

*Second Year of the Cycle*

*Spring Term*

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: **EPIPHANY**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship explores the traditional stories of Epiphany - and suggests they still have relevance today.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

**Music**

**Speakers**

**Drama**

**Visuals**

**Artefacts**

**Posters**

**Video**

**Slides**

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** apply ideas from the Christmas story to their own experience.

**Moral:** challenge their perceptions of importance and value.

**Social:** consider how assumptions about the relative value of individuals shape the structure of society.

**Cultural:** consider how a religious tradition challenges cultural assumptions.

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>EPIPHANY</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b> What is Epiphany anyway?	1

Most Christians in this country celebrate the festival of the Epiphany on 6 January. The name may not be familiar, but the story of the first Epiphany probably will be. The word Epiphany comes from Greek, and means a time of appearing or showing. On this day Christians remember the story of the three wise men, whose story is told in Matthew's Gospel. They are said to have come to Bethlehem, where Jesus had recently been born, and to have given precious gifts to the baby.

One of the reasons Matthew told the story was because he thought it was very important to remember that these wise and important people travelled a very long way to see Jesus and to bring him expensive gifts. He thought it was important, because he wanted his readers to understand that Jesus mattered even to these wise men. No one was too important to pay attention to Jesus.

### **Reflection/Prayer**

Let us use our own gifts well ...

7 Can you think of any important people who could learn something from the message of Christmas?

8 What sort of gifts do you think the wise and important people of today could give, if they found themselves in the same position as the wise men in the story?

9 In the story the wise men brought gifts to Jesus. What do you think they took away with them?

10 Why did a large number of important people in his own time ignore Jesus? Can we learn anything from this today?

11 What kind of gifts do you think Jesus would most want, from the important and powerful people of today?

**Theme for Week** EPIPHANY

Day

**Theme for Today** Following the star

2

Some astronomers believe that the Star of Bethlehem really did exist. They say that a very bright light in the sky was formed by the conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn - that is, by the two planets appearing to pass close to each other - as viewed from Earth - so that the sun's light was reflected and re-reflected off each of them in a way which made it look as if there was one very bright star. This happens about once every 200 years, and happened around the time when Jesus was born.

This may have been what excited the three wise men, since they were probably astrologers, who tried to find a meaning in the movements of the stars and planets. In the astrology of the time, Jupiter was the planet of kings, Saturn was the protector of the Jews, and they met in the constellation Pisces, which was connected with the region of Palestine. This would have been enough to make the wise men believe that a very important King of the Jews was to be born in Palestine. If they set out to find the new king because of what they saw in the sky, they could be said to be 'following the star'.

Whether that is true or not, the story has led to the common expression 'following the star'; we say a person is 'following their star' when they are working towards some ambition, or acting in accordance with a particular belief they have.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Let us not stand still when our star moves.

7 What tells you what direction to take in life?

8 How do you choose what direction to take in life? How do you work out whether the guidance you follow is good?

9 Have you ever decided to change the star you follow - ie make a major change in your ambition or direction in life? Why?

10 Are you still following the same star you did three or four years ago? What has changed? Is further change needed?

11 Have you developed any guiding principles which will stay with you through the years ahead? Do you need to?

**Theme for Week** EPIPHANY

Day

**Theme for Today** Angels and shepherds

3

The story of the birth of Jesus is very familiar to most of us. We have heard and seen it repeated year after year, till it gets so familiar we tend not to think about it much. Here is a bit of it, from the Gospel written by Luke.

*There were some shepherds in that part of the country, who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid. But the angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you ...*

Luke 2:8-10

We know what the good news was; but think for a moment about it. In Luke's version of the story, it came to the shepherds. In those days, shepherds were not important people in any way. They were not educated or respected, and no one thought they were important. Yet Luke takes care to say that the news came to the shepherds first of all.

Luke believed that God was behind these events, and that the birth of Jesus was part of God's great plan to change the world. But the first people to hear about this stage of God's plan were the shepherds - unimportant, ordinary, down-to-earth people without money or importance. Luke was trying to say that God's good news was for everyone - not just the important people. Everyone was equally important to God.

**Reflection/Prayer**

May we all learn how important we are.

7 Do we treat people differently, depending on how much money they have or what kind of work they do, or what kind of car they drive?

8 How do you think the shepherds felt when they realised they were first to hear the good news? How often do you think they got to feel like that?

9 Does having more money make you a better person? If not, why do we so often act as if it does?

10 Do we need to change our attitude to people who have less than we do? If so, in what way?

11 What groups of people in our experience have the same kind of life and status as the shepherds?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: FREE AT LAST**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship looks at people who have fought for freedom - and considers the price which had to be paid.

**School Notes:**

**Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship**

**Music**

**Speakers**

**Drama**

**Visuals**

**Artefacts**

**Posters**

**Video**

**Slides**

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** consider human freedom and the meaning of life.

**Moral:** recognise the types of injustice which exist today.

**Social:** consider the effects of conflict upon society.

**Cultural:** acknowledge that conflict often occurs because of tensions between cultures.

**Theme for Week** FREE AT LAST

Day

**Theme for Today** Free!

1

It was a short walk, but the end of a long journey. As Nelson Mandela walked out of the prison, the world's television cameras followed him each step. They paused only to watch him watching the world which greeted him.

Nelson Mandela became the President of South Africa, the same country which years before had put him in prison for being a trouble maker. The end of apartheid - and the slow but steady way in which its last sections were dismantled - was a contrast to the regime which had imprisoned him in the first place and separated, for too long, people of different skin colour and different race.

Now black people were no longer second or even third class citizens. They had a voice and a vote. When the presidential elections at last came in May 1994, people who had had no voice for years queued for days and nights to vote. The cameras were there again, panning across the excited, dancing, hopeful crowds.

