RELIGIOUS STUDIES CURRICULUM

Topic: Rituals and the Eucharist

Strand: The Bible and Christian Belief; Story of the Church; Meditation, Prayer and Worship

Stage of Development: Late Adolescence (LA)

Rationale: This unit was written to cover syllabus requirements in the WACE course Religion and Life 1C. The Eucharist is the most common ritual in the Anglican Church. It is common for Anglicans to receive Communion once a week. Anglican churches celebrate the Eucharist regularly and students who attend Anglican schools will also experience this liturgy on a regular basis. The Eucharist is an important ritual and one of the two great Sacraments recognised by the Anglican Church, thus it is essential that students develop a deeper understanding of what is happening and why. They are encouraged to make connections from the Jewish Passover meal, through Jesus the sacrificial Lamb of God, to the Last Supper / Holy Communion / Eucharist. The Eucharist allows students to see the deeper meaning of a ritual that may not have a great deal of meaning without such an understanding. It allows students to recognise rituals may appear ‘empty’ when there is little understanding of the beliefs behind them, but that they are filled with meaning once understood more fully.

Please note these lessons are planned for 75 minutes, so time management and lesson outline will need to be adjusted according to your needs.

Australian Curriculum:

1. General Capabilities Literacy; ITC Competence; Creative & Creative; Personal & Social; Intercultural Understanding

2. Cross-Curricula Priorities not applicable

Links to other Learning Areas: History

Key Questions:

What is sin? (B+CB)
How did Jesus’s life and death save humanity from sin and offer a ‘way back’? (B+CB)
What do we discover about the Resurrection, salvation and eternal life? (B+CB)
How are Christian beliefs about Jesus expressed formally in the Creeds? (B+CB)
What are the benefits of stillness, silence, meditation, prayer and worship to a person’s spiritual journey and their overall well-being? (MP+W)
Key Concepts:
Resurrection
Sin
Salvation
Eternal Life
Belief
Creed
Mediation, prayer and worship take various forms and can deeply enrich our personal and communal spiritual life.

Knowledge & Understanding:
Continue to build on Knowledge & Understanding of the Gospels (B+CB)
Know that Christians believe that God offered a ‘way back’ from sin through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. (B+CB)
Understand that salvation refers to the end of separation from God and eternal life, made possible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. (B+CB)
Know that a creed is a statement of faith that describes the beliefs of a religion. (B+CB)
Understand that there are a number of creeds in Christianity, their content and context: that the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds are most widely used. (B+CB)
Understand from where and when they came and how to use them as a part of a spiritual life. (MP+W)
Know that prayer can be both private and communal and that worship is usually communal. (MP+W)
Know the different resources that are available to help plan and create experiences for stillness, silence, prayer, reflection and worship. (MP+W)
Understand how to use those resources in the planning of personal and corporate experiences. (MP+W)
Know the structure and components of the Eucharist and the Daily Office - such as might form the structure for a regular Chapel liturgy (MP+W)
Understand the purposes and origins of those components. (MP+W)

Attitudes and Values:
Jesus identified key values such as forgiveness, justice and compassion, and commanded his followers to adopt the same. (B+CB)
Students develop a deeper sense of reverence, respect, community, peace and joy as they learn about and experience various forms of prayer and meditation – especially those associated with the Eucharist. (MP+W)
Explore the different forms of prayer and worship in the Anglican/Episcopal and various Christian traditions. (MP+W)

Skills:
Continue to Think Critically about the nature of Jesus
Use music and song, words and actions, signs symbols, colour and all the senses in worship and celebrations.
### Lesson 1: What is Religion
- Concept of Religion and how this can be described. Brainstorm and discuss.
- The Nature of Religion — Read and discuss
- Transcendent and Immanent Dimensions, Personal and Impersonal
- Complete activities from the worksheet.

**Resources**
- *Living Religion* pp3-5 “The Nature of Religion”

### Lesson 2: Does Religion make a difference?
- A summary of the characteristics on religions with an emphasis on how each dimension affects a person’s life. Complete worksheet. Work together with the class, choosing examples from religions students know.
- Detailed description of Ritual.

**Resources**
- “Rituals”
- “Does Religion make a difference?”
- PowerPoint Presentation:
  - “Does Religion make a difference?”
- *New Studies in Religion* Social Science Press. pp8-10, pp172-175.

### Lesson 3: Example of Rituals
- Watch the ritual of bungee jumping on YouTube. Discuss ... OR Read the article and answer questions.
- Examples of rituals – look at pictures and discuss each ritual. Complete questions “What is Ritual” either copied or in texts.
- Examine the various rituals and symbols used within the School each year as well as important religious celebrations and events found in the community.
- The characteristics of rituals – discuss, define and note these.

**Resources**
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdmkJe6zo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdmkJe6zo) “Ritual Bungee Jumping”
- *New Studies in Religion* pp8-10, pp172-175.
- “Defining Ritual” worksheet.

### Lesson 4: ANZAC Day
- Discuss ANZAC Day and what students know about it.
- Read the resources and identify what makes ANZAC Day a ritual.

**Resources**
- “Secular Rituals”
- “Anzac Day ritual”

**Notes**
- This may be a summary of work done previously, if not the teacher may need to spend some time unpacking the various characteristics.
- Personal or school involvement too.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Religious Rituals</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watch episode of Northern Exposure: Season 4, Episode 22, (Disc 4, first episode) Discuss the three rituals shown in that episode. OR Watch clips from The Lion King, Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone, Finding Nemo.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Copy for each student: “Northern Exposure” OR “Rituals Video Sheet”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The origins of the Eucharist</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Passover and Communion. Remind students of the Passover story and how it is remembered each year. Read the information on the Jewish Passover and Communion, discuss and note where the Eucharist has come from. Watch YouTube clip on “What does Communion mean to you” and “Buzz Aldrin’s Communion on the Moon” then read the information and discuss how celebrating and receiving Communion can mean different things to different people.</td>
<td></td>
<td>“The Jewish Passover and Communion” “Communion” <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQnYX7QlTY&amp;feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQnYX7QlTY&amp;feature=related</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zEZvPg1itw&amp;feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zEZvPg1itw&amp;feature=related</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The Eucharist</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watch the YouTube clip on Communion to introduce the topic Who celebrates the Eucharist, what happens in a Eucharist, its symbols and its meaning, and how is it expressed differently during the seasons of the Church’s Year?</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8KVGMsP2w8&amp;feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8KVGMsP2w8&amp;feature=related</a> A Prayer Book for Australia “The Eucharist” pp119-165 Christianity pp42-47 School Chaplain Develop and use a worksheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discuss how students now understand the meaning of the Eucharist.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>The Eucharist</strong></td>
<td>Ask the School Chaplain to continue exploring the Eucharist and to become involved in planning a service for your class or Year Group. Organise a Eucharist for next week’s lesson</td>
<td>School Chaplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Class or Year Group Service.</strong></td>
<td>Celebrate a Eucharistic in the Chapel, or in a classroom</td>
<td>This could have an explanatory commentary said within it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessments:**

Design a Eucharistic liturgy / Communion Service from start to finish with creativity and the use of multi-media.