Level: 3
Title: CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT
Strand: CHURCH:
Body of Christ, Community of Disciples, Witness to Unity and Justice.

Suggested Duration: 2-3 weeks

Unit Focus
In this unit students will explore the role of the Spirit in the mission of the Church. They will reflect upon Pentecost as a special feast of the Church for people who celebrate and proclaim the message of Jesus.

Level Outcome
By the end of Level Three the students should be able to:

Identify the Church as a community that celebrates the life and work of Jesus.

Unit Outcomes
By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. Identify how the presence of the Holy Spirit was experienced in the Early Church.
2. Explain how the Holy Spirit is present in the Church today.
3. Identify ways the Holy Spirit is present in all members of the Church.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRAND</th>
<th>DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS</th>
<th>CATECHISM REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesus Christ</td>
<td>1. After Jesus’ death and resurrection people gathered in communities to remember him and tell the story of his compassion and love.</td>
<td>767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Jesus is fully human and divine and shares his Spirit with us.</td>
<td>729, 747, 743</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>1. The Church is a community of believers called to celebrate and make present the ministry of Jesus.</td>
<td>783</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. The Church celebrates Jesus’ life, death and resurrection in many feasts and seasons of the liturgical year.</td>
<td>1168</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. The Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to unity and justice.</td>
<td>791</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Life</td>
<td>1. Jesus challenges us to follow his teachings and example.</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. We are challenged to reflect on the ways we respond to God's love for us.</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>God</td>
<td>6. The Holy Spirit enables us to live in communion with God and others</td>
<td>238, 239, 240, 733, 734, 735, 736</td>
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Key Understandings for Students
- Pentecost is a special feast day in the Church.
- The Holy Spirit is present in the Church today.
- The Spirit of God is in each person.
- The Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to live as Jesus did.
### Curriculum Links - VELS

**Victorian Essential Learning Standards**

The unit *Celebrating The Gift of The Spirit* can be used to assess a range of VELS. The table below gives examples of how Level 3 standards could be assessed.

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<tr>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Key elements of Standards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Personal and Social</td>
<td>Interpersonal Development</td>
<td>Building Social Relationships</td>
<td>“demonstrate respect for others and exhibit appropriate behaviour for maintaining friendships with other people. They support each other by sharing ideas and materials, offering assistance, giving appropriate feedback and acknowledging individual differences. They work with others to reduce, avoid and resolve conflict.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Working In Teams</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“cooperate with others in teams for agreed purposes, taking roles and following guidelines established within the task. They describe and evaluate their own contribution and the team’s progress towards the achievement of agreed goals.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civics and Citizenship</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td></td>
<td>“contribute to the development and support of class rules and participate in school celebrations and commemorations of important events. They describe some of the roles and purposes of groups in the community. They work with other students to identify a local issue and plan possible actions to achieve a desired outcome.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Learning</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
<td>ICT for Visual Thinking</td>
<td>“use ICT tools to list ideas, order them into logical sequences, and identify relationships between them. Students retrieve their saved visualising thinking strategies and edit them for use in new, but similar situations. They explain how these strategies can be used for different problems or situations.”</td>
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<td>ICT For Creating</td>
<td>“create information products to assist in problem solving in all areas of the curriculum. With minimal assistance, students use ICT tools to capture and save images. They use simple editing functions to manipulate the images for use in their products.”</td>
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<td>Thinking</td>
<td>“collect information from a range of sources to answer their own and others’ questions. They question the validity of sources when appropriate. They apply thinking strategies to organise information and concepts in a variety of contexts, including problem solving activities. They provide reasons for their conclusions.”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>“apply creative ideas in practical ways and test the possibilities of ideas they generate. They use open-ended questioning and integrate available information to explore ideas.”</td>
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</table>
Reflection, evaluation and meta-cognition -“identify strategies they use to organise their ideas, and use appropriate language to explain their thinking. They identify and provide reasons for their point of view, and justify changes in their thinking.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Framework Context</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pentecost</td>
<td>Celebrating the Gift of the Spirit</td>
<td>Pentecost - Celebrating the Spirit</td>
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**Student Context**

The students of Level Three are becoming less self-focused as their understanding of self, community and world expands. Play is an important activity that promotes growth and learning. Their analytical skills are developing and they have a clearer understanding of differences. Whilst still literal students are beginning to understand different levels of thinking. At this level students seek to clarify for themselves the distinctions between fact and fantasy. Teachers will need to keep this in mind as they discuss the events that depict the Pentecost story.

