

YEAR LEVEL	3 & 4
TITLE	The Sacraments of Initiation
STRAND	Sacraments
SUGGESTED DURATION	8-10 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	<p>Why do we have Sacraments?</p> <p>How can the Sacraments influence my life?</p>



Unit Focus

In this unit students will be introduced to the idea that when the community of believers – the Church – celebrates a sacrament, God is present in the celebration.

This unit focuses on the place of the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – as the basis for Christian life in the Catholic Tradition. These Sacraments are received at a person's entry or initiation into the Church which is a Christian community.

Achievement Standards

By the end of Year **Four**:

Students identify and describe the Sacraments of Initiation within the Church. They explore the symbols and rituals associated with these sacraments.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. Investigate how the Sacrament of Initiation as Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist celebrate initiation into the Catholic community.
2. Name and explore the symbols and rituals associated with the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
3. Understand that the Eucharist is a special meal recalling and celebrating the events of the Last Supper.
4. Explain the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist in the Catholic community.

Key Understandings for Students

- The three Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Symbols and ritual are key elements of the Sacraments of Initiation.

- Baptism is the primary Sacrament of Initiation by which an adult or child is received into the Church, the community of faith.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation is closely linked to the Sacrament of Baptism.
- The gifts of the Spirit are given at Baptism and affirmed at Confirmation.
- Jesus is present when we celebrate Eucharist: in the community which comes together to worship; in the priest who presides in Jesus' name; in Scripture; and in the blessed bread and wine.
- As Eucharistic people we are called to share the spirit of God's love in community.
- Eucharist is commonly referred to as Mass or as the Liturgy.

Student Context

As students move through this level, their understanding of themselves, their community and the wider world expands. For the Level Three and Four student, the dominant form of learning is "hands-on experience" and this presents a challenge in understanding the sacramental system of the Church. However, it is also a time for students to respond to, and have a natural appreciation for, rituals and symbols.

Making use of rituals will allow students to experience a sense of the sacred and appropriate liturgies can be extremely educative. Involving students in the preparation of the sacred space, music, prayers, readings and ritual actions greatly enhances the educational value of liturgies. Language is a great tool for learning and Level Three and Four students can reflect on personal experiences and recount experiences of family and community's use of gifts.

Through the teaching and learning strategies, students can develop an appreciation of the Sacraments as celebrating the welcoming and healing presence of God in the Church community.

Theological Background for Teachers

- Sacraments of Initiation include Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Baptism is the beginning of the sacramental life for Christians. Through Baptism, Christians enter the life of Christ and become members of his Church and come to participate in its liturgy, are open to receive the other Sacraments.
- Confirmation, which originally accompanied Baptism in the one celebration, is the second sacrament of initiation. It more fully confirms Christians in the life of Christ through the gift of the Holy Spirit first received in Baptism. It strengthened them in the faith and life of the Church and prepares them for the Eucharist.
- The Eucharist is the third sacrament of initiation and completes the initiation process. Christians express the fullness of belonging to the Body of Christ, the Church, by receiving the Body of Christ in communion with the whole Church.
- All of us have unique gifts. Through Baptism and Confirmation we are called by the Spirit to share these gifts. As we do so we are building the Body of Christ and so fulfil the Church's mission. It is through people faithfully following the Spirit that the Church serves the world.
- Christianity is centred on life in the community enlivened by the Holy Spirit. The Christian community focuses on relationships. Our sacramental celebrations contribute to sustaining this community and developing their faith.
- In Confirmation we further celebrate our initiation into the Christian community. The renewal of the Baptismal promises and the sealing or completion of the gift of the Holy Spirit received in Baptism,

intimately link the two sacraments. By sharing fully in the Eucharist we celebrate who we already are – the Body of Christ.

