Level: 4
Title: THE RISEN CHRIST
Strand: JESUS CHRIST: Jesus of Nazareth, Saviour, Word Made Flesh
Suggested Duration: 4 weeks

Unit Focus
In this unit students will reflect on the mystery of the resurrection by entering the experience through the eyes of the disciples who first gave witness to Jesus’ risen presence amongst them. They will also explore ways they integrate the resurrection experience into their own lives.

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

* Articulate and understand that Jesus, present in our lives in many ways, offers hope to the world.

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

1. Explore how Jesus’ followers responded to his death and risen life amongst them.
2. Identify ways in which they can integrate the resurrection experience into their lives.

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<th>STRAND</th>
<th>DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS</th>
<th>CATECHISM REFERENCE</th>
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<td>Jesus Christ</td>
<td>2. In his life, death and resurrection Jesus reveals the saving love of God and gives hope to the world.</td>
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| Scripture      | 2. The Christian Scriptures teach us about Jesus and the early Christian communities.  
                | 5. The four Gospels are core to the Church’s prayer and teaching.                  | 126, 125, 126       |
| Prayer         | 6. The celebration of liturgical feasts is an opportunity for personal and communal prayer. | 2655                |

Key Understandings for Students
- The women and men who followed Jesus responded in different ways to his death and resurrection.
- Jesus is risen and is here with us in a new way.
- It is important to integrate the resurrection experience into our daily lives.
- We can learn from Jesus’ life experiences through reflection and prayer.

Curriculum Links - VELS

**Victorian Essential Learning Standards**
The *Risen Christ* unit can be used to assess a range of VELS. The table below gives examples of how Level 4 standards could be assessed.

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<th>Strand</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Key elements of Standards Students…</th>
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<td>Physical, Personal and Social Learning</td>
<td>Civics and Citizenship</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td>“demonstrate understanding that there are different viewpoints on an issue, and contribute to group and class decision making.”</td>
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Inter
disciplinary
Learning

Communication

Responding

- “summarise ideas and organise ideas and information logically and clearly in a range of presentations”
  -“identify features of an effective presentation and adapt elements of their own presentation to reflect them.”

Presenting

-“summarise and organise ideas and information, logically and clearly in a range of presentations.”

Thinking

Reasoning, processing
and inquiry

-“develop their own questions for investigation. They collect relevant information from a range of sources and make judgements about its worth”

Creativity

-“generate imaginative solutions when solving problems”

Reflection, evaluation
and meta-cognition

-“use a broad range of thinking processes and tools and reflect on and evaluate their effectiveness.”

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<th>Curriculum Framework Context</th>
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<td>Lent Easter</td>
<td>How Can Lent Transform Our Lives? The Risen Christ</td>
<td>How Can We Make a Difference?</td>
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Student Context

At this stage of their schooling students in upper primary can enter into the perspectives of others to gain meaning for life. By being introduced to the literary forms of the Bible, children can begin their journey of understanding of the truths the Bible stories convey.

Today it appears that the meaning of Easter is often lost in the commercialism that surrounds it. Students’ thoughts are occupied with Easter eggs and holidays. This unit emphasises the centrality of Jesus’ death and resurrection to our Christian faith and looking beyond Easter Sunday to the whole Easter Season, stresses our ongoing participation in the life of the Risen Christ, “United with Christ by Baptism, believers already truly participate in the heavenly life of the risen Christ …” (CCC, #1003).

Theological Background for Teachers

- The resurrection of Jesus signals the beginning of the Easter Season. Accounts of the resurrection are the testimony of believers to fellow believers. Rather than focussing on the empty tomb, the central focus should be the spiritual significance of the resurrection and its importance for Christian life in faith, hope and charity. The resurrection of Jesus is the great central revelation of Christian experience and history by being, “… a sign of the compassionate power of the Father vindicating and fulfilling the human self-oblation of Jesus in a transforming radiance of divine splendour and peace. It guarantees the meaning and purpose not only of the life and death of Jesus but of all human life and death.” (Hellwig, 2002, pp.104-105)
- It was women who were reported as the first witnesses to the resurrection, chief among them Mary Magdalene. In the Gospel of John, the risen Jesus gives her special teaching and commissions her as an apostle to the apostles to bring them the good news. She obeys and is thus the first to announce the resurrection.
- The Easter Season follows on from the Easter Vigil and continues for fifty days until Pentecost. It is a time of rejoicing in Christ’s resurrection and ascension and a time of great hope: life, not death, will have the final say; love is stronger than hate; hope is stronger than despair; God’s peace is stronger than our fears (Zanzig & Allaire, 1997, pp. 265-266).
- During the Easter Season gospel selections recount the appearances of the Risen Christ and the teaching and prayer of Christ at the Last Supper.
- The first reading during the season comes from the Acts of the Apostles instead of a selection from the Old Testament, in accord with an ancient custom. The life, growth, and witness of the early Church that experienced Jesus’ risen life so powerfully, are presented.
- The solemnity of the Ascension was celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter (Ascension Thursday), but this solemnity is now transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. This is when we remember how Jesus farewelled his Apostles, promising to send the Holy Spirit, before going on to live forever in glory with his Father.
- Pentecost Sunday is the last day of the Easter Season and celebrates the coming of the Holy
Spirit to the disciples, “... firing up their faith and courage, and filling them with the power of God. In one sense Pentecost is an end – the end of the Easter Season. But in a greater sense it is a beginning – the beginning of the Spirit’s work through the church in every age to the present, and beyond that to the end of time.” (Zanzig & Allaire, 1997, p. 266)

