.

### NOTES

See PowerPoint Presentation on the Church's Year on [www.sdc.me.uk/resources](http://www.sdc.me.uk/resources)

### ACTIVITY

- Hand out Worksheet 9. Children to complete diagram on side 1 and table on side 2 as the session develops and the various feast days and seasons are discussed.