

Our Pilgrimage to Rome

Further Activities

The cross-curricular activities suggested in this document are designed to help children further their learning and understanding of **Our Pilgrimage to Rome**.

Whilst we hope that schools will relish the opportunity to enhance their pupil's experience in this way, it is up to schools how much they want to engage with this.

Many of the activities are planned to be completed in children's individual **Pilgrimage Prayer Journal** (on the **Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage** page on the website [here](#)), but if your school is not using these, these activities can be completed on separate paper.

English

- **Consolidation Writing Activity** - Encourage pupils to recall in their **Pilgrimage Prayer Journal** some key points about Rome, for example:
 - Rome became the centre of the Christian faith
 - St Peter and St Paul helped to develop the Early Church in Rome
 - The Pope, the spiritual leader of the Catholic faith, lives in The Vatican, in Rome
 - Many people go on pilgrimage to Rome to walk in the footsteps of the 'Fathers of the Church'
- **Consolidation Writing and Reflection Activity** - Have children write in their **Pilgrimage Prayer Journal** their own reflections on their pilgrimage to Rome.
- **Creative Writing Activities** -
 - Using the assembly as inspiration, have children imagine they are on a pilgrimage to Rome, just like Sam and write postcards from different places.
 - Invite pupils to research more about the lives of St Peter and St Paul, creating a fact file of key information.

English/History/Geography/ICT/RS

- **Exploring people and places** –
 - Make a plan of Vatican City/ Rome, labelling places and landmarks that are important to our faith and Church traditions, including the two churches names after St Peter and St Paul (St Peter's Basilica and St Paul Outside the Walls).
 - Find out interesting facts to supplement the map above, for example: St Peter is buried under
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the church named after him; The chains that Paul was held in are also found in the church where he is believed to be buried (St Paul Outside the Walls).

- Further research the lives of St Peter and St Paul and their importance in the development of the Early Church.
- Research the history and culture of the Early Church, including the persecution of Christians at the hands of the Romans.
- Find out about some of the recent Popes e.g. Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope (St) John Paul II. Ask older family members which Popes they remember and why.

Religious Studies

- **Explore the Meaning of the Pilgrimage Song Lyrics** – In their **Pilgrimage Prayer Journal**, children should write out and illustrate the lyrics to the new verse of the **Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage** song. You might like to invite children to interpret the lyrics using the following discussion questions:
 - What happened to Paul on the road to Damascus?
 - How was St Paul's sight restored?
 - Why was St Peter called 'the rock'?
 - What role did the two saints have in the Early Church?
 - How can we 'run the great race' for Jesus? What is 'the great race'?
 - What is God's 'grace' and how will it help us?
- **Bible Study** - Further explore the Gospel in this assembly:
 - 'You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church.' **Matt 16:13 - 19**
 - Find out about the people referred to in the Full Text (**Appendix 2**): John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah.
 - Read about when St Peter and St Paul first met (**Acts 15**), known as 'The Council of Jerusalem'. The two great saints didn't agree about how the Early Church should do things. They came together with the other apostles, they prayed, talked and came to an agreement. Both men were known to have very strong opinions, but both were faithful to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- **Signs and Symbols** – Invite children to explore the meaning of symbols of St Peter and St Paul using some of the following ideas:
 - St Peter – the Rock. What Jesus was saying about Peter when He called him 'the rock on which I build my Church'? Explore properties of rocks and how they can be related to character traits e.g. strong, firm, steadfast, solid.
 - St Peter – keys. St Peter is often depicted with keys. Consider reasons for using keys i.e. keep things safe, lock and unlock. Discuss what children think 'the keys to the Kingdom' might be.

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- St Paul – the sword. Explore the how this symbol relates to St Paul as a Roman citizen and a martyr (he was beheaded for his faith).
 - St Paul – the quill pen. St Paul is often shown with a pen and sometimes this is used as a symbol. What could this symbol say about him?
 - Invite children to decide which symbols they like best or most accurately reflect the lives of these great saints.

Music

- **Singing Practice and Music Video** – Practise and learn the chorus/verse of the **Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage** song, and devise actions/make up harmonies/create a music video etc. For each subsequent ‘stopping place’ there will be a new verse added (7 in total) and the chorus repeated in between, so you might like to allocate different verses/choruses to different classes, with a view to creating a full music video of the song by the end of the year.

Art

- **Signs and Symbols of Faith** – Using the symbols of the saints as an inspiration, invite children to think about their own faith. Which particular talent or attribute can they use to do God’s work? Creatively explore their own symbol or emblem. What would their own emblem say themselves and their faith? These could be displayed as shields or badges.
- **The Great Artists** – Examine the amazing artwork in the Sistine Chapel. Invite children to choose a section of a painting to copy or use as inspiration for their own artistic response using different art media.
- **3D Landmarks** – Use clay or junk modelling media to create a model of one of the landmarks of Rome e.g. the Colosseum, St Peter’s Square.

Drama

- **Role Play**– St Peter and St Paul’s meeting in Rome at the Council of Jerusalem, an event that actually happened and you can read about in Acts 15. (See ‘Bible Study’ notes above for more background on this).
- **Drama** – Act out the events of the conversion of St Paul on the road to Damascus. Include the journey, the blinding light, Saul/Paul’s response, the visit to Ananias and the Christians in Damascus. Use **Acts 9: 1 – 19** for reference.