



Diocese of Armagh Board of Religious Education

Lesson Plan 4: The Christian Church
Foundation Level P1



Diocese of Armagh

Lesson Plan 4 - An Overview

This Diocese of Armagh Board of Religious Education Lesson Plan 4 (The Christian Church) has been designed to link specifically to the following:



(1) Revised Core Syllabus in RE (Northern Ireland) *

Foundation Level P1.

Learning Objective 1: **The Revelation of God (The Christian Church)**

Pupils should begin to develop an awareness, knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the key Christian teachings about God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) about Jesus Christ and about the Bible; and begin to develop an ability to interpret and relate the Bible to life.

The Christian Church

(a) Belonging: Explore the lives of people like St. Patrick who have shown us how to belong to the Church.

Pupils should learn that:

- The way of life in a Christian community involves caring, sharing and praying together.
- We can learn from the lives of people who show us how to belong, share and care for each other.

LESSON PLAN 1 – AN OVERVIEW

Theme:	The Revelation of God (The Christian Church)
Stages:	Foundation Level P1
Learning Objectives:	Communicate the Revelation of God The way of life in a Christian community involves caring, sharing and praying together. We can learn from the lives of people who show us how to belong, share and care for each other.
Scripture References:	Develop a respect for God and the importance of the two commandments: to love God and to love one another - Mt 22:37-40.
Teaching Approach:	a. Reading a Story b. Creating Artwork c. Music / Singing d. Drama / Role Play e. Using Pictures f. CircleWork
Prayer:	Dear God. Help us to care for each other. Amen.
Suggestions for parents:	Religious Education enables the child to develop spiritual and moral values and come to a knowledge of God. The teacher aims to work in partnership with parents to continue in school much of what is being done at home. By taking an interest in the worksheets or pictures they bring home, parents will be playing an important part in their child's faith development. They will help them to grow in faith, in knowledge of God and in love of God's word.
Links to Wider Curriculum:	Connections can be made between this Lesson Plan and other curriculum areas. This will give Religious Education a place in the life of the school beyond the time allocated to it each day. Specifically, this Lesson Plan enhances: Reading / Study Skills Writing (trace the letters) Geography and Nature (journey of St. Patrick) Art and Crafts Language Development Effective Listening and Good Communication (Circle Time) History - story of St. Patrick.
Teacher: Reflection / Evaluation / Notes / Date:	

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

A. Reading a Story

About Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated each year on March 17th. In Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is both a holy day and a national holiday. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland as he was the one who brought Christianity to the Irish.

According to legend, Saint Patrick used a shamrock to explain about God. The shamrock, which looks like clover, has three leaves on each stem. Saint Patrick told the people that the shamrock was like the idea of the Trinity, that in the one God there are three divine beings: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The shamrock was sacred to the Druids, so Saint Patrick's use of it in explaining the trinity was very wise.

Although it began in Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in countries around the world. People with Irish heritage remind themselves of the beautiful green countryside of Ireland by wearing green and taking part in the festivities.

Saint Patrick's Day is usually celebrated with a parade. The one in Dublin, Ireland is known to some as the Irish Mardi Gras. But the one in New York City is actually one of the biggest. It lasts for hours. Two Irish wolfhounds, the mascots of the New York National Guard infantry regiment the Fighting 69th, always lead the parade. More than one hundred bands and a hundred thousand marchers follow the wolfhounds in the parade.

Saint Patrick and the Snakes:

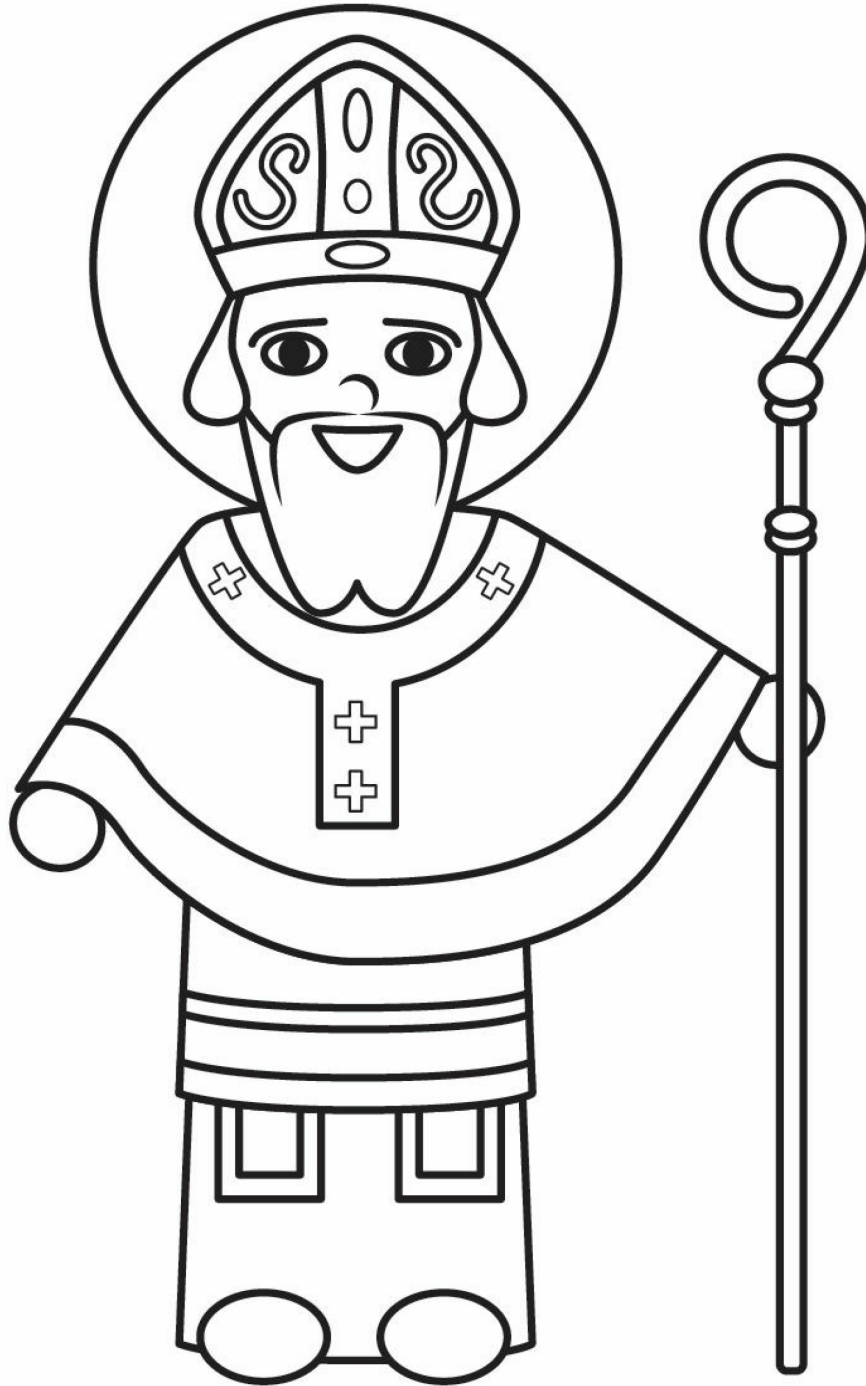
Another tale about Patrick is that he drove the snakes from Ireland. Different versions of the story, tell of him standing upon a hill, using a wooden staff to drive the serpents into the sea, banishing them forever from Ireland.

One version says that an old serpent resisted banishment, but that Patrick outwitted him. Patrick made a box and invited the snake to enter. The snake insisted it was too small and the two argued. Finally to prove his point, the snake entered the box to show how tight the fit was. Patrick slammed the lid closed and threw the box into the sea.

Although it's true that Ireland has no snakes, this likely had more to do with the fact that Ireland is an island and being separated from the rest of the continent the snakes couldn't get there. The stories of Saint Patrick and the snakes are likely a metaphor for his bringing Christianity to Ireland and driving out the pagan religions (serpents were a common symbol in many of these religions).