- As people of a faith community we strive to grow in our relationship with the community of persons in the Trinity – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The parish community provides a basis for further interaction and service to the wider community. The fully initiated Christian, empowered by the Spirit, is urged to work towards justice and compassion for others.
- The gifts of the Spirit are rooted in scripture. These are special gifts which enable us to be guided by the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:1-3).
- Nothing grows without water. It washes, purifies and sustains. Genesis gives an image of God's Spirit hovering, bringing order and life out of watery chaos (Gen 1:2). In the Old Testament, water is often associated with the life giving breath of God's Spirit (Ruah in Hebrew means both 'breath' and 'spirit' Ez 36:24-26).
- Fire is a source of warmth and light. God's love warms us and we cannot find our way without light. Fire symbolised God's presence in the Old Testament stories (Ex 3:5 and Numbers 9:16). Jesus is the light of the world and our light in darkness and light of the world (Jn 1:5 & 8:12). Fire symbolises the coming of the Spirit in the Pentecost story (Acts 2:3). The baptismal candle is lit from the Easter candle and is a symbol of the Risen Christ and the life of Jesus Christ that will shine in the new Christian.
- Oil is a symbol of abundance and joy. It has a variety of meanings. Oil cleanses and heals. In biblical times, oil was used to anoint kings and prophets. The ritual of anointing with oil in the Sacraments of Initiation symbolises strengthening for the mission of the Church. The words 'Christ' and 'Messiah' mean 'anointed one'. We are anointed to be Christ for each other, and Christ in the world.
- In Jesus' time, the custom of the Jewish people was to hold an annual celebration, the Passover, in memory of Moses leading them out from slavery under Egyptian rule into the freedom of the promised land. When Jesus gathered for the last time to celebrate the festival of the Passover with his disciples, this meal became known as the Last Supper.
- A lamb was always sacrificed as part of the Passover festival. Through the Last Supper Jesus gave the Passover meal a new meaning. Jesus as the Messiah (the Christ) was the new Paschal Lamb, and through his death and resurrection he was establishing a new covenant.
- Eucharist is a Greek word which means "Thanksgiving". Since the earliest days of the Church, the Eucharist was celebrated along with a shared meal in the homes of the local Christians. However, by the end of the first century the shared meal was omitted and the celebration became more of a ritual meal, with the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup, accompanied by prayer and readings.
- Christians have been following Jesus' command to "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24). They came to see that every time they did so they shared in the new Passover which we now call the Eucharist. Christians continue to gather to celebrate the Eucharist, especially on Sunday, the day of the resurrection.
- The Eucharist is composed of four rites: the Introductory rite, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding rite. Of these, the main parts of the Mass are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the Liturgy of the Word, the Scriptures are proclaimed and reflected upon as spiritual nourishment. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the bread and wine are consecrated (blessed), transformed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit and shared by the congregation as food for their life's journey.
- Christians believe that Jesus is present in the Eucharist in four ways: in the assembled community, the priest, the Word (scripture) and in the bread and wine.

Scripture

Matt 3: 13-17 Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Gal 5: 22-26 Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Confirmation)

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If we live by the Spirit let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Luke 22:14-20 The Last Supper (Eucharist)

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Major Assessment Task

In this assessment task, students articulate their understanding of the four parts of the Mass and explain the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist in the Catholic community. Students will demonstrate this through the following elements:

We Gather

Students create a comic strip for the introductory rites showing how the community gathers, greets and prepares.

We Listen

In the form of a flow chart, students sequence the key parts of the Liturgy of the Word.

We Give Thanks

In the form of a flow chart, students sequence the key events – Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Students write a thanksgiving prayer for Eucharist. Write and illustrate their prayer on a card.

We Go

Display the dismissal, "Go forth, the Mass is ended" from the Concluding Rite. Students respond to the question, "How can I be like Jesus to my family and friends?" Students write an action on an outline of their hand and placing it around the display.

