



KS2 Religious Education Year 3 Autumn 2 – 7.5 hours

Theme/Unit: Mary, Mother of God

Key concept: Holy

Enquiry: Why is Mary, mother of Jesus Christ, described as Holy?



Unit Summary:

In this unit, children learn about Mary as a holy person in the Christian religion. They are introduced to the story of Mary’s Annunciation and think about the symbols that show what is holy. They consider what holy means and decide what, in their own lives, is holy/precious/special to them and how we respond to these things.

Prior Knowledge:

Children will already be familiar with the Christian religion, particularly the Christmas story and the characters involved. Children should be familiar with particular Christian symbolism such as the cross and angels, and be able to describe what these are. Children may have visited a church or may have been visited by a priest/visitor.

Year 3/4 Objectives:

- Communicate** Children can describe their own responses to the human experience of the concepts studied.
- Apply** They can describe examples of how their responses are, or can be, applied in their own lives and the lives of others.
- Enquire** They can describe key concepts that are common to all people as well as those that are common to the lives of many living a religious life (A and B concepts).
- Contextualise** They can describe how these concepts are contextualised within some of the beliefs and/or practices and/or ways of life of people living a religious life in the religion studied.
- Evaluate** They can evaluate human experience of the concepts by describing their value to people and through dialoguing with others can recognise, identify and describe some issues raised.

Key Vocabulary:

<b>Mary</b>	The mother of Jesus. Her story is told in the New Testament of the Bible.
<b>Angel</b>	A supernatural being found in various religions and mythologies who act as intermediaries between God and humanity. Other roles of angels include protecting and guiding human beings, and carrying out tasks on behalf of God.
<b>Annunciation</b>	The announcement of the Incarnation by the angel Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26–38).
<b>Holy</b>	Exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness.
<b>Prayer</b>	A solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or another deity.

**Spiritual:** providing an opportunity to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people’s faiths, feelings and values.

**Moral:** developing an ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

**Social:** sharing our own experiences and respond to the experiences of others. Working and socialising with others in a range of learning opportunities.

**Cultural:** willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical and cultural opportunities. Giving children an interest in and an opportunity to explore different faiths and beliefs.

Text drivers/Resources:

Mary, Mother of God topic box available on loan from RE Centre, Tel: 01962 863134 or images of Mary (models, icons, artist impressions)

Artist impression of the Annunciation plus the story (Luke 1:26–38).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qq7NFizL6ak>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1%3A26-38&version=NIV>

Carols including descriptions of Mary.

The Hail Mary Prayer.

5-Step Enquiry: Why is Mary, mother of Jesus Christ, described as Holy?		Suggested Assessment Opportunities
Step 1	<p><b>Enquire: What does holy mean?</b>            Label image of Mary and Jesus: <i>Who is this? How does she look? What does she think of the baby? Why do you think that? Where would I find such an image? Who would use it? What for? How do other people feel about it?</i>            Draw a picture or make a clay model. Write a label saying "I think that this is ...".            Tell story of the Annunciation. Discuss. <i>Where do pupils think the angel was from in the story? Why is there an angel in the story? Could the message from the angel have been sent to Mary any other way? Would that have been as effective (or seemed so special) in the story? What is the most important thing that the angel said, do you think? How do you think Mary felt?</i>            Look at artists' impressions of the Annunciation. How does the artist show that Mary is holy? Discuss. Would children want to add things to their original pictures/clay models to show that Mary is special/holy?            Children discuss with partners what they think holy means. Can they decide on a description which could be used in a glossary of terms or a dictionary definition? Create synonyms display.</p>	<p><b>Basic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrate and describe the annunciation of Mary</li> <li>• List words which are synonymous of Holy</li> <li>• Label texts/prayers/carols that show Mary as Holy</li> <li>• Define the word Holy for Christians and in their own lives</li> </ul> <p><b>Learned:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarise the annunciation of Mary</li> <li>• Infer how texts and images represent holy people, events and objects</li> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of how holy people and/or items effect our lives</li> </ul> <p><b>Deeper:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find evidence and report how texts, images and carols represent holiness</li> <li>• Write a sermon describing the holiness of Mary, mother of God</li> </ul>
Step 2	<p><b>Contextualise: How do Christians show that they believe Mary is holy?</b>            Children have copies of carols which identify Mary as holy, Mother of God, blessed, etc. Children highlight phrases and descriptions of Mary. Collate in class discussion.            Visit a Catholic Church (or a website) which shows a Lady Chapel/stained glass window/images and icons of Mary. Take digital pictures or draw pictures. Children ask the priest or investigate how and why the images and icons are used by believers. Annotate the pictures for a classroom display.            Investigate the Hail Mary prayer. Children prepare questions to ask a Catholic visitor about their feelings and ideas about Mary. When do they show reverence or pray to Mary? Why? What happens?</p>	
Step 3	<p><b>Evaluate: What is our opinion about Christians showing reverence to Holy Mary?</b>            Children in groups brainstorm all the words they have heard associated with Mary. Collate responses and make a composite list. Children individually put them in 2 categories. Agree with and disagree with. Compare with a partner. Can they agree on the two categories? Discuss. If they asked a priest or Catholic visitor to sort the cards, which columns would the words then go in?            Children re-sort the cards in role as a Catholic. Is it important for Christians to believe that Mary is Holy? Discuss. Write a description of Mary using the evidence gathered.</p>	
Step 4	<p><b>Communicate: What do we think of the concept of holy in our experience?</b>            Create an ambient atmosphere in the classroom and ask children to consider things or people they would/might describe as holy. What other word might they use if holy is not right for them? Do they have objects that remind them of holy/special people? Draw/paint a picture, write a few words or a description of their ideas.            Can children explain why they consider something to be holy for themselves or others? What qualities does it have, or memories are evoked?</p>	
Step 5	<p><b>Apply: How does the sense of holy (special) impact on their lives?</b>            Children consider when or why they or others refer to their holy object or people, and how they feel. <i>What happens next?</i> In pairs, discuss how they or others use their objects, where they keep them, how often they look at or handle them. Share as a class.</p>	





**HAIL MARY,**  
full of grace,  
the Lord is with you;  
blessed are you among  
women, and blessed is  
the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus. Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us  
sinners, now  
and at the hour  
of our death.  
Amen.

