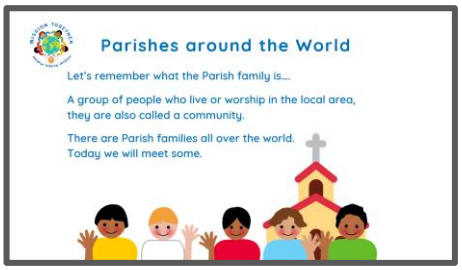
Mission Together

Parishes around the World: *lesson ideas for KS1*

VOCABULARY

Parish, Priest, leader, church, Mass, family, community, lectern, altar

SLIDE ONE
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE



Pupils understand that people who live or worship in the local area are part of the *Parish family*, which is sometimes called a *community*.

The place in which they gather is usually the *Parish church* and their leader is the *Parish Priest.*

TEACHING INPUT

Each weekend, on a Saturday or Sunday, the Parish family gathers to celebrate Mass. There are sometimes other occasions when celebrations are held.

You may want to split the content for this session over two lessons to suit the needs of your class.

*N.B The overseas images used in this document were taken in **Missio** supported parishes and projects. Missio and its children branch, **Mission Together**, help local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief.*

SLIDE TWO
THINK-PAIR-SHARE

Can you think of any of these celebrations?

Possible responses: Jesus' Birthday at Christmas time, Baptism, First Holy Communion, Wedding, Funeral, Easter.

SLIDE THREE

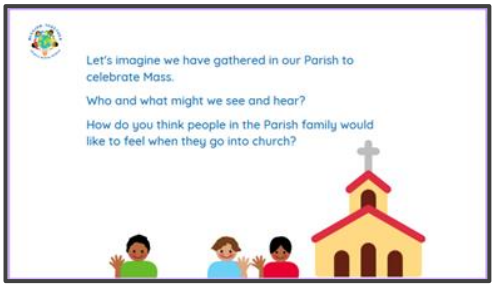
Not all churches look the same. Churches can be built from all kinds of materials: bricks, wood, or even cloth!

SLIDE FOUR

It does not matter, what's important are the people who help to make this a special place for the community to gather, worship and give thanks.

SLIDE FIVE
ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

What you will need for this activity: 1 cup, 1 dish, 2 candles, 1 Class Bible, 2 baskets (for collecting). Several small musical instruments, e.g. Handbells, Maracas.



Let's imagine we have gathered in our Parish of [name] to celebrate Mass.

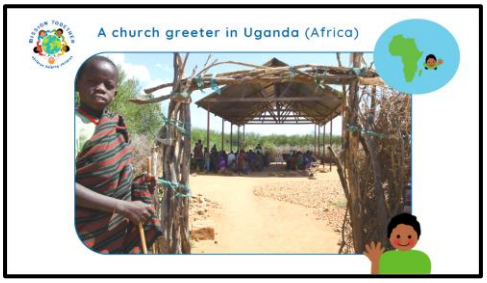
Who and what might we see and hear?

How do you think people in the Parish family would like to feel when they go into church?

Possible responses: Welcomed, loved, calm, peaceful, happy, relaxed, joyful.

SLIDE SIX

Select two children to make an arch by stretching their arms upwards towards one another – this will create the entrance to our church. Two more children will stand on the opposite side and 'greet' members of the parish family as they enter.



Which words may be used to greet people?

Possible responses: Welcome. Good morning/afternoon. Hello, it's lovely to see you.

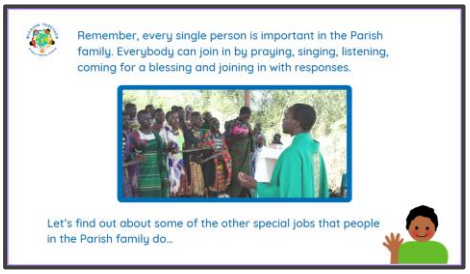
Greeters often give out copies of hymn books, missals, or the church newsletter. Include this aspect in your role play, particularly if your school has copies of a children's Mass book.