Several interviews took place with people waiting in those queues. One of the most memorable was a woman who said, "If you could look into my heart today, you would see the sun shining there".

**Reflection/Prayer**

May hope dream dreams which the sun will not kill.

7 What important things would you queue for?

8 Why do you think the television cameras were there?

9 What makes the sun shine in your heart?

10 What message does the story of Mandela have for people who think hope has gone?

11 What would people see in your heart today?

**Theme for Week**    **FREE AT LAST**

Day

**Theme for Today**    Amnesty Candle

2

Imagine a candle burning. Perhaps it might help to close your eyes. Try to see the lighted candle in your mind. Now imagine a length of barbed wire, its barbs waiting spitefully to tear at flesh. In your mind, picture the candle and the wire, side by side. Now see if you can curl the wire. Do it carefully. Make it into a coil. Drop it over the candle so that it spirals round the candle from top to bottom.

The candle flame flickers in the darkness, a universal symbol of hope. But it is imprisoned by the wire. The candle speaks of hope in a shadowy world of the prison cell.

This is the symbol of the organisation Amnesty which campaigns for the release of prisoners of conscience all over the world, people who are in captivity, not because they have done anything criminal but because of what they believe.

**Reflection/Prayer**

It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

7 What does the wire do to the candle?

8 What does the candle do to the wire?

9 What imprisons you?

10 How might what you believe get you into trouble?

11 What is the 'wire' in your life?

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>FREE AT LAST</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b> Living with freedom	3

For more than 25 years the people of Northern Ireland have lived in fear. Tensions between people with different beliefs have led to violence and suffering on a scale that has often horrified the world.

Reverend Gordon Gray is the Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Lisburn. Throughout the troubles he has worked tirelessly to bring people together, to encourage them to talk to one another and to help them to listen to each other. He has tried to bring understanding and peace. He has become well known across Ireland for his efforts at reconciliation. He is a frequent speaker on *Thought for the day* on Irish radio and was regularly asked to comment immediately after the horror of a bombing like Enniskillen. On those occasions it was so difficult to find words to express the outrage and the sorrow, and even more difficult to encourage people not to look for retaliation but for reconciliation.

Things have changed in Northern Ireland now; there is peace. Every day Gordon Gray gives thanks to God for that peace. He is still asked to speak on the radio and one morning, just after the peace agreement was signed, he was finishing a series of *Thoughts for the Day* which had seemed rather difficult. As he drove home on the last morning, he found himself wondering how freedom would change things for his listeners and for the church.

In a way the violence that had divided them had also united them - and suddenly that was gone. Would people be able to agree now on what makes for true peace?

**Reflection/Prayer**

Jesus taught, "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you."

7 How might it feel to be free of bullets and bombs at last?

8 What would you say makes for true peace?

9 How does conflict take away people's freedom?

10 Why is reconciliation more difficult than retaliation?

11 Why might living with freedom be difficult?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: GETTING ON TOGETHER**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship explores 'Getting on Together' with those we love, those we hate, and those we can't avoid!

**School Notes:**

**Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship**

**Music**

**Speakers**

**Drama**

**Visuals**

**Artefacts**

**Posters**

**Video**

**Slides**

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** consider how they acknowledge the essential 'me-ness' and 'you-ness' of relationship (though may not realise they are doing so!)

**Moral:** challenge their own understanding of what are their 'rights'.

**Social:** recognise that differences between people should be valued.

**Cultural:** develop an awareness of the extraordinary implications of religious teaching.

**Theme for Week** GETTING ON TOGETHER

Day

**Theme for Today** .... with people you love

1

Someone once said "It stops being fair when you go through the front door of your house".

Although not all families are always happy, the people you spend time with at home are usually the ones who will try to be fair to each other. It doesn't happen all the time - sometimes the opposite seems true.

But most parents want to take care of their children, and most children, when they think about it, know that their parents are important.

But how well do we get on with the people we love? Do we take them for granted? Do we forget that they have feelings too?

### Reflection/Prayer

Let us think about the people who live with us, and hope they get what they would like.

And let us remember those who have no home to complain about.

7 Can you remember when you last said "thanks" to the people at home? Was it for a nice meal, or when they bought you some clothes? How can you say thank you without using words?

8 Sometimes parents find it difficult to understand their children. Does that surprise you? Why?

9 Is homework a problem in your house? Maybe it's because people at home can't do it! Does homework cause arguments in your home?

10 What annoys adults about children? Why?

11 Parents can sometimes say things which they don't really mean. What sort of things have you ever said which you don't really mean?

**Theme for Week**    **GETTING ON TOGETHER**

Day

**Theme for Today**    ... with people you don't like

2

Jesus once said, "Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you". He also said, "If someone strikes you on the cheek, offer them the other one as well".

Is this the advice of a mad man? Is it the advice of someone who does not live in the real world?

The reality is, of course, that there will be people you will meet in life - you may have met some of them already - that you will not like.

If they hit you, not just with their fists, but with unkind comments, or untruths, how do you react?

Returning a punch and trading insults may make you feel better - but for how long?

Often the person who is unkind does things for a reaction, to try and upset you or wind you up.

Saying and doing nothing, apart from walking away, might just be the treatment they deserve?

**Reflection/Prayer**

Jesus taught, "Love your enemies".

7 Some people like to bully others. If you are being bullied what do you think is the best thing to do?

8 We can be easily hurt by the things people say. We might think they have no right to say anything. Do we have a right to say unkind things ourselves?

9 What do you find the hardest situation to walk away from?

10 As you get older, it's not fists which hurt. It's the comments about you and your reputation. Which affects your reputation most - other people's words or your actions?