Scripture

Teacher and Student Reference NRSV

Lk 24:13-35 The Walk to Emmaus

Now on the same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in and stayed with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him: and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon! Then they told what had happened to them on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of bread.

Lk 24:35-43 Jesus Appears to His Disciples

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Suggested Assessment Tasks

Assessment strategies for this unit may include:

Outcome 1: Explore how Jesus’ followers responded to his death and risen life amongst them.

- Students use the narrative text type in a newspaper report to retell the disciples’ experience of and their response to, the Resurrection appearances, including:
  - the setting
  - their senses
  - feelings – mood changes
  - action
  - what would they be wondering?
  - what would it mean for them?

- Students retell the Emmaus story depicting the main events. This could be done using a variety of media, PowerPoint, puppets (Godly Play), words & pictures, posters etc.
Outcome 2: Identify ways in which they could integrate the resurrection experience into their lives.

- Students identify and list ways that they can bring, through words and actions, Jesus’ message of love and hope. Present these on a poster titled “Resurrection – Love and Hope”

- Students compose a piece of writing, a poem, a comic strip depicting how Catholics understand that Jesus is alive and present in their lives today.

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

### Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

**Focusing Activity:**

Use a piece of children’s literature, eg. *Broken Beaks; Shutting the Chooks In; Mutt Dog; Luke’s Way of Looking; Giraffes Can’t Dance; The Tunnel* etc, which tells of a person’s experience of being alienated, lonely or afraid. Discuss the feelings of the main character. How does this character gain a sense of hope?

- As a class decide on goals for the term and a way to shine light into the school community. Record the class goals on a chart.

- Read the Emmaus story Lk 24: 13-35 in pairs and complete a story map of the Emmaus story. Remind the children that the disciples experienced Jesus’ presence in a new way that they didn’t fully understand.
  - Draw the story in four scenes.
  - Use colours and facial expressions to capture the mood of each scene.

- Children set out on an Easter walk with a partner. As they walk, they recall the experiences of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They also share their own experiences of Jesus’ presence – friends, family, media, heroes. Upon returning from “Easter walk” children write a brief description of a person who reveals the risen Jesus to them and how the chosen person does this.

- Children individually fill a piece of art paper with 4 painted panels, expressing through colour, the unfolding of Easter experiences of loss, doubt, reassurance and belief.

- Ryan, M. (2003). *Expressions: a religion series for Catholic Primary Schools: Book 7.* Tuggerah, NSW: Social Science Press. (Topic 4 - The Passion of Jesus). There are several teaching and learning activities in this topic including a webquest that works towards the student producing a brochure as an alternate assessment task.

- Read the following accounts of what Jesus did after his resurrection and represent each account in word and image
  1. Jn 20:1-10 The disciples found the empty tomb.
  2. Jn 20:11-18 Jesus met Mary Magdalene in the garden near the tomb.
  3. Jn 20:24-29 Thomas doubted that Jesus had risen
  5. Lk 24:13-25 Two disciples met Jesus on the road to Emmaus
  6. Lk 24:36-43 Jesus appears to his disciples

- Students explore some Easter Symbols that are part of our Easter celebrations refer to Atwell, J. (2003). *To know worship and love: Book 5.* East Melbourne: James Goold House.

- Lk 24:36-43 To PREPARE TO HEAR the Word - Luke presents another appearance of the risen Jesus to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem, following the appearance on the road to Emmaus. At first they are fearful and Jesus invites them to touch his hands and feet and he asks them for something to eat. He wants them to realise that he is really alive

- Lk 24:36-43 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text from the Bible, identify the characters in the narrative, what each one does and says and note how the mood of the disciples

- Lk 24:36-43 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text from the Bible, discuss the significance of Jesus inviting the disciples to touch his hands and feet and asking them for some fish to eat.
• Lk 24:36-43 To RESPOND to the Word – How do I see the risen Jesus and experience the risen Jesus in my life today and in the world around me.

Prayer and Ritual

Gather in a circle around a large candle. Explain some paschal symbols and use them to decorate the candle. Light the candle and sing (Bernadette Farrell) Christ Be Our Light (antiphon). Place the class goals recorded in the unit in the centre of the circle. Pray together: Resurrection has brought us to stand in a new light, one that will forever illuminate our darkness. Easter calls us to be the light to our world.

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 and follow links to Resource Centre.