



## ‘Come and See’ – Step 3

### How our community lives

#### Aim

To know that we are called to be Church, working together in love, to build foundations on which faith is nurtured and discipleship grows

#### Resources needed

##### Leaders

- *Come and See notes*
- *PPT laptop and projector or TV*
- *Prayer focus items*
- *Marshmallows, Spaghetti, Card bricks parish/diocesan literature*

##### Young People

- *Journals and hand outs*

#### Prayer Focus

Expressions of our belief:

**Bible** - (*our reference point and compass*)

**Candle** - (*Jesus the light of the world*)

**Green cloth** - (*Liturgical season*)

**Quilt, knitted or sewn** - (*together each piece adds to the richness of the whole*)

**Lego blocks** - (*we are the living stones*)

#### Liturgical Link

First and foremost, the Church must be a community of prayer. Individually, and gathered together we celebrate our faith pray for the needs of the world, including at the Sunday Eucharist.

#### Overview

- Tower Building activity
- Christ the cornerstone
- Building on firm foundations
- What it means to be a Catholic today
- Reflection and prayer

#### Preparation by Catechists

- *Familiarity with content and resources*
- *Sharing on Living the Christian life today – the highs and lows*
- *Pray for the young people and leaders*

#### Scripture Passages

- Matthew 4:18-22 – the first disciples
- Matthew 16-18 – Peter affirmed
- Prayer of the Church: Saturday am, week 1 (abridged)

#### Tenets of Faith (Faith Formation)

- Firm Foundations are essential for faith as for construction
- The Pope, the head of the world Church, is a successor of Peter
- The Mission of the Church is to evangelise, to make God known in our world

\*\* *Additional notes included on PPT*

## Gathering

- **Welcome & Introduction:**
  - Welcome back quick recap of key points from last session and outline today.
  - Offer a suitable welcome to anyone new, or returning, to the group
  - Give overview and aim for today.
- **Introductory activity:** (20 mins) Tower Building
  - In 2s or 3's participants are given marshmallows and spaghetti sticks to construct the tallest structure possible in 6 minutes.
  - Each then view the others, which is the tallest, strongest? Feedback is taken from the groups regarding the way they structure, how they worked together and their sense of achievement.

- FF** - For longevity firm foundations are just as crucial in faith as in building construction. However, buildings must use the best and strongest materials. God, on the other hand uses what is weak, us, so that we can become strong. Though Peter, had not always done the right thing, even denying that he knew Jesus, he was the one entrusted to establish the Church of Jesus.
- We are the building blocks of the Church, and within the Church. We are called to work together to build the community of the church, and also to make a difference in the world. Each person has a contribution to make. There are many different ministries and ways through which people contribute, in the ordinary events of life, to help others grow in faith and to strengthen community.  
*Return to this later.*
  - The Pope is the head of the world Church, the line of succession from Peter and the early Church.

## Exploring

- **Peter the Fisherman?** Who was Peter and why did Jesus leave the Church in his hands?  
Hear Mt 4:18-22 - 'Jesus calls his first disciples' (Bible series episode 5, or other video clip: <https://youtu.be/Hws8QxWmRLc> 5 min 25 sec)
  - Was Peter just a simple fisherman? Not really he was the head of a fleet of fishermen he was a capable man, but the business would continue without him  
*For Reflection:* individually 5 minutes, then share with one other person – 2 -3 mins.  
*Plenary:* what do you think compelled Peter to walk away from his livelihood? Can you recall an occasion when you changed direction i.e. being guided by a teacher, family member or friend?  
Are there ways God speaks to you in the ordinary events of daily life and work?  
(*Questions on handout and ppt*)

- FF** - Such calls come to us throughout our lives and can have a great effect on us if we choose to listen and respond. Examples of members of our community who have responded to God's call?

## Prayerful Response

- **Scripture: Matthew 16:13-19** - Peter's declaration and Jesus' affirmation. Listen and have a few moments to reflect. Possibly invite the group to make their own simple prayer of gratitude to God who calls us to work within a community, and for the people who share with and pass on their faith to others. Or have one to offer collectively.

God, our Father, help each of us gathered here to recognise the gift of faith that has been given to us. May Jesus be the model we follow, and the Holy Spirit be our guide and source of courage; enabling us to share our faith with others, and overcome any obstacles that try to detract us on our journey to you.

## Exploring Further

- **Christ the Cornerstone** - use building blocks to create a visual display. (*create from cardboard*)

**FF** - blocks are the firm foundations on which the Church is built. Christ the cornerstone, the apostles as the foundation stones, and Mary as mother of the Church. Over the centuries people of faith and the ministries they are involved in have become the living stones that keep the church alive. We are called to be those living stones today. Serving God and each other as best we can.

- **1 Peter:2:4-5** tells the early Christians: "Jesus is the living stone, rejected by humanity, but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house."

