

UNIVERSAL CHURCH – WORLD

Special Places for Jesus and the Christian Community

CONTENT: – scripture – tradition – prayers

LEARNING FOCUS 2: Special places for the Christian community.

Pilgrimage

Discuss different places of pilgrimage around the world. (Rome, Lourdes, The Holy Land – Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem). Talk about the meaning of pilgrimage and pilgrim. Identify how there are places of pilgrimage in Wales, which they can research further. For example:

- St Winefride’s Well in Holywell, centres round a holy woman called Winefride who lived in the 7th century. She became a saint and her well has been a place of pilgrimage and healing since that time.
- Our Lady of the Taper is the national Catholic shrine of Wales. It is in Cardigan. A legend describes how a statue of Mary was found about one thousand years ago by the side of the river Teifi. The statue was of Mary with Jesus on her lap and a candle (taper) burning in her hand.

A pilgrimage reminds people how important it is to pray and take time to think about what is important in their lives. Have a quiet moment with your child and reflect on God being with us always.

*Lord, thank you for giving us so many special places
In our homes, In our school,
in our churches, in our world,
in our hearts.
Help us to take time to be still.*

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Have you or anyone you know been on a pilgrimage? Share your experiences.
- Q Why do you think people go on pilgrimages?
- Q What might be the joys of a pilgrimage and how would it help the person in their Christian life?
- Q What do you think the challenges of making a pilgrimage might be?
- Q Why do you think a pilgrimage is a special time to pray?



SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Children may research one site of Christian pilgrimage – they could choose a 'local' site of pilgrimage or a site from somewhere else in the world.
- In the past, pilgrims often returned from their pilgrimage with a badge to show where they had been. Pilgrims to the shrine of St James at Compostella in Spain wore a shell badge. Children could design a badge for one of the special places of pilgrimage they have learnt about today. They could describe these to the class, giving reasons for their choice of design.