

Key end points for this unit on Christianity are:

- To know that Jesus is the most important human figure in Christianity
- The understand the Easter story teaches many Christians about the death of Jesus.
- To understand many Christians believe Jesus died and came back to life before going to heaven.
- To know there are many symbols used during Easter celebrations.
- To know Lent is a time before Easter.
- To understand Easter is celebrated in many different ways around the world.

This unit marks the second Christianity-focused unit for Year 1 this academic year. It will provide further exploration of key aspects of Christianity. As this is the second dedicated unit on Christianity, children will build upon their prior learning. Their foundational knowledge includes Christianity as a religion, Jesus, the Bible, significant places, and key festivals. It is helpful for teachers to make the links to prior learning explicit, showing children things they learned about previously to build confidence, to support remembering and to share the direction of this unit with children too.

This unit focuses on the Easter story, allowing children to apply their existing understanding of Jesus whilst learning more about his life and ultimately his death and resurrection. We encourage teachers to approach these themes with caution and be mindful of children's ages and life experience. Please do seek advice from subject leaders and senior leaders and approach the content around Jesus' death with sensitivity.

The purpose of this unit is to deepen children's understanding of Easter as one of the most significant Christian celebrations. As Christianity is revisited twice per academic year from Year 1 to Year 5, children have the opportunity to build knowledge over time. This unit will explore the key events of Holy Week. This foundational knowledge will support further learning in Year 2's Autumn B unit on the life of Jesus.

The concept of sacrifice is introduced in this unit through discussions on the crucifixion. This theme will be explored further in Year 4's "Sacrifice" unit and linked to Year 3's "Jesus as an Inspiration," where children explore how Jesus is viewed as a saviour in Christianity. Furthermore, children will examine how Easter is celebrated worldwide, considering variations due to religious denominations and cultural practices. It is important for teachers to acknowledge that religious festivals can differ in their observance (different people can celebrate the same festival in different ways). Children should be encouraged to reflect on how their own celebrations may be similar to or different from those of others within the same religion.

This unit introduces the terms resurrection, salvation, Lent, and rebirth. The unit will explore the connection between rebirth and resurrection, relating it to the seasonal themes of spring. Children will examine cultural Easter symbols such as eggs and chicks. Additionally, they will be introduced to Lent—the period leading up to Easter. While many children may be familiar with Pancake Day, teachers should clarify that it marks the beginning of Lent. Although Lent traditionally spans 40 days, its observance varies across different cultures.

Throughout the primary RE curriculum, children will be encouraged to reflect on their learning in a personal way. Teachers will foster a respectful classroom environment where children can recognize differences and share viewpoints. RE lessons should be inclusive, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to engage and reflect, regardless of their religious background. In this unit, children will be invited to consider how key Christian concepts relate to their own experiences. For example, when exploring Lent, they might reflect on times they have tried to give up something they enjoy and the challenges they faced. Children may also compare religious fasting traditions, such as Ramadan, or even consider moral choices like following classroom rules.

Lesson Sequencing:

In **lesson 1** children will build on foundational knowledge from Year 1; introduction to Christianity. They will revisit Jesus as an important figure in Christianity and explore the symbolism of salvation. Children will learn about religious symbols, their meaning, and why they are important to Christians. This will help them understand the role of symbolism in Christian teachings, preparing them to explore the symbolism of Easter later in the unit.

In **lesson 2**, children will develop understanding of Easter as a Christian festival, focusing on Jesus' final moments. Using a children's Bible, teachers should carefully consider how much detail to include, especially regarding Jesus' crucifixion. The concepts of salvation and forgiveness can be challenging for young children, but it is important to explain that many Christians believe Jesus died for them. The Easter story will be revisited in Year 2 and Year 4 to deepen understanding.

In **lesson 3**, children will explore the symbolism of Easter and learn that not all Easter symbols originate from Christianity. They will examine how Easter aligns with spring—a season of rebirth, connecting to their science lessons. The focus will be on Christian symbols such as palm branches, lilies, the cross, and eggs, while also discussing how traditions around these symbols have evolved over time.

Building on Lesson 2, **Lesson 4** will deepens children's understanding of Holy Week and Easter's significance. It introduces Lent—the 40-day period of sacrifice leading up to Easter, connecting to Year 4's unit on sacrifice. Teachers should consider how to present Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, possibly simplifying the story to focus on hunger and discomfort instead of the Devil's role. Children will learn that many Christians give up something for 40 days as a way to remember Jesus' sacrifice and temptation.

In **lesson 5**, children will explore different Easter traditions worldwide, providing context for Year 4's study of religion and culture. If children have studied PKC geography, they will already have knowledge of continents and European geography. Teachers may invite a guest speaker—such as a parent or local religious figure—to share how Easter is celebrated in their community. Examples should be adapted to reflect the diversity in the classroom.

The key concepts: resurrection, salvation, crucifixion

Key terms: Easter, Lent, rebirth, spring, Jesus, symbol, tomb, cross