Invite the other children to make a line and pass through the entrance into our church. Seat the children in rows (on the floor or on chairs), leaving an aisle down the centre.

Use a table at the front for the altar and another piece of furniture to represent the lectern. Place the classroom copy of the Bible upon this.

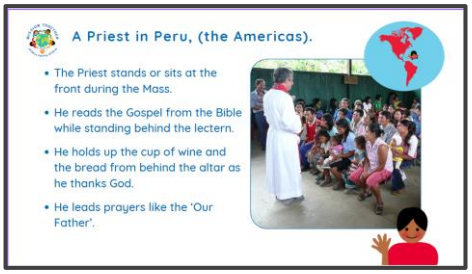
SLIDE SEVEN

Explain that we are going to find out about some of the special jobs that people in the Parish family do but emphasise that every single person is important.



Every person can join in by praying, singing, listening, coming forwards for a blessing and joining in with responses during the Mass. This is something people will get better at the more times they go to Mass. Remember, it's OK if you don't always know what to do and when to do it; the people in the Parish family help others to learn.

SLIDE EIGHT



To give the children a flavour of the experience, act in role as the Priest and use some words to welcome the Parish family, also making the sign of the cross along with the children. Ask if there is anybody who would like to role play some of the special jobs to help us understand what they do.

Introduce the following roles and support the volunteers in their words/actions to show what they do. You may also consider singing a hymn of your choice, or sharing a reading if time allows and you feel your class will participate with this. Some suggestions are below.

SLIDE NINE

Priest

Stands or sits at the front during the Mass. Reads the Gospel from the Bible while standing behind the lectern. Holds up the cup of wine and the bread from behind the altar as they thank God. Lead prayers like the 'Our Father'.

SLIDE TEN

Altar servers

Carry candles and stand either side of the lectern as the Priest reads the Gospel. Ring the bells during important parts of the Mass. Bring things to the Priest as he stands behind the altar.

SLIDE ELEVEN

Eucharistic Ministers

Stand at the front alongside the Priest and help to give out bread and wine which becomes the 'body and blood' of Jesus. Ministers will say the words, 'The Body of Christ' or 'The Blood of Christ'.

SLIDE TWELVE

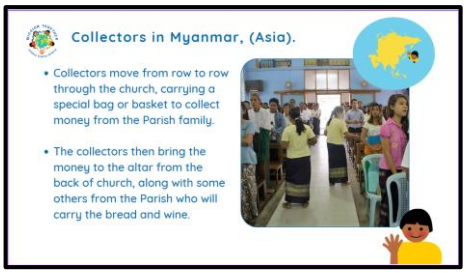
Musicians and choir

Play instruments and lead the parish in singing hymns during Mass. They will often sit together at the side near the front of church

SLIDE THIRTEEN

Collectors

Move from row to row through the church, carrying a special bag or basket to collect money from the Parish family. The money is then brought to the altar from the back of the church along with other people from the Parish who will carry the bread and wine.



SLIDE FOURTEEN

Readers

Stand behind the lectern to read from the Bible. When they have finished, the reader will say ‘The Word of the Lord’. The Parish family will reply, ‘Thanks be to God’.

There are some other people who may not be noticed during Mass but who also do something really important before it begins.

SLIDE FIFTEEN

Cleaners

Brush, hoover, dust, polish, clean and tidy to make sure that church looks clean and tidy and is ready for Mass.

SLIDE SIXTEEN

Flower arrangers

Arrange flowers carefully in vases and on stands to make the church looks and smells beautiful.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Use the following roles for people in the Parish family, as a focus for these activities:

Priest	**Altar server**	**Eucharistic Minister**
Collector	**Reader**	**Musician**
Greeter	**Cleaner**	**Flower arranger**

Charades

A child acts out a chosen role to the remaining children who need to guess which helper in the Parish family they think it is. For maximum participation, the guessers can hold up a picture or label to show who they think it is. Alternatively, individuals could simply make their guess when chosen by the teacher or the child who is acting.

What you will need for *Charades*:
A set of Parish family images and/or labels, see Activity Sheet 1.

Who Am I?

