

# Year of Jubilee activities

## Pilgrim shell

Over the centuries, the scallop shell has become one of the symbols of pilgrimage. It can represent many aspects of pilgrimage. In the Camino de Santiago it was used to mark the way for pilgrims and identify places for them to rest. Sometimes it symbolises pilgrims coming from all over the world to come together in one special place. It can also symbolise how pilgrims grow and change as they journey closer to God.

In this activity, the children decorate a shell which can then be used as part of a prayer, giving thanks for all the ways God cares for us on our 'pilgrimage' every day. There are two options to choose from: a painted shell or a paper shell.

### PILGRIM SHELL (PAINTED)

#### YOU WILL NEED:

- large store bought shells
- paint pens
- table cloth
- wet wipes or cloths

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Talk to the children about the symbol of the shell so they have context for this activity.
- Give each child a shell and have them decorate the shell using the paint pens
- Allow time for the paint to dry
- Provides wet wipes or cloths for cleaning hands if needed.



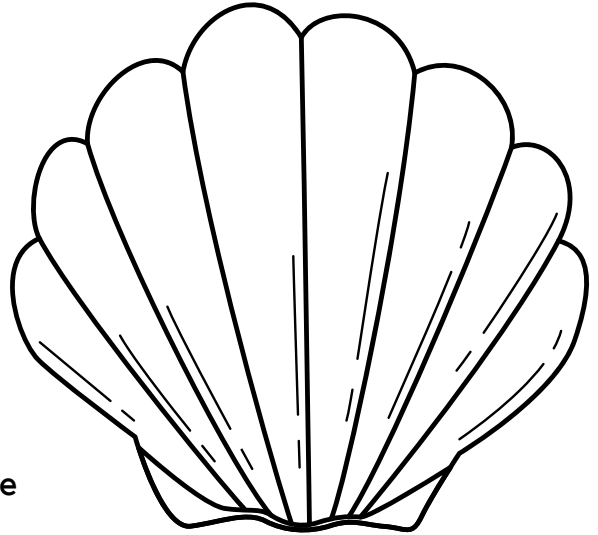
## PILGRIM SHELL (PAPER)

### YOU WILL NEED:

- a printed template for each child
- scissors
- pens and pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Talk to the children about the symbol of the shell so they have context for this activity.
  - Have the children cut out the templates.
  - Have the children decorate the shell.
  - Optional: laminate the shell to help it last.
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### WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR SHELL

- Quiet time with Jesus on your own - make your body calm, hold your shell, trace the lines with your fingers and look at it closely. Think about Jesus and ask Jesus to come and be with you. Stay there for as long as you like!
- At home - pass your shell around at the beginning or end of your meal. Say something you appreciate about someone in your family or share one thing that happened today that you are thankful for.
- At school or church - take turns to place your shell into your prayer space, saying 'thank you' to God for someone or something you are grateful for.