11 How difficult is it to see people you don't like as people with problems themselves?

**Theme for Week** GETTING ON TOGETHER

Day

**Theme for Today** ... with people you can't avoid

3

There are some people you like and some people you simply cannot stand.

But there are many more people who are just a part of your everyday life. They might drive your bus to school or serve you in the supermarket; they might just push a supermarket trolley round the streets near your home, or spend a lot of time on a bench in the park down the road - but mean little more to you than that.

Of course, they are someone's son or daughter, mum or dad, brother or sister. It may be their birthday, or the anniversary of the death of someone they loved. They may be having a great day, or a terrible day. We don't know, we can't tell.

But they are still people, flesh and bones just like us, with hopes and fears. They are part of our community. They are people we cannot avoid - do we treat them as people?

Do they treat us as people?

### Reflection/Prayer

Do we notice the people we cannot avoid?

7 How did you get to school today? How many people made sure you got here? How many of them did you know?

8 How many people are there whom you see at school most days, but whose names you don't know? Do they deserve a friendly smile sometimes?

9 You cannot always trust strangers. Does that mean it is safer to ignore all of them?

10 Why do people find it easier to care for people in need from overseas than from their own community?

11 Why are people more likely to be lonely in a large city than in a small town?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: PICKING UP THE PIECES**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship reflects on the story of a bomb explosion, and the way in which the affected community was changed by the experience.

**School Notes:**

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

**Music**

**Speakers**

**Drama**

**Visuals**

**Artefacts**

**Posters**

**Video**

**Slides**

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** reflect on human tragedy and look for signs of hope.

**Moral:** examine their motivations behind their actions.

**Social:** acknowledge the need for shared purpose in life and reflect upon the resolution of conflict.

**Cultural:** challenge the religious and cultural elitism which can lead to such sadness.

<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>PICKING UP THE PIECES</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b>	Glass everywhere	1

When the IRA bomb exploded, it was devastating. August 1981 brought a huge change in the life of the town of Lisburn, in Northern Ireland, as shops and offices were wrecked and lives were re-arranged for ever. Standing proud for years in the heart of Lisburn was a church. It wasn't destroyed - but so badly damaged it looked drunk. The ceiling timbers were cracked, fallen plaster littered the floor, the roof had been lifted by the blast and seventeen of its stained glass windows were shattered. Now all that was left were pieces to be picked up.

With great care and over a period of time - not six weeks, not six months but six years - the church was restored. Out of total despair, a new beginning was made. An almost impossible situation was turned round. It took time, effort, money and, most important, faith. More than anything else, the restored windows were a symbol of hope for the whole of Lisburn.

### Reflection/Prayer

Let us think about the time when we have to begin again, to make a fresh start, to pick up the pieces.

7 How does it feel when something you love is broken?

8 If the place where you live were somehow destroyed, what would you want to see restored first?

9 What has been 're-arranged' in your life?

10 Why did they think it was important to restore the church?

11 If someone said, "What a waste to spend money on stained glass windows, when so much else needed doing", how would you respond?

**Theme for Week** PICKING UP THE PIECES

Day

**Theme for Today** A new window

2

When the stained glass windows were mended after the bomb blast in Lisburn, not all the glass could be put back into the windows. The minister of the church, Gordon Gray, tells how the artist made a new window out of the left-over glass. It shows a great explosion. In the centre is the circle of the earth surrounded by red, symbolising human suffering but from that centre are shafts of light bringing hope to every point around. It is called the Resurrection Window, symbolising new life after death.

It is a beautiful window, which would never have been seen, had the bomb not happened.

"Most people," says Gordon, "are faced with picking up the pieces after earthquake or fire, or a job disappears or health breaks down or marriage falls asunder. We carry into the future the scars of past hurts and grief - but the pieces that are left can be re-arranged. And, strangely, but for the shattering of the old, we could not have had this new and beautiful window!"

#### **Reflection/Prayer**

Remember those who have to begin again, to make a fresh start, to pick up the pieces.

7 When is it easier to 'pick up the pieces' with other people, rather than by yourself?

8 When have you kept going, even though things were hard for you?

9 What do you make of the 'left-over bits' in your life?

10 How did this new window **really** help?

11 When people have to 'pick up the pieces', what keeps them going?

**Theme for Week**    **PICKING UP THE PIECES**

Day

**Theme for Today**    Again and again

3

Of all the beautiful windows in the church in Lisburn, the Resurrection Window was the best loved. It was a symbol of new life and hope after the IRA bomb attack.

The church people were glad they had had the courage and commitment to restore the building and the seventeen windows .....

Then it was destroyed again by another bomb. The new window was smashed with all the others. Many felt despair. Many felt hope had gone for ever. Astonishingly the church people decided that they could not give up. The pieces had to be picked up, and the church restored all over again.

But this time, the Resurrection Window was the first to be restored.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Remember those who have to begin again, make a new start, pick up the pieces - not once, but again and again.

7 Why was the Resurrection Window the first to be restored?

8 If you were a member of that church, what would your reaction have been?

9 How could the church people best get back at the bombers?

10 Why did the Resurrection Window mean more now?

11 How many times would they go on re-building?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: ANIMALS**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship considers the way we treat animals - and raises some awkward questions.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** consider the value of life.

**Moral:** ask what kind of behaviour towards animals is appropriate.

**Social:** consider the effect upon society of 'pressure groups'.

**Cultural:** reflect on a diversity of cultural understanding of the rights of animals.

**Theme for Week** ANIMALS

**Day**

**Theme for Today:** Licensed to kill

1

What's your idea of a really good meal?

Is it beefburger and chips or a thick steak, grilled to perfection?