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

B. CREATING ARTWORK | COLOUR IN THIS EASTER PICTURE

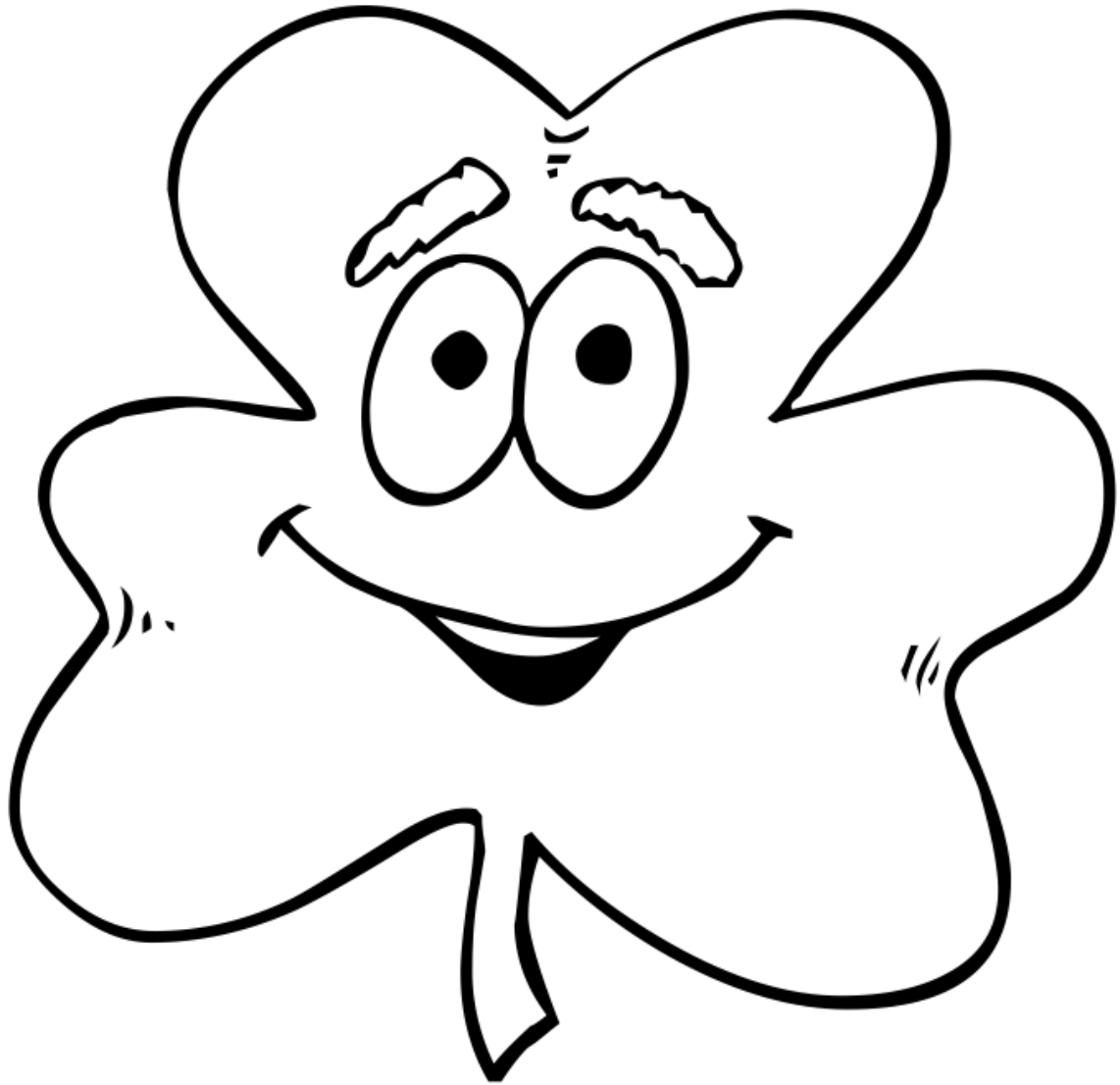


Saint Patrick

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Worksheet – St. Patrick – 2

COLOUR IN THIS SHAMROCK



Happy St Patrick's Day!

