

## Background Notes for Parents/Carers

### About the theme – Local Church

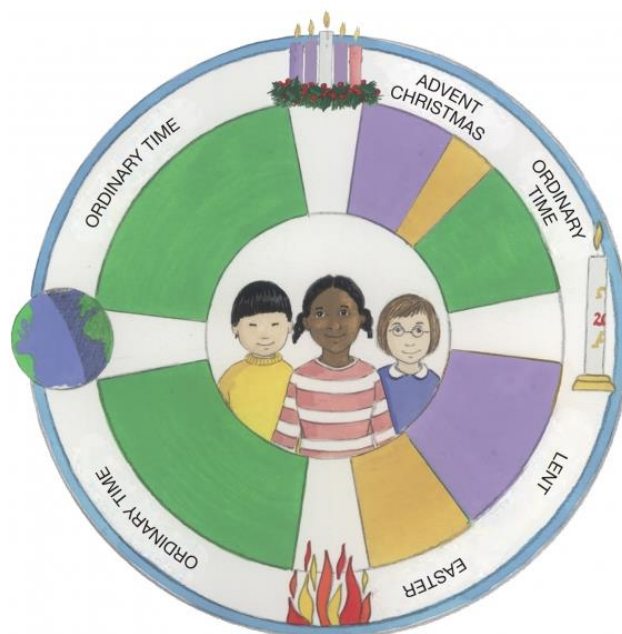
After Christmas children will explore the theme of Local Church, which is our story. The **parish** is where people gather together to celebrate and practise care and love for each other. The **diocese** is the community of the Christian faithful. The Local Church theme focuses on the people of God, gathered in Christ, united in the journey of faith, in care for one another, in sharing their story and in celebration.

The experience of community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. The cycle of a year and the span of a lifetime contain occasions for regular celebrations as well as unexpected surprises, when people want to celebrate with family, friends and communities.

The Church's celebrations are also community occasions. On Sundays, the parish family gathers together. It is a time to remember how much there is to celebrate; a time to say thank you; a time to know that God's love is offered and made visible here and now in Jesus and in people. Sacraments are more formal special moments: signs of 'God-with-us', who journeys with his people; signs of strength and blessing for life.

### Class 3 – COMMUNITY

Throughout this topic, your child will progressively learn about the Christian family's journey with Jesus. They begin with looking at special events in their lives and then begin to reveal important events in the Church's calendar. You will look at how events mark the journey through the seasons of the year. In addition, how we can help one in life's journey?



## Overview

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b><u>Class 3</u></b> <b><u>Journeys</u></b> <b>LOCAL CHURCH THEME</b>
<p>calendar</p> <p>seasons</p> <p>journey</p> <p>liturgical</p> <p>ordinary time</p> <p>feast day</p> <p>psalm</p> <p>pilgrimage</p> <p>Temple</p>	<p>The Christian life is about journeying with Christ and sharing his way of life. The Church's year celebrates the key elements of Christ's life.</p> <p><b>Children will know and understand:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a journey through a year</li><li>• the Christian family's journey with Jesus through the Church's year</li></ul> <p><b>See Background Notes for Parents and Carers</b></p> <p><b>Week 1:</b> Look at the cycle for the year. Discuss different events you would normally attend throughout the year. Look at a liturgical year together and discuss special events and seasons in this.</p> <p><b>Week 2:</b> Focusing on the special events in the Liturgical calendar, explain that the calendar focuses on the Church's family journey with Jesus through the major events of his life, death and resurrection.</p> <p><b>Week 3:</b> Share a selection of psalms together (see below) Talk about what a pilgrimage is and why people go on a pilgrimage.</p> <p><b>Week 4:</b> Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about Journeys. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship (see below).</p>