

Three Ideas for Lenten Liturgies 2011
Generations of Faith - Journeying in Faith

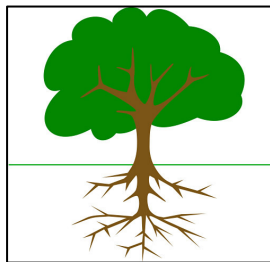
1. Family of Faith Tree	Week 1	Worksheet for home
2. We believe	Week 3	School-parish link
3. Easter light	Holy week	Family faith link

Family of Faith Tree.

This is an opportunity for families to identify faith as a journey they are on together. The picture of a tree is taken home on the First Sunday of Lent and returned on the Third Sunday.

Week one: Families encouraged to take home the handout, to fill it in & return with it in 2 weeks. Spare copies of handout remain available in the church porch in the meantime.

Newsletter note or announcement: ‘This Lent we offer your family an opportunity to recognise how we are all connected in this family of faith. This is a great chance for a family to name the people who gave us our faith, the people who support us in our faith and the people we celebrate our faith with! Please take home the handout of the ‘Family of Faith Tree’, fill it in with your family, and return it in two weeks (on the third Sunday of Lent), when you’ll find out about the next piece of the Lenten jigsaw!



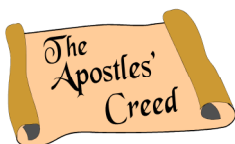
Handout:

- Roots: People who gave us our faith (grandparents, teachers, ...)
- Trunk: My family
- Branches: How we celebrate our faith (places, people, groups, events)
- Fruits: Signs that we are a family of faith (we go to church together, we are kind, we share with others, ...)

Week Three: Families bring their handouts back to Mass. 2-3 parishioners stand beside a large display space to help children to post up their posters. A small table nearby with spare handouts, crayons and pencils would allow those who forgot, to complete the poster now.

During Mass the display could be referred to before the Mass begins – as reminder that faith is not a private matter, but that we are a community that supports one another and grows together.

We believe



This is an opportunity for the whole community to recognise their role in passing on the faith.

Those who are preparing for sacraments are invited to be ‘presented with the Creed’ at Sunday Mass, by hearing the whole community pray the Apostles Creed for them to hear.

Invitation: Between the second and third Sunday of Lent, an invitation is issued to all those who are preparing for sacraments of initiation. This includes children who are preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation as well as adults and older

children preparing for Baptism. A card or note to families via the children in the schools, as well as personal invitations help.

Sunday Mass: This prayer is based on the RCIA 'Presentation of the Creed'. Every adult preparing for Baptism at Easter is offered this opportunity; this is simply an extension of this lovely prayer.

After the homily, the presiding priest invites forward all those preparing for Baptism, First Holy Communion or Confirmation. They gather round the front steps of the altar, facing the priest.

After the initial prayer (see below), the priest will invite the participants to turn and face the congregation and the congregation will recite the Creed to them – as a sign that we, the faith community, recognise their preparation and welcome them anew.

PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

After the homily, the Celebrant says:

I now call on those parishioners preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Come forward now to receive the Creed from the Church.

All those preparing come forward and stand around the steps/front of the altar. (It would be helpful to practise this in advance or to have 2 ushers present to guide those coming forward.)

Before beginning the Creed, the celebrant addresses those preparing in these or similar words:

My dear friends, we are delighted that you are preparing to receive sacraments this year.

You will now hear the Creed, a prayer that you have heard before. Please listen carefully to the words this time, because they are very important to us as Christians.

The words are few, but the mysteries they contain are great.

Receive this Creed with a sincere heart and be faithful to it, it tells you all about our faith

The celebrant speaks to the congregation.

As a community we continually welcome new members. It is not enough to welcome them – we are also called to share with them what we believe, to grow in faith with our new members, and to support them in their faith journey. So I invite you today to stand and with me, to present to these new believers the Apostles Creed, by reciting it clearly as one.

The celebrant begins

We believe in one God, ...

As those preparing listen, he continues with the whole congregation to recite the Creed.

PRAYER OVER THE ELECT

Using these or similar words, the celebrant invites the faithful to pray.

Let us pray for those who prepare for sacraments: that God in his mercy may make them responsive to his love, so that they can grow in God's love and have life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All pray in silence.

Then the celebrant, with hands outstretched over the elect, says:

Lord, eternal source of light, justice, and truth, take under your tender care these young people who prepare for the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and of Confirmation. Purify them and make them holy; give them true knowledge, sure hope, and sound understanding, and make them worthy to receive the grace of these sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

DISMISSAL OFDISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

The celebrant dismisses those present, using these or similar words:

*Go in peace, and may the Lord remain with you always.
All: Thanks be to God.*

Easter light.

This blessing is based on the Rite of Baptism for Infants.

As normal, at the Easter Vigil, each family receives a candle which will be lit from the new Paschal Candle during the liturgy. This time we invite the parent or eldest adult present to receive the light from the Paschal candle and to pass it on to their children as a sign of the faith journey we are on together.