Some people, of course, might just not like either, but for others both options would be refused in all circumstances, because, on principle, they would not eat meat. This may be on health grounds or because of their beliefs about the place of animals in the world.

In the biblical account of creation, God made the animal world and then he made people and gave them dominion, which means power, over animals. Some people consider that power is abused, not only in the killing of animals for food, but also in the use of animals for scientific purposes, testing products for human consumption on animals, and using them to push out the frontiers of medical research.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*What is man .....?*

*You have made him little less than a god,  
crowning him with glory and honour.*

*You make him master over all that you have made,  
putting everything in subjection under his feet:*

*all sheep and oxen, all wild beasts,  
The birds in the air, the fish in the sea,  
and everything that moves in the oceans.*

Psalm 8

7 What sets people apart from animals?

8 What do you believe about the place of animals in the world?

9 What do you think when you see an animal's carcass hanging in a butcher's shop or meat on the supermarket shelf?

10 How is 'dominion' different from a licence to kill?

11 How has power over animals corrupted people?

**Theme for Week**    ANIMALS

Day

**Theme for Today:** Ahimsa

2

Refusing to eat meat is one way of showing respect for animals. It is a commitment many people keep, some for religious reasons. But what about extending that belief to include all living creatures?

You would probably think it strange to see a person sweeping the path ahead with a soft brush to avoid stepping on any living creature and wearing a mask to prevent any airborne insect from being swallowed.

This is what Jain monks do. For them *ahimsa*, the belief in non-violence to all creatures, is an important aspect of their faith. Traditionally, they will not eat after sunset to ensure that no tiny insect is injured by accident.

Since light attracts insects, efforts are made in both Jain homes and temples to avoid lights burning too late because of potential damage to the smallest of living creatures.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*May all beings live in safety with hearts full of joy!*

*Let none deceive another or despise any being whatsoever;*

*Let none by anger or ill-will wish harm to another.*

Buddhist prayer

7 What do you think when you swat a wasp?

8 When is it justifiable to kill a living creature?

9 Is all life of equal value?

10 Why do some people fear creatures like spiders, birds or snakes?

11 How does your attitude to animals influence your life?

**Theme for Week** ANIMALS

Day

**Theme for Today:** Animal Rights

3

The Animal Rights movement is very active today. Some people would argue that it needs to be, because of the dreadful suffering of many animals.

An organisation called 'Compassion in World Farming' was set up by a farmer in an attempt to draw attention to what he saw as cruel methods of rearing animals, transporting them and finally killing them for food.

'Factory' farming goes on in many parts of the world. Animals do not see natural light, have restricted space and often live very short lives. Some people believe so strongly that this is wrong that they are prepared to give their time and energy to protest about such treatment of animals. Some commit their lives to this cause. Some literally give their lives - one protester died tragically under the wheels of a lorry carrying crates of new-born calves to an airport for transportation to Belgium.

Compassion in World Farming believes that animals should be given their true status as individual creatures capable of experiencing well being or suffering.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Let us celebrate all creatures great and small

7 What rights do animals have?

8 What difference can you make to the way animals are treated?

9 When is it worth sacrificing a human life for an animal's?

10 Why do animals need people to speak for them?

11 What do you think might be the 'true status' of animals?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: ST VALENTINE**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship looks at St Valentine and asks if 'lurve' is the same as 'love'.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** consider their own values and attitudes; and reflect upon the non-material aspects of life.

**Moral:** consider the need for consistency between beliefs and actions.

**Social:** recognise the links between religion and positive/negative aspects of life.

**Cultural:** question their own traditions and practices.

**Theme for Week** ST VALENTINE

Day

**Theme for Today** Total commitment

1

St Valentine's Day has become a very popular Saint's Day in the Christian Year. Some people make a lot of money out of it, selling cards, flowers and teddy bears with sickly little messages!

St Valentine himself was a long way from all of this, and it seems strange that we think of love in connection with a saint who did not marry. In fact, however, some stories say that he was a priest who helped Roman soldiers get married, which was against the Roman rules. He believed that marriage was a gift from God, and should not be denied to those who wanted it. He was put in prison, and eventually put to death for this. One version of the story says that he actually fell in love with the jailer's daughter, though we cannot be sure how true this is ...!

It would seem that Valentine's love was all about total commitment. He was prepared to risk trouble for those who looked for help from him, and in the end he paid the price for daring to do what he believed God wanted. Faced with the choice of turning his back on God or being killed, he chose to be killed.

Is that just 'lurve' or is that total commitment?

### Reflection/Prayer

The Bible says:

*Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up.*

1 Cor 13: 4-7

7 How should we remember Valentine on St Valentine's Day?

8 Love is not just for a 'sweetheart'. Whom do you love in your life?

9 What is your opinion of St Valentine?

10 What life or death principles do you have?

11 How good are hearts and flowers as symbols of true love?

<b>Theme for Week</b> ST VALENTINE	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> Is it destiny?	2

St Valentine's Day is a mixture of many different traditions, all to do with love. Some of the traditions come from an old Roman festival called Lupercalia; others have come from Medieval England. Mostly, they are to do with how you will find your Valentine.

Some people think that the first person (other than your family) that you see on St Valentine's Day will be your Valentine. Others say that if you sleep with a bay leaf under your pillow, you will dream about your future partner. Looking into the flames of a fire, or at the reflections in a pond, are also supposed to have the same effect!

In modern times, people say that a good way to find your Valentine is to go on the TV programme *Blind Date*.

Is this what love is really all about? It makes it sound like destiny, and all too easy. It doesn't say that love can be hard work! There is a huge difference between being in love, and loving someone.

