



INTRODUCTION

The Church Search is a reflective and interactive activity designed to help children explore their local parish church in order to help them become more familiar and 'at home' in this special place.

This activity invites the children to move through various areas of the church to discover some of the symbols and objects that are a part of our worship as Catholic and connect to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity can be done individually or in a group.

Option 1. Church Search Individually

1. Provide every child with a print out of the template (page 2 and 3).
2. Set up some pens and pencils and invite the children to draw an outline of the church in the space provided. (Reference pictures can be helpful)
3. Once the children have completed their outline, invite them to travel around the church to find the objects or symbols on the list. Once they have found it they can add it to their church drawing.
4. Make sure that the symbols, locations and objects are easy to find and are accessible.

Option 2. Church Search Group

1. Print out the label templates (page 4 and 5).
2. Gather the children in a group and hand out each label.
3. Travel around the church together and invite the children who have the label to come forward and place the label at the symbol or object.
4. At each symbol or object facilitators can lead a discussion unpack that location, object or symbol.
5. Reflect as a group at the end of the Church Search about the learnings.

DEBRIEF

Once the group has finished the Church search (individually or in a group) invite the participants to reflect on these questions.

Let's take a moment to think:

- *What was your favourite part of the church?*
- *Tell us why?*
- *Did you see anything that reminded you of the Holy Spirit?*
- *How could you ask the Holy Spirit to help you this week — to be kind, have courage, or wisdom in making great choices? Or perhaps in another way?*



MY CHURCH

Draw an outline of your parish church below and mark the items of the church search as you find them.



Can you find and label the following?

1. ALTAR

At Baptism we gather at the altar as a symbol of looking forward to when the baptised will receive their First Communion.

2. AMBO

This is where the scriptures are proclaimed. We listen to the Word of God and try to live the message in our lives.

3. BAPTISMAL FONT

At Baptism, people are immersed in water as a sign that they are received into the church community.

4. THE BOOK OF GOSPELS OR LECTIONARY

We hear stories about Jesus from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As Christians we are asked to live the gospels in our daily lives

5. EASTER CANDLE (PASCAL CANDLE)

A baptismal candle is lit from the Easter candle and presented to the new member as a reminder of the flame of faith alive in our hearts.

6. HOLY WATER FONT

We make the Sign of the Cross with holy water when we enter and leave the church as a reminder of our Baptism.

7. ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH

The rite of Baptism commences at the entrance of the church where the soon to be baptised are welcome and greeted by the celebrant. The entrance of the church symbolises the beginning of their faith journey.

8. OIL OF CATECHUMENS

During Baptism, the person's chest is anointed with the oil of catechumens, praying that they will be strengthened to live and love like Jesus.

9. OIL OF CHRISM

*Oil is used during Baptism and Confirmation. During **Baptism**, the top of the head is smeared with the oil of Chrism, praying that the person may always live as a member of God's family. During **Confirmation**, the Bishop or priest anoints each person on the forehead with the oil of Chrism as he says 'Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*



LABELS

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