It is expected that students and teachers will co-construct an assessment rubric for this task. Teachers are encouraged to assess skills and knowledge from other learning areas that may be included in this task.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity

Read and discuss a story about being in a family (**A Family is Like a Cake** by Shona Innes or **Just the Way We Are** by Jessica Shirvington and Claire Robertson) Students sequence the story, choose their favourite character and describe what they like about this character. Student identify what this story reminds them of in their own life.

- Students think about the different things they do with their family. They also think about and discuss what are some things they can't do until they are older or taller or more skilful, e.g. babies sit in high chairs and are fed until they can feed themselves and sit at the table with everyone else. Explain how we are 'initiated' into family life.
- We also belong to another family. We say that we belong to God's family. We learn about this family and grow into this family. We are welcomed into God's family through Baptism.
- After looking at photos of Baptism, Baptism robes and/or candles, students complete a KWL chart and formulate some questions on Baptism. (Teaching Resource Book)
- Godly Play *Baptism* (attached)
- With the parish priest present, visit the church to view the Baptismal font and familiarize themselves with its location, check where the oils are kept and locate the Paschal Candle and talk about its relevance to special liturgical celebrations. Students record what they have learnt about the sacrament of Baptism, including all the symbols.
- Baptism begins our journey of Initiation into the Catholic Church. What do you think initiation means?
- Confirmation is the next step in our initiation into the Catholic Church. We hear the Baptismal promises that our parents made for us and then remember the gift of the Holy Spirit that we received in Baptism. The two sacraments are linked. Some of the symbols are the same. By sharing fully in the Eucharist we celebrate who we already are - the Body of Christ.
- As we grow, we learn more about ourselves and our talents or gifts. What are my particular talents? Children draw or write their talents on a circle which is then hung on a tree branch set up in the classroom. Discuss how we keep developing our talents as we grow e.g. My talent is that I am musical and it shows that gift in my piano playing or singing. (Use other similar examples)
- We also have gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. These gifts of the Spirit are:
 - Wisdom:** Helps us to judge things in the way that God does
 - Understanding:** Helps us to understand all that God asks of us
 - Knowledge:** Knowing what is the right thing to do
 - Courage:** Gives us the strength to do what is right no matter how hard
 - Reverence:** Gives us the power to love God and our neighbour as we should
 - Right Judgement:** Helps us know what to do especially when faced with really difficult situations
 - Wonder and Awe:** The power to remember the goodness of God
- Discuss what these gifts look like.
- When we use these gifts, people see this happening by the way we act.
- Read "**Maybe God is Like That Too**" by Jennifer Grant that illustrates the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Discuss the story.
- Read Galatians 5:22 - 26. Discuss each of the fruits. What does it look like when I show kindness? How do I bring joy to other people? What does self-control mean? How can I be generous?
- In groups, children create a visual for each of the fruits in Galatians 5:22 - 26, using Frozen Statues, Curtains Up Curtains Down, etc. The teacher could photograph each visual image and the class create a photo montage titled "The Fruits of the Holy Spirit."

- Children identify times when they have seen the fruits of the Holy Spirit in others. Children name people they think show the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Talk about how the Church has honoured people throughout history – these people are called saints.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation is a special ritual or rite which has its own actions and symbols. View the following video about the Rite of Confirmation: <http://flameoffaith.org.au/confirmation/>
- Discuss the significant parts of the rite and the symbols the children have observed in the video. Create class posters to illustrate the parts and the symbols: Renewal of Baptismal Promises
The Laying on of Hands
The Anointing with Chrism
- Sometimes when we talk about the Sacrament of Confirmation a flame or a dove is used to represent the Holy Spirit. Anointing with Oil of Chrism is part of the ritual of Confirmation. Naming is also an important symbol of this sacrament. Can you see a link between Baptism and Confirmation?

Eucharist is the final part of Initiation into the Catholic Church. Just as we are able to join in more things with family and friends as we grow older, so too we can join in more celebrations in our faith community.