**Reflection/Prayer**

The Bible says:

*Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up.*

1 Cor 13: 4-7

7 Do you think people are always happy on *Blind Date*? Why?

8 Do any of these ways of finding true love really work? Why?

9 Why do some people say traditions are silly, but secretly wonder if they are true?

10 Why do many people who would laugh at these ideas take their horoscope so seriously?

11 Why are people so sure that destiny shapes their life?

**Theme for Week** ST VALENTINE

Day

**Theme for Today** Is it over when it's over?

3

Is St Valentine's Day more exciting before it happens? Do people hope that they will get a mysterious card or gift, which means they have a secret admirer?

Afterwards, St Valentine's Day can be very disappointing. Maybe the card you hoped for didn't arrive. Maybe the things that were said on St Valentine's Day have already been forgotten.

Maybe it was your best friend who got the messages which you had hoped to get yourself.

Like some of the disappointed contenders on TV's *Blind Date*, perhaps you wonder if it was all worth the effort.

**Reflection/Prayer**

The Bible says:

*Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up.*

1 Cor 13: 4-7

7 How did you feel on St Valentine's Day?

8 Does what people say always match up with what they mean?

9 How well do you cope with disappointment? Would your closest friends agree?

10 What is the **best** message you could send someone?

11 What does this proverb mean to you: Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: LENT - GOING WITHOUT**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship marks the beginning of Lent. The theme is 'Going Without' - through choice, through poverty and through war.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** reflect on questions about religion and the meaning of life.

**Moral:** think about their motives for action.

**Social:** develop the capacity to discuss reasonably matters about which they feel strongly.

**Cultural:** recognise their own worth and the contribution a religious viewpoint may make.

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>GOING WITHOUT</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b> - through choice	1

Pancake Day is followed by Ash Wednesday and Lent. The idea of Pancake Day is to use up all the rich food in the house, so that when Lent starts, the serious business of Lent can begin. What is the serious business of Lent? For Christians in the past - and still for some today - they decide that they will 'go without' something, so that they can concentrate on God. They are following the example of Jesus who spent forty days going without food so that he could concentrate on God.

You don't have to be religious to see how useful it is to go without. People who want to lose weight try to go without high calorie foods. People who want to be champion skaters go without some social life, so that they can spend time practising until they reach the top. Some children go without sweets, saving their money so they can buy something much more expensive later on.

Sometimes pupils in schools - and teachers as well - go without a favourite programme on the television so that they can get some important homework done. Sometimes people give money to charity, going without something for themselves, so that others can have something.

'Going without' is a question of choice. If we think something is important enough, we decide that we will follow it through, even if it means going without some of the things we like.

You have a choice about how you use your time, your money, your mind, your body.

#### **Reflection/Prayer**

For the choices which today brings, may we be careful and wise and may we be strong enough to know when we must go without.

7 What could you never give up?

8 A question of choice: how well do you use your time?

9 A question of choice: how well do you use your money?

10 A question of choice: how well do you use your mind?

11 What do you need to go without to achieve your goals?

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>GOING WITHOUT</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> - through poverty	2

There are times when we press our noses against a shop window, or look at our friends' possessions ... and think how nice it would be to buy this or that. But we don't have enough money. If we want it, we'll have to save up, (maybe go without some of the things we like) until we have enough money. However, we still have most of the things which we **need** - even if we can't have everything we **want**.

Sadly, round this world today, there are people who go without what they need almost all of the time, because they are poor. Some of them live in our cities in cardboard boxes or in shanty towns, their houses made up of bits of wood and corrugated iron sheets. Some live in the drains and sewers of big cities. Some just live on the streets. There are pictures of people like this on the news almost every day. In fact, so often, they simply don't get a second thought.

Schools do try and remember those who go without because they are poor. Through discos, sponsor schemes and competitions money is raised to help. We can go without, so that others can go without less. We don't do it to say how good **we** are. We do it simply to help.

### **Reflection/Prayer**

We remember those who were hungry yesterday  
And still are today.  
We remember those who are cold today  
And who don't know what tomorrow will bring.  
May peace and comfort be with them.

7 What are the really important things in life?

8 Should we let people live in drains? Why?

9 Whose fault is it that cardboard cities exist?

10 How clear is the difference between **want** and **need**?

11 Is world poverty your problem?

**Theme for Week**    **GOING WITHOUT**

Day

**Theme for Today**    - through war

3

During the second World War, food was rationed. So were other things, like clothes, or fuel. That meant you couldn't just walk into a shop and buy something. You also had to have a coupon. The shopkeeper could only serve you if you gave in a coupon.

This system meant that there would be something for everybody. It was not a perfect system and sometimes the queues were very long. But in a time of war, it did mean that people looked after each other, even if it meant they had to go without some things.

War is not always like that - a good rationing system may not exist. Clothes can be difficult to buy, and many people may only have what look like rags to keep them warm in a very cold winter.

Hospital beds could be in short supply if hospitals have been bombed and there is nowhere for injured people to go. During the Bosnian conflict in 1994, some people were flown to Britain to be treated. There were some complaints about this. Some people said, "Why should they get treated here, when people have been on a waiting list for ages? It's not fair."

#### **Reflection/Prayer**

We hope for peace in the world.

We especially think about the people in conflict,  
the people who fight  
and the people who suffer

and for all people who have to go without.

7 How good are you at queuing? Would you queue for hours for some things?

8 What happens to your old clothes? Could they be useful to others?

9 Was it fair that people from Bosnia jumped the queue for hospital care in Britain? Why?

10 Is a war in a place like Bosnia any of our business? Why?

11 Why does rationing create a 'Black Market'?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: BEING OURSELVES**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship considers an eternal mystery - who are we, really?

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** reflect on the nature of personhood and self awareness.

