

LESSON 10: The Church

AIM

To understand the Church as the Body of Christ, animated by the Holy Spirit, and called to transform society (2.2.16, 2.4.11, 2.4.12, 2.4.13)

OUTCOME

Learners understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.

Learners are familiar with various models of Church.

TEACHER BACKGROUND

The passage [Galatians 5:16-26], in which the fruits of the Spirit are listed, contrasts the terms 'flesh' and 'spirit'. It is important to realise that Paul's use of 'flesh' does not indicate that the human body itself is sinful or unworthy. On the contrary, it is holy in that it is God's creation, and is taken up into God in the Incarnation of the Son, Jesus. "Flesh", as it is used here, indicates our state of frailty and inability to enter the kingdom of God unaided.



WHAT YOU NEED

- * Some flour, dry yeast and a batch of yeast and flour mix prepared beforehand (2)
- * Bibles (3)(5)
- * Copies of the worksheet (3)(6)(7) ⇒
- * Cardboard, colouring pens, glue, old magazines for collages (8)(9)
- * Bibles (10)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

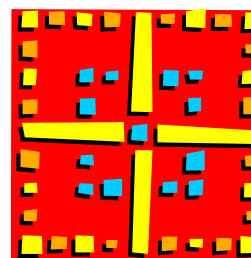
- 1 **The Holy Spirit, our Helper:** In John's gospel during the Last Supper, Jesus says to the apostles, "In a little while, I will be with you no longer, but do not be sad, I will send you a helper, an advocate, a guide to help you on your journey." [John 14:16-17] The same Holy Spirit that filled Jesus' with wisdom and power is that helper and guide who is with the Church today. What does he do and how does he act in the Church? Invite some discussion of the question.
- 2 **Yeast in the dough:** Ask the learners if they have ever baked bread and observed the exciting things that happen when yeast is mixed with a little liquid and added to a bowl of flour? Isn't it amazing that a little yeast can have such a powerful effect? Demonstrate the effect by placing a yeast and flour mix in a warm place. It should rise substantially during the course of the lesson. Read [Matthew 12:33]. The Spirit is something hidden, like the yeast, that transforms the Church. The Church in turn is given the power to transform society to bring about the Kingdom or Reign of God.
- 3 **Gifts of the Spirit:** Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet gives us a picture of how holiness works. Traditionally we list the seven gifts of the Spirit as: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear or reverence of the Lord. These gifts are available to us. One could say that we recognize the presence of the Spirit in others by the presence of the various gifts. We receive them at Baptism, at Confirmation and ask for them as we experience the need, especially at Pentecost. See the worksheet. ⇒

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:

a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord. [Isaiah 11:1-2]

4 **Models of the church:** There are many models or ways of describing the Church. Each way presents a different picture and shows some different qualities it has because of the indwelling Spirit. Let's consider four such models.



- The Church is the **BODY OF CHRIST**. The word *body* has two meanings. It is something visible and tangible, and is also an organism made up of various parts, each with its own identity and importance for the whole body. All the followers of Jesus Christ make up his Body.
- In **LESSON 7** we learned about the word **SACRAMENT**, meaning sign. The Church, for instance, the People of God, can be seen as a sign, a sign of God's presence in the world. They show God's presence by the way they live their own lives, by the way they show the gifts and fruits of the Spirit in their lives.
- Another way of describing the Church is **HERALD**, one who announces, makes known. Poets often say that the first bird song in the morning or the lightening of the sky heralds the breaking of a new day. So the Church is called to announce God's presence.
- Another way of seeing the Church is as **FAMILY**. Family members are the closest people to one another, the most intimate, and the most involved in each other's lives. What better way could there be to describe the community of the Church as a family? Families are not always perfect but the ideal of the Church as a Family is surely an encouragement to us.

5 **Fruits of the Spirit:** St Paul writing to the Galatians warns us of the weak tendencies of our damaged and fallen human nature. He writes, "but the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self-control." He says that the Spirit has given us life and must also control our lives. [Galatians 5: 22-26]

6 Invite the learners to **study the worksheet** noting the different gifts and fruits. In small groups choose different gifts or fruits and share how they can be seen in the lives of different people, in members of the group, and how they show God's presence. 📖 ⇒

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

7 Learners **memorise the lists** of gifts and fruits. Write them up and decorate them. 📖 ⇒

8 Learners make personal or group **collages or posters** showing the gifts and fruits.

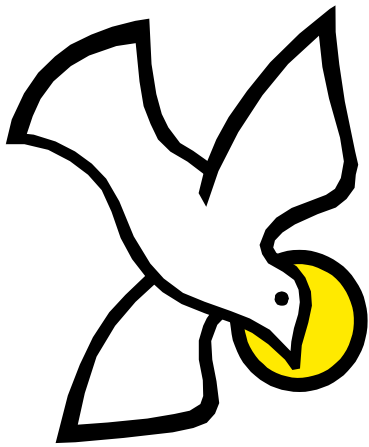
9 Learners in groups make a **collage** noting all the different ways in which the Church can be described.