A child wearing the head band stands at the front. The teacher attaches to the band a picture showing one of the people in the parish family undertaking their special job.

The children in class must give clues (one at a time) to the person with the headband on. They must try to guess what the special job is. Some clues could apply to more than one of the roles.

Suggested clues *Children may be able to use their own clues as they gain confidence.

What you will need for *Who Am I*:
Headbands made from strips of card. Paper clips or blue tack. Images or labels of people in the Parish family, see Activity Sheet 1.

Priest

- They share the Word of God from the Bible.
- They stand behind a lectern.
- They lead the Parish family.
- They bless the bread and wine when it is brought to the altar.
- They say, 'The Lord be with you.'

Reader

- They share the Word of God from the Bible.
- They stand behind a lectern.
- They may have a microphone to help with their job.

Greeter

- They welcome the Parish family into church.
- They help people to feel welcome when they come into church.
- They hand out books and newsletters.

Altar server

- They serve the leader of the Parish family.
- They carry a candle.
- They ring some bells at important times in the Mass.
- They bring things to the altar.

Musician and choir

- They use their voice or instruments to praise the Lord.
- They help to make the Mass more enjoyable.
- When they do their job others like to hear it.

Eucharistic Minister

- They help to share out the body and blood of Jesus.
- They hold a special cup or dish when they do their job.
- They stand at the front of the church to do their job.

Collector

- They move from row to row to do their job.
- They carry a basket or bag for collecting.
- After they have done their job, they go up to the altar.

Flower arranger

- They put something into church which smells and looks nice.
- They need water to do their job.
- Their job can be colourful.
- They do not do their job during Mass.

Cleaner

- They use a cloth to do their job.
- Sometimes they may use a brush or hoover.
- They make sure the church is clean and tidy.
- They do not do my job during Mass.

Pick-a-pair

To be played in small groups or enlarge the images to play in a bigger group. Start with a restricted number of roles and increase as the children gain confidence. Images of the different roles are placed face down. The first player chooses two to turn over but leaves them in their position. If the two images match the player keeps them, if not they turn them back over and play moves on to the next player. Optional challenge – use a set of labels to be matched to the images.

What you will need for Pick-a-Pair:
A set of Parish family images and labels printed on card, see Activity Sheet 1.

This resource has been created in collaboration with Kate Dooley, Religious Education and Collective Worship Coordinator, Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Fundraising Ideas

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few seasonal ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/ Please ***share your fundraising events*** with us @MissioUK, adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring term

Valentines biscuits: showcase your bake-off skills! Bake heart shaped cookies and sell them in pretty bags around valentines day. You could even ice on the names of the recipient and deliver them anonymously for a delivery fee!

Pancake races: hold a Pancake Day event with races and flipping competitions. Everyone gets to enjoy their pancakes after the fun – as long as they didn't drop them!

Sponsored give something up: encourage pupils to give something up for Lent and either donate the money they save or get sponsored to do it. Alternatively, children can offer to take on extra chores or responsibilities in Lent for a donation to Mission Together.

Egg hunt: hide small chocolate eggs around your school or playground. Charge pupils to join in for a massive Easter egg hunt! To maximise your fundraising, why not ask all pupils to donate some eggs so you don't need to spend money to buy them?

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents or as Easter gifts?

Easter bonnet competition: charge pupils to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous fashionista creations! Alternatively you could get everyone involved in egg painting or Easter cake designs, and sell them after for extra fundraising!

Ideas for Summer term

Weeding Week: While the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Children can work alone, with friends, or siblings. Maybe green fingered children could also offer to plant and prune too. Who knows if your Weeding Week might inspire the next Monty Don!

Sponsored swim, walk or cycle: get everyone involved in some outdoor fun once the weather's better. Could you get sponsored to walk a certain distance, or hold a sponsored swim?

Scavenger hunt: this is a great team activity! Print off some sheets with things to spot on them. You can tailor the items to be outdoors, indoors or whatever suits your space and environment. Either get teams to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them! Charge teams to enter and give prizes for the fastest finishers.