**Moral:** ask how honest they are about themselves.

**Social:** reflect upon the fact that the self is only fully expressed in relationships with others.

**Cultural:** consider how the necessity of an openness to others is a prerequisite for self-understanding.

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>BEING OURSELVES</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> Who are you?	1

Who are you?

This may seem to be a simple question - but is it?

Just think for a minute of how you behave with different people - friends, teachers, parents, grandparents, people you have just met.

If someone asked your best friend what you were like as a person, what would he/she say?

Would the answer be the same from a teacher - particularly your least favourite teacher?

It can be an interesting experience to see yourself from the point of view of other people. Be honest about yourself.

Being honest with ourselves is not always easy.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*If only God the grace would give us to see ourselves as others see us.*

Robert Burns (paraphrased)

7 Why does behaviour change with different people?

8 Sometimes we may try to hide or 'mask' our real feelings in front of others. When have you been afraid to let someone know what you really felt?

9 Do we really help ourselves if we create a false picture or image of ourselves? What false pictures do you create to impress others?

10 When are you really honest?

11 How do you find out who you are?

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>BEING OURSELVES</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b> You are unique!	2

The word 'unique' is used for things that cannot be copied. Human beings are unique - there is only one of you!

Nobody has your smile, your eyes, your hands, your hair.

Nobody has your particular set of abilities - you are one of a kind!

Nobody else has your personality.

When a child is born, parents and relatives are often keen to see who the baby looks like and takes after. You may be said to have your mother's eyes or your father's temper. But even identical twins with the same parents and upbringing are individuals.

Everyone is different and special in some way.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Thank you for making me 'ME'.

7 Think about all the things that are similar between you and your family. How are you different?

8 What things have influenced you and made you into the person you are?

9 What are the qualities you have inherited from your parents? Are we shaped by the attitudes of parents, school or society? Are you shaped by nature or nurture?

10 How often do you go along with the crowd and accept their ideas and attitudes? How often do you think things out for yourself?

11 Does society cause you to conform or rebel? Why?

**Theme for Week** BEING OURSELVES

Day

**Theme for Today** How do we look at other people?

3

We have thought earlier in this theme about how other people see us, and about our own unique value. Finally we think about how we view other people. Here is a very short story from a Jewish background.

Once a rabbi (teacher) asked his followers how they knew daylight was coming. One of them suggested it was when there was enough light to tell the difference between a sheep and a dog. Another thought it might be when there was enough light to tell the difference between a fig tree and an olive tree.

But the rabbi meant something different. "No," he said. "It is when you look at other people and you can recognise them as your brothers and sisters. If you cannot do that the world will always be dark as night, no matter what time of day it is."

#### **Reflection/Prayer**

If you cannot see other people as your brothers and sisters, the world will always be dark as night.

7 If - like the rabbi said - you can recognise other people as your brothers and sisters, what are the consequences of this for you?

8 Who do you find difficult to see as your brother or sister? What can you do about this?

9 It is a lot easier sometimes **not** to see people as our brothers and sisters. Why is this?

10 Do you actually want to see others as your brothers and sisters anyway?

11 How would you reply to someone who said this? - "I am willing to treat people in this way - but only if they treat me the same."

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT MOTHERS?**

**Date:**

**Summary:** Collective worship has Mothering Sunday as its focus and asks whether it is right only to have one special day for those who care for us each year!

**School Notes:**

**Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship**

**Music**

**Speakers**

**Drama**

**Visuals**

**Artefacts**

**Posters**

**Video**

**Slides**

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** think about their own values and attitudes in caring for others - and those who care for them.

**Moral:** reflect upon the difference between hypocritical and genuine gratitude.

**Social:** see issues from another's perspective; and reflect upon the experiences of others which are different from their own.

**Cultural:** see the worth of themselves and their family.

**Theme for Week**WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT  
MOTHERS?

Day

**Theme for Today**

Where do tears come from?

1

**(This story has no differentiated material - it should be accessible to all age groups).**

Most people have someone who cares for them, and Mothering Sunday is a time when we can remember not just mothers but all those who care for us. This story is about where mothers come from. You can decide if it is true! You should also think about the twist at the end ...

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, he was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on that one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the requirements for a mother? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic ... run on black coffee and leftovers ... have a lap that disappears when she stands up ... a kiss that can cure anything from a bruised leg to a broken heart ... and six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands? No way!"

"It's not her hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord. "It's the three pairs of eyes that she needs to have."

"Is that on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair to see through closed doors when she asks, 'what are you doing in there?' but already knows. Another pair in the back of her head to see what she shouldn't, but needs to know. And the last pair are ones that can talk, so that a child can look at them and hear them say, 'I understand and love you!'"

"Lord," said the angel, touching his sleeve gently, "go to bed. Tomorrow is another day."

"I can't, I'm so close now. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on a pound of mince - and get a nine year old to have a bath." He watched as the angel walked round the mother.

"It's too soft", she said.

"But tough!", said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine how much mothers have to do or endure."

Then, the angel noticed something. She put her hand out, and touched the mother's cheek. "There's a leak," she said.

"It's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear."

"What's it for?" asked the angel.

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride."

"You are a genius," said the angel admiringly.

The Lord looked serious. "I didn't put it there," he said.

**Reflection/Prayer**

One of the Ten Commandments says:

*Honour your father and mother.*

Exodus 20:12

<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT MOTHERS?</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b>	Missing your family?	2

Mothering Sunday is traditionally the Sunday half way through the time of year Christians call Lent. It was a time when girls, often as young as eleven or twelve, who were 'in service' (working as a servant in someone's house) were given the day off to go home. It was a chance for them to say how they were getting on. Some girls made a special cake called a Simnel cake, to show how well they were doing.