10 **Parables of the kingdom**

- the mustard seed [Matthew 12:31-32]
- the treasure hidden in a field [Matthew 12:44]
- the pearl of great price [Matthew 12:45-46]

Study these parables noting that the image of something small and hidden is common to them, as well as the earlier one of the yeast.

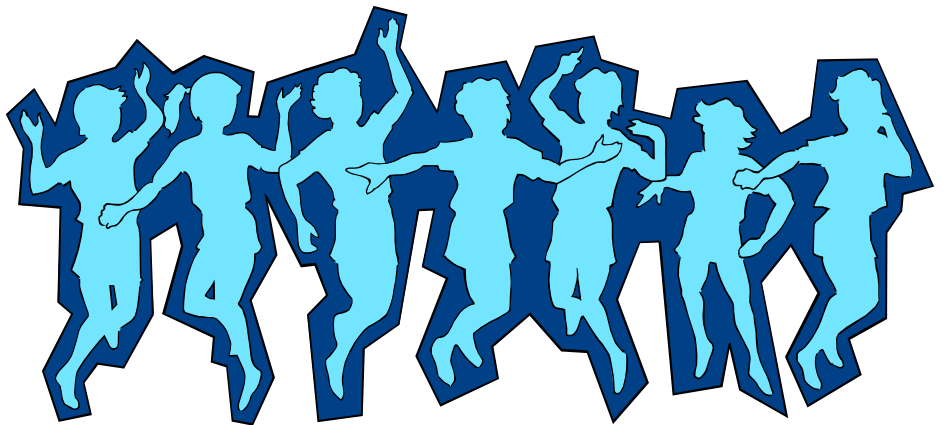
The Spirit, Our Helper



wisdom
understanding
counsel
fortitude
knowledge
piety
fear of the Lord



love
joy
peace
patience
kindness
goodness
faithfulness
humility
self-control



LESSON 11: The Church in the World

AIM

To understand what is meant by the four marks of the Church, and to explore further models (14.3.8, 14.3.9, 14.5.4)

OUTCOME

Learners understand the Church as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

Learners are familiar with various models of Church.

TEACHER'S NOTE

In Catholic schools there are learners of different churches and faith backgrounds. The 2nd Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis redintegratio*, speaks of the longing for unity experienced by many Christians today:

The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves to humankind as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but they differ in mind and go their own different ways, as if Christ himself were divided. Certainly, such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalises the world, and damages that most holy cause, the preaching of the Gospel to every creature.

(Vatican II. Decree on Ecumenism, paragraph 1)

TEACHER BACKGROUND

The Creed professes the church to be one, holy, catholic and apostolic. These four characteristics, inseparably linked with each other, indicate essential features of the Church and her mission. The Church does not possess them of herself; it is Christ, who through the Holy Spirit, makes his church one, holy, catholic and apostolic, and it is Christ who calls her to realize each of the qualities. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 811*)

THE FOUR MARKS

ONE - Christ's Church should be united in faith, in worship and in service.

HOLY - This word means good and whole-some, God-centred because God is good and whole-some to the point of perfection.


CATHOLIC - This means *universal*, and also *in totality*, or *completeness*. The Church is catholic because Christ is fully present there. The Church is also open to anyone and has a mission to the whole human race.

APOSTOLIC - The Church is built on the foundation of the apostles who were given their mission by Jesus himself. The Church carries this out through the bishops, the direct successors of the apostles.

This forms part of the Catholic teaching about the Church as a spiritual "home" for all humankind. It is obvious though that this vision is not yet a reality.



WHAT YOU NEED

- * Two picture - a man and a woman (1)(2)
- * Dictionary or thesaurus (3)
- *  Copies of the worksheet (5) ⇨
- * Information on pilgrimages (8)
- * Information on *Hajj* (9)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Four Marks:** Hold up the pictures of a man and a woman. Ask the learners to describe the people from the pictures. Highlight how identifying marks tell us something about the people - the colour of their hair, or the clothes they wear. Link to how identifying marks tell or should tell us something about the Church. Explain the four marks:

ONE: The Church strives for unity.