Name _____

St. Patrick's Day Handwriting Worksheet

Look at each of the St. Patrick's Day pictures below and trace the name of the item in the space provided.



hat



pot



flag



rainbow

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

C. MUSIC AND SONG



God the Father, God the Father,
God the Son, God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit, God the Holy Spirit
Three in One. Three in One.

(Sung to the air of Frere Jacques)

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

D. DRAMA / ROLE-PLAY

DRAMATISE THE STORY OF ST. PATRICK BY USING SHAMROCK TO DEMONSTRATE THE STORY TO THE CHILDREN.

Hand out shamrock (if possible grown in the classroom in individual pots to take home) to each of the children.

The symbol of shamrocks: An Irish story tells of how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

Ask the children to look at the shamrocks and identify the three leaves, saying aloud: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Green is associated with Saint Patrick's Day because it is the colour of spring, Ireland, and the shamrock. Ask the children to name as many green items that they can from nature to food to everyday living.

Play some Irish music and explain the tradition of Irish songs and jigs.

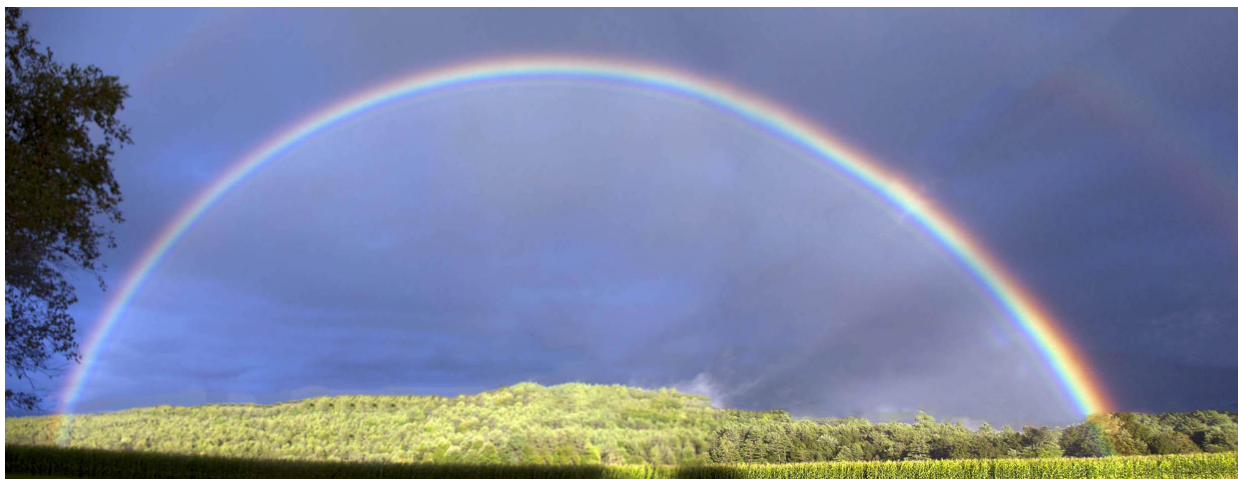
Have a class parade and encourage the children to wear one item of green clothing.



TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

E. PICTURES AND IMAGES

Use some of these free images and pictures to create a poster, display or collage for your classroom



PhotoCredit for all: MorgueFile Free Photos



TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

F. CIRCLE WORK

- Talk about how we can care for and share with each other in the classroom
- Talk about how we can pray together
- What is a prayer?
- The way of life in a Christian community involves caring, sharing and praying together.
- We can learn from the lives of people who show us how to belong, share and care for each other.
- Do something helpful for a friend or charitable organisation.
- Make a collage of 'helping hands'. Pray together in class or in a school assembly.
- Explore the lives of people who have shown us how to belong to the Church.
- Be aware of significant Christians from the past and how we can learn from them, for example, St Patrick, St Brigid.
- Invite the local Minister / Priest / Principal to talk about their work.