Today, people who have left home still like to go home to see their mum and the family. Those who are still at home often buy cards and a present. Some very lucky mums might even get a cup of tea in bed ...!

It is strange that the person most people argue with - the person who slaves away for her family all through the year - just gets one day a year when people say thank you!

### Reflection/Prayer

One of the Ten Commandments says:

*Honour your father and mother.*

*Exodus 20:12*

7 How often do you say thank you to the people who look after you?

8 Can you imagine living away from home? What would you miss?

9 Apart from birthdays or Christmas, when did you last give a gift to the people who look after you?

10 What causes most disagreements at home?

11 Who is the person who understands you better than you like to admit?

<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT MOTHERS?</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b>	When mum is no longer there	3

Some people have to manage without a mother. It may have been because of war, or famine. It may have been because in giving birth, although the baby lived, the mother died. It may be because of a family breakdown; or an illness or accident which led to death.

Yet it is remarkable how people can survive during such difficult times. There is something amazing about people, that usually they can make something positive out of the situation. Friends and family rally round. Help comes from unexpected places.

Of course, it never replaces the mum who is no longer there. In many ways, it makes her the more precious.

And mums don't live forever. Older people - like teachers - may have gaps in their life where their mum used to be. They too have memories which they cherish; videos in their mind which they can replay when they feel the need to.

Let us be glad of all those who care for us - and remember those who miss their mum.

**Reflection/Prayer**

One of the Ten Commandments says:

*Honour your father and mother.*

*Exodus 20:12*

7 How do people manage when mum is not about?

8 How many memories are you making?

9 How special should mums be?

10 Why do some people see their mum as a nuisance?

11 In this day and age, we expect to live a long time. How do we react when it doesn't work out like that?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: SUFFERING**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship considers a painful theme, and offers some ways of thinking about suffering.

**School Notes:**

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

**Music**

**Speakers**

**Drama**

**Visuals**

**Artefacts**

**Posters**

**Video**

**Slides**

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** get to grips with one of the ultimate questions of human existence.

**Moral:** consider times when suffering is unjust.

**Social:** search for ways in which they can assuage the suffering of others.

**Cultural:** consider the difficulty of coming to terms with the ideal society in a success-orientated culture.

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>SUFFERING</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b> Why do people suffer?	1

Some people suffer more than others, but all of us experience some suffering in our lives. It may be something unpleasant but relatively unimportant like a headache - or it may be something that affects the whole of our life - like the death of someone very close to us.

Sometimes suffering may be caused by our own actions, whether deliberate or not. Some people say that this type of suffering, caused by our own foolishness, may be deserved. But there are other types of suffering which may seem unfair or unjust, when caused by others - or by factors outside our control. How many times have you heard people say, "What have I done to deserve this?" Perhaps you have asked this yourself.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Why do people suffer?

7 Think of an occasion when you experienced some form of suffering. Can you say what caused that suffering? Did it have a purpose?

8 Can you think of any examples when something good might have come out of suffering?

9 What is the point of suffering?

10 Some people may lose faith in God as a result of suffering - why?

11 Suffering makes some people's faith stronger - why?

**Theme for Week**    **SUFFERING**

Day

**Theme for Today**    "In sickness and in health"

2

"I take thee to be my wedded wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part".

Vows like these are made in a Christian marriage ceremony. When partners repeat them they understand that the commitment they are making is a lifetime one - whatever the future may hold. As well as sharing good times together there will be times of unhappiness. They hope that the love which brings them so much happiness will also bring them strength to cope in times of suffering.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance.*

I Corinthians 13: 7

7 Suffering in a relationship is often caused by thoughtlessness. Can you think of any examples?

8 When a marriage is struggling what kind of help might be needed?

9 What is the difference between loving and liking? In what sort of situations might love be put to the test?

10 How far is an expression of love a willingness to share the suffering of the one you love?

11 How realistic are these promises?

**Theme for Week** SUFFERING

Day

**Theme for Today** The suffering of Jesus

3

At Easter, Christians often sing these words from the hymn,  
*There is a green hill far away:*

*We do not know, we cannot tell  
What pains he had to bear  
But we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there.*

The suffering of Jesus is at the heart of Christianity.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life  
for his friends.*

John 15: 12-14

7 In the Bible we have many examples of Jesus caring for people who are suffering. How would you show care to people who suffer?

8 One of the ways in which Jesus suffered was being let down by his friends. When have you suffered because someone let you down?

9 Why do love and suffering so often go hand in hand?

10 How might the belief in Jesus affect a person's understanding of suffering?

11 According to Christians God became a human being and suffered death on the cross. What does this tell us about what God might be like?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: TAKE A SECOND LOOK**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship encourages us to 'take a second look' - we might see much more than before.

**School Notes:**

**Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship**

**Music**

**Speakers**

**Drama**

**Visuals**

**Artefacts**

**Posters**

**Video**

**Slides**

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** consider that there is more to life than meets the eye.

**Moral:** see the value of considering situations carefully and avoiding hasty conclusions.

**Social:** recognise the value of different points of view.

**Cultural:** consider the value of the cyclical view of life offered by Hindu cultural tradition.

**Theme for Week** TAKE A SECOND LOOK

Day

**Theme for Today** Look now!

1

Think what the world looks like at the moment.

Around this time of year, it looks like winter is nearly over. The earth is bare, the trees are like bare figures reaching up to a grey sky. It's often cold, and we spend time looking to the future - as if somehow the present is not good enough. We are quick to complain about the present, and imagine that 'now' doesn't matter.

But the future that we look forward to will become 'now', and we might still be looking forward even then. It is much better to see 'now' not as a moment to be got through, but a moment of opportunity - because this particular 'now' will very soon be gone.