HOLY: The Church strives to be wholesome, good, God-centred.


CATHOLIC: The Church is universal, intended for everyone.

APOSTOLIC: The Church goes back to the apostles and strives to be faithful to the message they preached.

- 2 **Models of Church:** Ask the learners to recall the models of Church they explored in the previous lesson. Return to the pictures you started the lesson with. The man in the picture could be - at the same time - a son, a father, a cricketer, a lawyer, a music lover... the list could go on. What might the woman be? In the same way the Church can be described in many different ways. Each way tells us something else about the Church. Two further models will now be explored.

- 3 Look up the word **institution** in a dictionary or thesaurus. (A thesaurus gives a list of words that have a similar meaning.) Discuss what all these words have in common. What comes out is that an institution is something that consists of a group of people that is founded and organised to serve a particular purpose. It is something long-lasting, maybe even permanent that you can trust and rely on. A home for orphans, a school or a bank, are some examples of an institution. In another sense, we call marriage and family institutions. Show the learners that the word 'institution' really means a social reality, that is, something real and identifiable in society, something with identifiable marks. The Church is an institution, founded by Jesus Christ to continue his mission of bringing Good News to the world. It is organised in a way that helps this mission.

- 4 **Pilgrim:** Refer back to the previous lesson and remind the learners how the Christian Church has grown, developed, and changed with the times, as if it is on a journey, a journey towards God. The word 'pilgrim' really means one who is on a journey towards God. As individuals we are on that journey. As families, or groups of like-minded people and also as a whole community of believers we are on a journey towards God. We are lifebound!

- 5 Distribute copies of the **worksheet**.  ⇒ Draw the learners' attention to the picture of the Church made up of people. In the boxes around the picture ask them to draw or write descriptions that capture the different models of Church that have been discussed.



- 6 As appropriate end with a **prayer** of faith and hope.

Dear God, the Church founded by your Son Jesus is a rich mystery, identified by four marks. It is called to be One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic. As young people, pilgrim people, on our journeys to you, help us to live as true heralds and witnesses of the life that you offer every person in the world. May we help to keep our faith communities true to you, so that they may be sacraments of your presence, and instruments to bring about your Reign in the world.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 Think of **movies** that have a 'pilgrim' theme in the sense that they are about a pioneering kind of people, opening up new land.
- 8 Do a project on **pilgrimages** and different popular pilgrimage sites. Many people, for instance, go on pilgrimage to visit a shrine in Ngome, in northern Kwazulu-Natal where it is believed that Mary has appeared. Typical places of pilgrimage for Christians are the various sites in the Holy Land. Catholics, in particular, often go on pilgrimage to Rome, Lourdes, and Fatima.
- 9 Explore the practice of pilgrimage, called **hajj** in Islam.

The Mystery Called Church

BODY OF CHRIST

FAMILY

SACRAMENT

INSTITUTION



PILGRIM

HERALD

LESSON 12: Mary in the Church

AIM

To help the learners understand Mary's place in the liturgy and her role as model for the community (5.1.21, 9.1)

OUTCOME

Learners understand the place of Mary in liturgical worship.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Today's learners are likely to have a very different image of Mary to the older generation, and devotion to her has declined. To help the learners to understand Mary and her role in the Church and the liturgy it is helpful to give them food for their own reflection as well as provide meaningful input. Prepare yourself by studying the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary.



WHAT YOU NEED

- * Different pictures and statues of Mary (1)
- * Scripture references (2) ⇒
- * Copies of the worksheet (3) ⇒
- * Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (4)
- * Video (6)
- * *Hail Mary* (8)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Images of Mary:** When you think of Jesus' mother Mary what kind of picture comes to mind? Show the learners different pictures and statues, and invite them to share their thoughts on this. Make sure that you have some African images among those you present. Ask the learners to choose the one they like most, and to say why.
- 2 **Who was Mary?** What kind of person was she and what was her life really like? What kind of mother would she have been? In posing this question to the learners, you could choose some key scripture passages from those given under MATERIALS below ⇒. Note their comments.
- 3 **Why does the Church honour Mary?** Hand out copies of the worksheet. ⇒ Illustrate the role of Mary in the Church and her place in the liturgy by explaining and/or introducing the learners to some of the major feasts in the calendar.