**Theological Background for Teachers**

- Pentecost is a time to be aware and deepen our appreciation of the Church as people who celebrate and proclaim the message of Jesus. At Pentecost the Church celebrates the Father's gift of the Spirit promised by Jesus.

- The Holy Spirit is present in the world through people who work for the good of others. The Holy Spirit inspires people to serve God and work for the good of others.

- The Church is the community of God's people. Through the Church we are united not just to God, but to one another.

- The experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit is described as being “like the rush of a mighty wind and as fire, distributed and resting on each of them” (Acts 2:1-4).

- The Spirit empowers and teaches, reveals to the Church the mysteries of God, inspires prophecy, is the giver of wisdom, encouragement, joy, hope and love.

- The presence of the Holy Spirit was experienced in the Old and New Testaments. The Hebrew people used the word *Ruah* to describe the Spirit, a word which means spirit and breath. They identified the Spirit as the life-giving breath of God.

- The word Pentecost (a Jewish harvest celebration) means the fiftieth day from the Passover. Counting the Sundays at the each end of seven weeks, it is the fiftieth day from Easter.

- Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was important to carry on his mission after he was gone. Jesus promised he would give his friends the strength of the Holy Spirit.

**Scripture**

**Teacher References (NRSV)**

Rom 5:5

And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**Student References (CEV)**

Acts 2:42-47

They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, while praising God. Everyone liked them,
and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak. Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages. They were excited and amazed, and said:

Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee? Then why do we hear them speaking our very own languages? Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete, and Arabia. Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have chosen to be Jews. Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done.

Everyone was excited and confused. Some of them even kept asking each other, "What does all this mean?"

Others made fun of the Lord's followers and said, "They are drunk."

Gal 5:22 - The Fruit of the Spirit
By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

Suggested Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks for this unit may include:

Outcome 1 Identify how the presence of the Holy Spirit was experienced in the Early Church
- Read Acts 2:43-47 and construct a concept/story map, which identifies the activities of the Early Church that are signs of the Spirit at work among them. (refer to icon in Planning Tool)

- Read Acts 2:42-47 and make a list to describe the disciples before and after Pentecost. Explain why these changes occurred.

Outcome 2 Explain how the Holy Spirit is present in the Church today.
- Students write a report explaining how a person from the parish through their work, shows that the Holy Spirit is present in the church today.

Outcome 3 Identify ways the Holy Spirit is present in all members of the Church.
- List many of the actions of various groups in the Church and match them to a list of the fruits of the Spirit.

N.B All of the above Outcomes lend themselves to reporting in the dimension of Knowledge and Understanding.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity:

Have the word “Community” in big print on display and brainstorm what it means to be in community with others.

- Interviews: invite an active member of the Parish (St Vincent de Paul) to come and share their ideas of mission within the Church community.

- Make a kite (or balloons) and write a message on it that reflects some understanding of the Pentecost feast, for example God is Love, Come Holy Spirit. Make it a focal piece for a prayer celebration. Use Pentecost colours eg red, orange yellow – fire

- Find on a map of the ancient world, the places mentioned in Acts 2:9-11

- Acts 2:1-13 Tell the story of Pentecost as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles as the fulfilment of Jesus’ promise. Explore the symbols of wind and fire. Students explore why they think the author of the Pentecost story used the
symbols of wind and fire to represent the Holy Spirit.

