

YEAR LEVEL	5 & 6
TITLE	Sacramental Life
STRAND	SACRAMENTS
SUGGESTED DURATION	8 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	Why do we have Sacraments? How can the Sacraments influence my life?



Unit Focus

In this unit students focus on sacraments as a sign through which the Christian community celebrates God's loving presence. They will look at the seven Sacraments and their importance in the Catholic context. Students will look at the appropriate rituals and symbols associated with each Sacrament.

Achievement Standards

By the end of Year 6:

Students identify the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church as ritual celebrations of key moments in Catholic Christian lives.

Students identify the appropriate rituals and celebrations of each of the seven Sacraments.

Unit Outcomes

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

- 1. Investigate the significance of the signs and symbols of each Sacrament.**
- 2. Explain the ritual structure of each of the Sacraments.**
- 3. Identify the purpose and meaning of each Sacrament.**

Key Understandings for Students

- A Sacrament is a sign through which the Christian community celebrates God's loving presence.
- We live out our vocation through different life styles: single life, married life, religious life and ordained priesthood.
- There are seven Sacraments in the Catholic tradition: Sacraments of Healing (Penance and Anointing of the Sick), Sacraments of Commitment (Marriage and Holy Orders) and Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation).

- Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (Sacraments of Christian Initiation) establish the common vocation of all Christian disciples as a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelising the world.
- In the Sacrament of Penance we celebrate our reconciliation with God, with ourselves, with others and with the Earth.
- A person who is very ill can be given the strength and comfort of Jesus through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
- Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the priest is gifted by the Holy Spirit to exercise the ministry of leadership and service.
- Through the Sacrament of Marriage, the Holy Spirit strengthens the love and commitment of husband and wife.

Student Context

Students at this level should be able to use the processes of inquiry with more precision as they observe, predict, establish and test hypotheses, and reflect on what they have learnt. In practical terms, they can plan questions for interviews, make systematic observations during excursions, gather and organise evidence from print materials, summarise and present conclusions.

Most Catholic students at this age have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Confirmation and Eucharist and have an understanding of these. They are becoming more aware of the different ministries that they can be a part of in their own community. This can lead them to explore the Sacramental life choices of an adult.

Theological Background for Teachers

- A Sacrament is a solemn observance. It is an outward sign that a faithful worshipper is receiving the grace of God. Sacraments are signs through which the Christian community celebrates God's loving presence.
- "Originally, the word Sacrament referred to the Old Roman custom of making an oath of allegiance. In the scripture, the word sacrament translates the word mystery... Sacrament meaning mystery was therefore quite open-minded, flexible and, desirably, imprecise (Bausch, 1977).
- Symbols and rituals are important when celebrating sacraments. Symbols are "the language of sacramental life... they express the Real Presence of God." (Kain, 1993).
- There are a variety of ministries within the Church, each ministry fulfilling a function of the mission of the whole Church.
- There are seven Sacraments in the Catholic tradition: Sacraments of Healing (Penance and Anointing of the Sick), Sacraments of Commitment (Matrimony and Holy Orders) and Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).
- "The Sacraments of Christian Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and The Eucharist – lay the foundations of every Christian life. By means of these Sacraments of Christian Initiation, they thus receive an increasing measure of the treasures of the divine life and advance towards perfect charity." (CCC, #1212).

- The Holy Spirit strengthens those who have received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. The Sacrament should be seen as part of a larger context of pastoral care of the sick that includes: visitation, communion, anointing and commendation of the dying.
- Through the Sacrament of Marriage, the Holy Spirit strengthens the love and commitment of husband and wife.
- Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a Priest is seen as a pastoral leader whose mission is to serve the community. Holy Orders is the Sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the Sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate, presbyterate, and diaconate. (CCC, #1536 & #1592).

Scripture

Lk 17:11-19 *Healing of the Ten Lepers*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and praise God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Jas 5:13-16

Are any among you sick? They should call the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

1 Cor 13:4-7 *Love*

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things endures all things.

Mk 1:9-11 *Baptism of Jesus*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven. "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Acts 13:1-3

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Lk 15:4-7 Parable of the Lost Sheep

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Mk 14:22-24 Institution of the Lord's Supper

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."

Mt 16:18-19

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Isa 11:2

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Major Assessment Task

Students choose one Sacrament (from Initiation, Healing or Commitment) and present it appropriately so that the audience can see the meaning and significance of each Sacrament.

In the presentation, students must refer to: the history of the Sacrament, its signs/symbols, its rituals and its relevance for Catholic Christians today.

Suggested Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity

Gather and display a number of images of signs. What does each sign say?

Show students examples of symbols (either photos or objects) and discuss their attributes. What is the difference between a sign and a symbol?

Signs - give information; usually only one meaning (unambiguous); point to something; affect us simply and we respond simply

Symbols - beyond a 'sign'; more complex; convey a series of meanings (public and private); affect emotions and feelings.

In groups students record personal, local, national and global symbols. This [website](#) has excellent images and information for the Sacraments for both students and staff.

- All Sacraments have associated symbols. Brainstorm symbols used in the Sacraments (e.g. oil, water, wedding rings). Present information as a series of wall charts/posters. (KWL Year 5 Chapter 4)
- Research the meaning of the word 'ritual'. Discuss the meaning of ritual in students' families, communities and school.
- In groups students research the ritual structure of the seven Sacraments. Use the Five W's to guide the students through this task. (Who? What? Where? Why? When?).
- Create a Matrix to organise information about the Sacraments.

What is the Sacrament?	What symbols are used?	What are the ritual actions?	What is the purpose of the Sacrament?	Who receives the Sacrament?

- Teaching and Learning Experiences for these specific groups of Sacraments may be found in the following resources:

Sacraments of Initiation. BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION and EUCHARIST. [Expressions Book 3 Maurice Ryan](#)

Sacraments of Healing. PENANCE and ANOINTING [Expressions Book 5 Maurice Ryan](#)

Sacraments of Commitment. HOLY ORDERS and MATRIMONY [Expressions Book 6 Maurice Ryan](#)

- In groups, students study one of the suggested Scripture References. Using Scripture Graffiti (Into the Deep, pp 122-126) (i) identify the Sacrament to which the reference relates, and (ii) record any key insights or learnings that the reading gives about that Sacrament.

Prayer and Ritual

Set up a prayer place with symbols from the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Sing a hymn about healing. Read the text from James 5:13-16 and give the students time to reflect on the text. Have students write the name of anyone they know who is unwell and place it around the prayer focus. Together, pray the prayer on p.152 in KWL Year 6, laying hands on one another. End with a prayer of blessing and the hymn about healing.