**Reflection/Prayer**

There is more to life than meets the eye.

7 What is good about the present moment?

8 Someone who is always looking forward to the future instead of enjoying the present would be described as 'wishing their life away'. When have you felt like this?

9 Who says the future is going to be better anyway? How do you react to this question?

10 Can you identify opportunities you missed in the past? Could you in the present?

11 What should be your attitude as you look forward and plan for the future?

<b>Theme for Week</b> TAKE A SECOND LOOK	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> Take a second look	2

Last time we looked briefly at the bare, winter trees. If you look at the trees closely, you see that they aren't dead at all. From a distance, at a quick glance, they might **look** dead; but the reality is different. Hidden inside - and just showing the first signs - are the beginnings of spring. Life is there after all.

Maybe there are other things - at school, at home, around us in our lives - which seem dead from a quick glance. If we take a second look, we might be surprised!

#### **Reflection/Prayer**

There is more to life than meets the eye.

7 Take a second look at some of the things you think are bad at the moment. Where are there signs of new life?

8 Have you ever broken a friendship - and then made it up again? In-between, you thought the friendship was dead. What state was it really in?

9 Even dead trees have a kind of beauty. Take a second look at something which looks dead. Where is its beauty?

10 Take a second look at someone you dislike. What can you find about them that you like?

11 Take a second look at yourself! What do other people see in you? How far is it what you **want** them to see?

**Theme for Week** TAKE A SECOND LOOK

Day

**Theme for Today** The cycle of life

3

At springtime we can see new life in what seemed dead. This is the cycle of nature. Winter is always followed by spring; destruction is followed by new life.

For Hindus this is a very important way of looking at life. Like the days of the week or the months of the year, life is a continuous cycle of endings and beginnings.

Some things may come to an end too soon; others may seem to go on for too long. A new beginning is more welcome at some times than others.

**Reflection/Prayer**

There is more to life than meets the eye.

7 Think of a time of ending which worried or upset you at the time. Can you see it now as a new beginning too?

8 If every ending is a new beginning - is every beginning an ending too?

9 Some people find the idea of a cycle of life reassuring - others find it frightening, like a maze you can't get out of. Which are you?

10 If everything is going to end sooner or later - why isn't everything pointless?

11 Should you always welcome a new beginning?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: EASTER - NOT JUST EGGS**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship takes a fresh look at the stories of the week before Easter, and suggests the past still speaks to the present

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

**Spiritual:** consider how values and attitudes contribute to individual and group identity.

**Moral:** be honest about their own weaknesses.

**Social:** reflect upon how individuals influence one another.

**Cultural:** explore a central element of Christian tradition.

**Theme for Week** EASTER - NOT JUST EGGS

Day

**Theme for Today** The crowd

1

For Christians, it will soon be 'Holy Week' - the week when, according to the Gospel accounts, Jesus spent the last week of his life in Jerusalem, was crucified on the Friday, and rose again on the Sunday. What happened on the Sunday was so important for Christians that the custom soon grew of taking a holiday on that day to celebrate.

Whatever we believe about Jesus, we can still enjoy the Easter holiday. Similarly, whatever we believe about Jesus, we can ask whether we behave in the way the crowd did at the time of Jesus.

At the beginning of the week, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, a great crowd was watching him, calling out in support of him, cheering him on, and even saying they wanted him for king.

But by the end of the week they wanted Jesus to be crucified. A lot of the same people must have been in the crowd on both occasions. They can't all have changed their minds - yet they were saying quite different things about Jesus ...

### Reflection/Prayer

Easter - not just eggs!

7 When have you ever gone along with the crowd, to do something you were not really happy about? What can you learn from that experience?

8 When have you ever made a decision, changed your mind, and then wished you hadn't? What influences acted upon you?

9 How does it make you feel when you are part of a large group?

10 Can you think of ways to help yourself resist the temptation to go along with the crowd?

11 Who or what most influences what you think?

**Theme for Week** EASTER - NOT JUST EGGS

Day

**Theme for Today** The betrayer

2

On the Thursday of 'Holy Week', Jesus was arrested by the authorities. They only knew where to find him because a man called Judas showed them. Judas was one of Jesus' closest followers, yet he betrayed him and helped the authorities to arrest him. He was paid for his services - yet it is believed that he was so ashamed that he later killed himself.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Easter - not just eggs!

7 When have you ever let down someone who trusted you? What made you do it?

8 If you feel bad about letting someone down, what can you do about it?

9 When had someone ever let you down? How did you treat them afterwards?

10 Some people think Judas betrayed Jesus with good intentions, to make Jesus stand up for himself and prove who he was. If this were true, would it make a difference to your view of Judas?

11 Judas made money out of his betrayal. Could you defend someone who is prepared to make money by doing something you know is wrong?

**Theme for Week** EASTER - NOT JUST EGGS

Day

**Theme for Today** Behold the man

3

When you look at pictures of Jesus on a cross, you will see a broken body, bloody and beaten, with pain in his eyes. For Christians, it is a shocking sight.

Often, beneath these pictures are the words 'Ecce Homo.'

They are Latin for 'BEHOLD THE MAN' or 'LOOK AT THE MAN' and sum up the amazement with which people looked at Jesus.

Even if many people were not sure what to think about him, they very much admired his teachings and his actions.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Easter - not just eggs!

7 Whom do you particularly admire? What is special about the person?

8 What do you most admire others for? Is it some skill that they have, or is it the kind of person that they are?

9 If you want to become more like someone you admire, how would you set about it?

10 If people want to change themselves, what kind of help do you think they need?

11 Many Christians try to become more like Jesus. How far is that a good thing for the world - why?