- Create a Word Web identifying the gifts of the Spirit we celebrate at Pentecost. *(refer to icon in Planning Tool)*
- Children complete a Dictagloss *(refer to icon in Planning Tool)* on Acts 2:1-4 to retrieve specific information from the piece of Scripture.
- To encounter Acts 2 more fully students engage in the Chorus Play – Pentecost Pandemonium *(Refer Rina Wintour Just Imagine p.19)*
- Personal Reflection Acts 2 1-13. *(Refer Rina Wintour Just Imagine, p.76)*
- Research a person past or present who displays Spirit filled characteristics.
- Complete activities such as Facts and Feelings on the Pentecost Story (p135), A Day in the Life of one of the Apostles present at Pentecost (p156), Story board on the events of Pentecost (p122), Story Senses on the story of Pentecost (p115), Story Questions (p111) *(Refer to Maurice Ryan Teaching the Bible).*
- Story map: Create their own story map that shows how the Holy Spirit works through them at school and at home. *(refer to icon in Planning Tool)*
- Attribute Profiles: Children make 3 outlines of a church building and label them, believing community, serving community and celebrating community. The church buildings are peopled with faces. On each face are written words that describe people who believe, serve and celebrate.
- Collect newspaper/magazine articles that show that Holy Spirit at work in the community. Make a collage grouping like concepts and label, display.
- Individually make a book outlining how the Holy Spirit is Alive in My Life e.g. I show the Holy Spirit is alive in me when… *(These statements can be used to formulate goals/class norms for the year.)*
- Discuss our own understandings of the term Spirit eg, team Spirit, school spirit, family, individual.
- Share stories of people who show great courage or spirit, or who have overcome great fear to achieve extraordinary things, eg soldiers in battle, elite athletes, people like Fred Hollows, also there will be people in your local community who have “overcome the odds”
- What does the word Pentecost mean? *(Greek word for fifty.)* Make a list of words that begin with ‘pent’ that also mean five. eg pentagon, pentatuech, pentathlon
  This Christian feast of Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season on the 50th day after Easter.
- Invite students to imagine that they are one of the characters in the crowd watching the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Write about what you have witnessed (eg the change in the disciples, what you may have seen or heard coming from the room upstairs).
  The first thing I noticed… What I heard… What I saw… How I felt about what was happening…
- Invite students to reflect on how and when the Holy Spirit might be present in their lives.
- Explore the term ‘community’. How do people in a community work together and share common interests and belongings? Identify what unites a community. Write definitions for the term ‘community’.
- Students identify and write about times when they can be ‘the hands’ shown in each part of the St Vincent de Paul Society logo:
  - I can be the hand of Christ that blesses when…
  - I can be the hand of love that offers when…
  - I can be the hand that receives when…
- Provide students with information from the Vinnies’, *What’s it all about?* Information Kit or organise a guest speaker from the St Vincent de Paul society to provide a simple overview about the works of the organisation. Students investigate and identify the following: who the St Vincent de Paul Society helps the activities of the St Vincent de Paul Society how the people who work for the St Vincent de Paul Society use their gifts in love and service.
• Gal 5:22 To PREPARE TO HEAR the Word - Paul wrote this to the people of Galatia to inspire them to live their life inspired by the spirit despite the difficulties encountered by the early Christian church. Locate Galatia on Paul's missionary journeys

• Gal 5:22 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text groups of students take a fruit each to depict through art, cutting magazine pictures or clipart images. Use this art work to present student’s understandings of the gifts of the Spirit.

• Gal 5:22 To RESPOND to the Word – identify people in our lives who show the fruits of spirit present in the way they live.

**Resources**

For resources to support this unit, refer to the online planning tool. For additional resources, refer to the Resource Centre Catalogue: [http://www.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au) and follow links to Resource Centre.
Appendix 1

Joy, Love, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.

These are the qualities that we can recognise in people who are filled with the Holy Spirit. eg the Kindness and generosity of those people who have helped the Tsunami victims, the Kindness of the members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul or the Love and Patience of carers who look after elderly people or small children.

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (1 Cor 12:4, 7-11)

Wisdom: The gift helps us see God’s plan for the world. Helps us to see things from all sides and avoid a narrow minded approach.

Understanding: This gift enables us to know about and care for others as well as ourselves.

Knowledge: The gift that helps us to learn more about ourselves, our faith and our Church. It helps us to see things as they are and not as we might want them to be.

Courage: The gift that helps us be authentic people who can stand up for what we believe in. This gift empowers us to ‘be not afraid’.

Right Judgement: The gift that enables us to make good decisions, look at alternatives, consider consequences and take responsibility for action.

Reverence: The gift that helps us respect ourselves and all of creation.

Wonder/Awe: The gift that allows us to see and appreciate that God is present in everything. This gift enables us to be amazed by life and astonished by and open to God.