- **The Church today - Activity**

- provide parish bulletins, literature from diocesan and national agencies. Groups identify from these ways in which the Church is being faithful in following the teachings of Jesus.  
- Using materials given they depict these on real, or cardboard building blocks to add to the display.

- Invite comment about the range of activities, the people engaged etc Invite comment regarding anything individuals have found surprising or inspiring. Ask them to explain the reason.

**FF** - The work may be different, but all these people / groups / agencies have a common motivation source and mission: belief in and desire to follow the ways of Jesus Christ?  
- Being Church - As Catholic Christians, we are a body of people, a community, a family who believes in Jesus Christ, and share a common purpose; to live a life-long love relationship with God and the whole of creation. We share a common mission to care for and build up creation.  
- as well as being an active community the Church must be a community of prayer – as individuals, the community in solidarity, (prayers of the Church) the community gathered, in particular for the Sunday Eucharist through which personal support and spiritual nourishment can be gained.

- **Witnessing to the Mission:** (15-20 mins)
  - Two of the accompanying young adults each share what it means to them to be a Catholic today, speaking about their faith: why it is important to them, the challenges they face in trying to live it out, and the joy they receive from ministries involved in.
  - Possibly include what is most inspiring about the Church, the reason you remain committed? Who are the saints/people whose lives you try to model? What hope, dreams, fears and concerns might you have for the Church?
  - Allow 5-7 min each, plus time for questions afterwards.

**FF** - Through their ministry these people are responding to Jesus call to become fishers of people.

The same invitation is being made to each of us. How in our daily lives now might we show people the good news of Jesus?

- the Mission of the Church is to evangelise, make God known in the world, we are called to be Missionary Disciples. The 4 marks of the Church, we are **One** (United), **Holy** (Established by God) **Catholic** - (universal), **Apostolic** (authentic missionary) Church  
**One:** united because of its source, the Trinity, a perfect union; because of its founder, Jesus Christ who came to reconcile all people by his blood on the cross; because of its 'soul' – the Holy Spirit, who dwells in the souls of believers and guides the Church  
 CCC #823 Oneness of the Church is also visible in the prayer, life and teachings of the world Church, united in faith and mission, though diverse in the expression of these.

**Holy:** God is the source of all holiness, and the creator of the world and “The one Christ, is

mediator and the way of salvation: he is present to us in his body, which is the Church”.

*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church #14* Christ makes the Church holy. Through its ministry and the power of the Holy Spirit God’s goodness is received by the world, through ‘us’ the Church. The lives of the Saints in every age bear witness to this. Each of us is also called to holiness and sainthood.

**Catholic:** The term St Ignatius of Antioch (c100) used to mean universal. Christ is universally present in the church which he command to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” *Matthew 28:19*. The term universal also reflects the Catholic understanding of the Communion of Saints:

the unity between the living church here on earth and those who have gone before us to God.

**Apostolic:** Through the authority Jesus invested in Peter and the disciples, which is handed on to those Christ calls today to be his witnesses throughout the world.

Preserved in tradition and scripture the faith was taught and handed down by the disciples. Today the Holy Spirit still guides the Church in its teaching authority. By its nature the Church is missionary, outward focused. We are the hands and feet of Jesus in the world today. Our actions must speak loudly, our words must be used to encourage and build up, to promote fairness and mercy, to speak the truth, and where necessary, challenge the wisdom and authority of others. Notes adapted from ‘*The Four Marks of the Church*’ by Fr William Saunders, Accessed via [www.catholiceducation.org](http://www.catholiceducation.org)

- **Our Witness - Activity** (10 mins) How can we respond to the invitation to live as Jesus taught us through the ordinary events of our lives? In pairs try to identify 3-4 practical ways, that are achievable. Feed back and chart up. The challenge for the week ahead is to try and do these things.

## Closing Prayer

- **Antiphon:** (all pray together) ***Jesus you are the stone rejected by the builders but you have proved to be the keystone of God's house. Make us living stones in the temple of your church.***
- **Intercessions** adapted from the Prayer of the Church (Divine Office) Saturday morning, week 1. (*included on the handout*)  
Response is: ***Open us to the treasures of your love.***
- **The Our Father**
- **Closing prayer:** God our Father, we thank you for those who in response to your call serve the community through ministry in our parishes. Give us the courage of the disciples so that we too will follow in the footsteps of Jesus when he calls. Amen
- **Antiphon:** (all pray together) ***Jesus you are the stone rejected by the builders but you have proved to be the keystone of God's house. Make us living stones in the temple of your church.***

## Closing Remarks and Next Step

- Check how group are feeling about today's gathering
- Time, date and venue for the next Stepping-stone – *Come and See how our community prays*
- Encourage personal and prayer support of one another and offer to attend Mass with the young parishioners accompanying the inquirers on the journey.