- Think about a special meal you have celebrated with your family. What was the occasion? Did you hear family stories being told? Was there special food? Was the table set in a different way? How did you feel during the meal? When families and friends celebrate special times and share a meal, people usually feel happy and give thanks for what they have experienced.
- Jesus shared meals with many people, especially his disciples. Can you think of one very special meal that Jesus ate with his disciples? Look at the illustration in KWL Year 3 (p84-85). What is this picture about? What happened at that meal? Read the Last Supper story (Luke 22:14-20). Highlight the four actions of Jesus during that meal.

- Begin a class mural of three parts:

Part 1: Draw the Last Supper. Remember to highlight the four actions of Jesus.

Part 2: Draw a picture of the Parish church, showing your class going to celebrate Eucharist. Part 3: Draw the Priest doing the same four actions that Jesus did at the Last Supper.

NB: Parts 2 & 3 will be completed after the relevant Learning Experiences.

- When we go to Mass, we hear God's Word from the Bible and we celebrate a special meal that we call Eucharist. Just like our own family celebrates with special meals, we celebrate with our faith community. We celebrate the presence of Jesus with us in Mass.

How is Jesus present in the Eucharist?

Explain that Jesus is present in the Eucharist in the following ways: in the community which has assembled for worship; in the Priest who presides in His name; in the Word which is proclaimed; and in the bread and wine.

Complete **Part 2 Mural**

- Look at KWL Year 4 Chapter 7 (Liturgy of the Word). Discuss how we tell stories to remember past family members and events. The readings in the Liturgy of the Word tell us about what God has done for us throughout history, how people have praised God or asked God for help, and about Jesus and his life and teachings. Before we hear the Gospel, we make the sign of the cross on our forehead, our lips and our heart. We silently pray, "May the Word of God be in my head, on my lips and in my heart" Why do you think we pray like this?
- Look at KWL Year 3 and 4 Chapter 11 (Eucharist). Discuss the pictures with the class and highlight that the priest reads the words from Scripture in the Eucharistic Prayer that tell us what Jesus did at the Last

Supper. Then the priest follows Jesus' actions. He takes the gifts, blesses them, breaks the bread and gives the bread and wine to us.

Complete **Part 3 Mural**

He took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you. In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying: take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me (Eucharistic Prayer, The Roman Canon).

- Mass ends with the Concluding Rite. We are invited to "Go forth, the Mass is ended". We have listened to God's Word and we have received Eucharist. Now we are asked to go forth which means we are to go out into our community and do what Jesus asks of us – to love God and others. How can we do this in our family? With our friends? In our classroom?

Prayer Ritual

Set up a prayer space with the symbols of the Sacraments of Initiation. Students gather in a circle around the prayer space. Each student makes the sign of the cross on the forehead with water, reminding us of Baptism. Read Galatians 5:22-26 and ask each student to say aloud one of the fruits that they believe they show in themselves. Students place their hands symbol around the prayer space and take time in silence to think about their action. Together students sing "Within This Community" by John Burland.

Resources

Rite of Baptism: *To Know Worship and Love* Student books Year 3 & 4

Rite of Confirmation: *To Know Worship and Love* Student books Year 3 & 4

Diocese of Sandhurst Sacramental leaflets

https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&view=list&slug=sacraments&Itemid=476&layout=table

Overview/ Structure of the Mass

<http://www.togetheratonealtar.catholic.edu.au/receive/dsp-content.cfm?loadref=39>

The Last Supper and the Mass

<http://www.togetheratonealtar.catholic.edu.au/explore/dsp-content.cfm?loadref=73>

Signs, Symbols and Rituals of the Sacraments of Initiation

<http://www.togetheratonealtar.catholic.edu.au/craft/dsp-content.cfm?loadref=36>

Rite of Confirmation guide Sandhurst

<https://drive.google.com/a/ceosand.catholic.edu.au/file/d/0B2NEnOSs3YV7VvkxKN25XX1FD RU0/view?usp=sharing>

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Godly Play Baptism