Prayer to accompany the passing on of the light

After the Paschal Candle has been processed into the darkened church; all individual candles are lit from this source – indicating how faith is from Christ, the light of the world. Celebrant invites the parent or eldest person in each family/group, to hold the candle as he prays:

Celebrant: God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May God bless all who guide and support our precious children as they grow in faith. Parents, guardians & godparents – you are the first teachers of these child in the ways of faith. May you be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Amen

Celebrant: I now invite you, carefully and prayerfully, to pass the candle onto the children or younger members of your family.

By God's gift in Baptism, we were all reborn to everlasting life. In Gods goodness, may God continue to pour out blessings upon all of us, Gods sons and daughters. May God make us always, wherever we may be, faithful followers of Jesus.

May we love and appreciate one another as we journey in faith together, and may we always speak to each other and love each other in such a way that each person knows love, and knows God through our love,

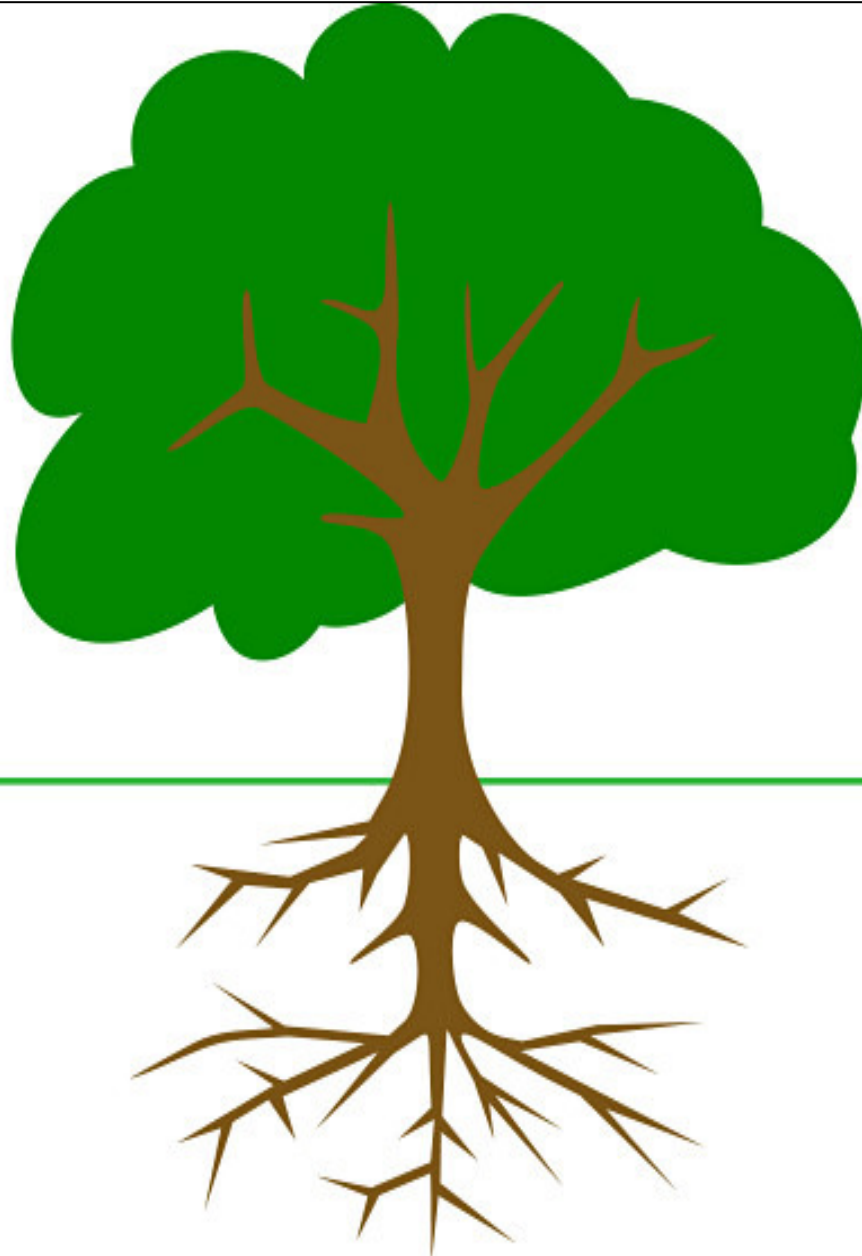
May God send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Amen

The candle can now be extinguished as the church lights come up a little. Please be very careful with the wax!!!

The Family of Faith Tree
- start at the bottom and watch it grow!!!

*Branches - how do we 'do' faith?
(going to church?
Helping others?
Praying at home??
Etc)*



Fruits - draw in some fruits (signs) that faith grew in your family (kindness, love, helpfulness, joy??)

*Strong tree trunk:
Who are the people in my family of faith?*

*Roots: Who are the people who gave us our faith?
(grandparents, teachers, aunts, football coaches, neighbours, priests, etc... !?!)*

*Draw in pictures of people who you would like to include in your family of faith tree - relatives, neighbours, classmates, friends etc.
Please bring the completed sheet back on the Third Sunday of Lent for display*