Mary's most special quality is her motherhood. The woman Eve, mother of the living {Genesis 3:20}, was an instrument of the fall. So the woman Mary, mother of life in the Spirit, is an instrument of salvation.

Catholics do not worship Mary, but the Church honours her as mother and channel of graces between God and humankind. Through her many apparitions, God still uses her to bring a message of repentance and peace and allows miracles of healing to happen through her intercession.

We ask her to pray for us to God in our own private lives as we do in many of the formal prayers of the Church.

- 4 Make up a **Litany to Mary** as a class and pray this together inviting her to pray for us in our needs. Choose some invocations that are appropriate. Some examples, taken from *Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary* are given here:

GRADE 7

Mother of Christ	Pray for us.
Mother of good counsel	Pray for us.
Virgin most faithful	Pray for us.
Ark of the covenant	Pray for us.
Morning star	Pray for us.
Queen of apostles	Pray for us.
Queen assumed into heaven	Pray for us.

The learners will add their own so that together the class can make a litany of the qualities that are most appreciated. The scripture references you use in 2 will help as an inspiration.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 5 October is the month of the **Rosary**. This prayer could be explored, discussed and prayed.
- 6 Watch a **video** about the Rosary or about Mary and allow the learners to develop their understanding by discussion and sharing.
- 7 Invite learners to develop their own **personal devotion** to Mary by choosing special qualities that appeal to them and praying with those.
- 8 **Sing:** *Hail Mary* (Carey Landry)

MATERIALS

MATTHEW

1:18-25 Conception and Birth of Jesus
2:9-12 Visit of the Magi
2:13-15 Flight into Egypt
2:19-21 Return to Nazareth
12:46-50 Mother and brothers

LUKE

1:26-38 Annunciation
1:39-56 Visitation and Magnificat
2:1-7 Birth of Jesus
2:15-20 Visit of shepherds
2:21-38 Presentation and Circumcision of Jesus
2:39-40 Life of Jesus in Nazareth
2:41-50 The child Jesus in the Temple
2:51-52 Life of Jesus in Nazareth

JOHN


2:1-12 Wedding at Cana
19:25-27 Crucifixion of Jesus

ACTS

1:12-14 The upper room

Mary in the Church

The feasts in the Church calendar dedicated to Mary tell the story of her life, her mission from God and her most special qualities.

	<p>AUGUST 15: <u>The Assumption</u></p> <p>We believe that after Mary's death her body did not decay but was taken up to heaven. Mary, Assumed into Heaven is the patronal feast of South Africa. The highest possible honour is bestowed on her as Queen of heaven, of the angels and of all the saints. She is Mother of the King of Kings and the Prince of Peace. This feast of Mary, Immaculate Queen is celebrated on August 22nd.</p>
<p>JANUARY 1: <u>Mary, Mother of God</u></p> <p>The Church commemorates Mary as the mother of Jesus, and therefore, also as the Mother of God.</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 8: <u>Birthday of Mary</u></p> <p>On 8th September we celebrate Mary's birthday.</p> <p>On 15th the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows brings to mind the prophecy of Simeon when Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to the temple. He told her that a sword would pierce her heart. Mary was with her son throughout his suffering and death, standing at the foot of the cross and cradling his dead body, just as she had held him as a tiny baby.</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 2: <u>Presentation of the Lord</u></p> <p>Following the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer him, as their first born, to God.</p>	<p>OCTOBER 7: <u>Our Lady of the Rosary</u></p> <p>The month of October is dedicated to the Rosary, the prayer that commemorates the life events of Jesus and of Mary. Mary does not take honour for herself but always points to her Son.</p>
<p>MARCH 25: <u>The Annunciation</u></p> <p>The Incarnation story started when the angel Gabriel announced that she would become pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>DECEMBER 8: <u>The Immaculate Conception</u></p> <p>In order to be fit to be mother of the God's Son she herself was born without original sin, the condition inherited by all other human beings that negatively influences our relationship with God. This special quality is celebrated on December 8th, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.</p> <p>The feast of the Nativity, Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ on 25th celebrates the mother as well as the Son.</p>
<p>MAY 31: <u>The Visitation</u></p> <p>The whole month of May is dedicated to Mary. In the northern hemisphere this is a time of beauty, new life and spring flowers that honour and celebrate her as God's most perfect creature. Artists throughout the centuries have portrayed her beauty. Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. On behalf of all humankind Elizabeth honours her and calls her blessed by God.</p>	