Level: 4  
Title: SACRAMENTAL LIFE  

SACRAMENTS:  
Effective signs of Christ’s saving presence, communal celebrations of Christian identity.

Suggested Duration: 6 weeks

Unit Focus  
In this unit, students focus on sacraments as a sign through which the Christian community celebrates God's loving presence. They will look at each of the seven sacraments and the importance of each one in the Catholic context. Students will look at the appropriate rituals and symbols associated with each sacrament.

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

Understand the sacraments as ritual celebrations in the experience of God’s Spirit in our lives and community.

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

1. Understand the significance of the signs/symbols of each sacrament.  
2. Explain the ritual structure of each of the sacraments.  
3. Identify the purpose and meaning of each sacrament.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRAND</th>
<th>DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS</th>
<th>CATECHISM REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| God    | 1. God entrusts us with the world and with the responsibility to reverence, develop, heal and celebrate life.  
2. The Reign of God is revealed through Jesus' ministry of reconciliation, healing, justice and peace. | 339  
543-550 |
| Sacraments | 1. Sacraments are celebrations in ritual, sign, symbol and word of the Risen Christ with us.  
2. A sacramental Church nourishes and celebrates key moments of our lives. | 1147-1148  
1210 |

Key Understandings for Students  
- A sacrament is a sign through which the Christian community celebrates God's loving presence.
- We live out our vocation through different lifestyles: priesthood, single life, married life, and religious life.
- There are seven sacraments in the Catholic tradition: Sacraments of Healing (Penance and Anointing of the Sick), Sacraments at the service of communion and the mission of the faithful (Matrimony and Holy Orders) and Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation).
- Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are Sacraments of Christian Initiation. They ground the common vocation of all Christian disciples, a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelising the world.
- A person who is very ill can be given the strength and comfort of Jesus through the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
**Curriculum Links - VELS**

**Victorian Essential Learning Standards**

The *Sacramental Life* unit can be used to assess a range of VELS. The table below gives examples of how Level 4 standards could be assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Key elements of Standards Students…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Personal and Social</td>
<td>Interpersonal Development</td>
<td>Building Social Relationships</td>
<td>“accept and display empathy for the points of view and feelings of their peers and others.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working In Teams</td>
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<td>“work effectively in different teams and take on a variety of roles to complete tasks of varying length and complexity. They work cooperatively to allocate tasks and develop timelines. Students accept responsibility for their role and tasks.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civics and Citizenship</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td></td>
<td>“demonstrate understanding that there are different viewpoints on an issue, and contribute to group and class decision making.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Learning</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Listening, Viewing and Responding</td>
<td>“summarise ideas and organise ideas and information logically and clearly in a range of presentations”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“identify features of an effective presentation and adapt elements of their own presentation to reflect them.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Presenting</td>
<td>“summarise and organise ideas and information, logically and clearly in a range of presentations.”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reasoning, processing and inquiry</td>
<td>“develop their own questions for investigation. They collect relevant information from a range of sources and make judgements about its worth”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking</td>
<td></td>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>“generate imaginative solutions when solving problems”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reflection, evaluation and meta-cognition</td>
<td>“use a broad range of thinking processes and tools and reflect on and evaluate their effectiveness.”</td>
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</table>

**Curriculum Framework Context**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesus Models Forgiveness</td>
<td>Sacraments of Initiation- Eucharist</td>
<td>Sacraments and Celebrations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacraments of Initiation – Confirmation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Student Context**

Students at this level should be able to use the processes of inquiry with more precision as they observe, predict, establish and test hypotheses, and reflect on what they have learnt. In practical terms, they can plan questions for interviews, make systematic observations during excursions, gather and organise evidence from print materials, summarise and present conclusions.

Many Catholic students at this age have experienced the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Penance and have an understanding of these. They are becoming more aware of the different ministries that they can be a part of in their own community. This can lead them to explore the sacramental life choices of an adult.

**Theological Background for Teachers**

- A Sacrament is a solemn observance. It is an outward sign that a faithful worshipper is receiving the grace of God. Sacraments are signs through which the Christian community celebrates God’s loving presence.

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• “Originally, the word sacrament referred to the Roman military custom of making an oath of allegiance. In the scriptures, the word sacrament translates the word mystery...Sacrament meaning mystery was therefore quite open-minded, flexible and, desirably, imprecise (Bausch, 1977).

• Symbols and rituals are important when celebrating sacraments. Symbols are “the language of sacramental life... they express the Real Presence of God.” (Kain, 1993).

• There is a variety of ministries within the Church, each ministry fulfilling a function of the mission of the whole Church.

• There are seven sacraments in the Catholic tradition: Sacraments of healing (Penance and Anointing of the Sick), Sacraments at the service of communion and the mission of the faithful (Matrimony and Holy Orders) and sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation).

• “The sacraments of Christian Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and The Eucharist – lay the foundations of every Christian life. By means of these Sacraments of Christian Initiation, they thus receive an increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance towards perfect charity.” (CCC, #1212).

• The Holy Spirit strengthens those who have received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. The sacrament should be seen as part of a larger context of pastoral care of the sick that includes: visitation, communion, anointing and commendation of the dying.

• Through the Sacrament of Marriage, the Holy Spirit strengthens the love and commitment of husband and wife.

• Through the sacrament of Holy Orders, a priest is seen as a pastoral leader whose mission is to serve the community. Holy Orders is the Sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the Sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate, presbyterate and diaconate. (CCC, #1536).

Scripture

Teacher and Student References (NRSV)

Lk 17:11-19 Healing of the Ten Lepers
On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Jas 5:13-16
Are any among you sick? They should call the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

1 Cor 13:4-7 Love
Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
Mk 1:9-11 *Baptism of Jesus*
In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven. “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Acts 13:1-3
Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Lk 15:4-7 *Parable of the Lost Sheep*
Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Mk 14:22-24 *Institution of the Lord’s Supper*
While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

Mt 16:18-19
“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Isa 11:2
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

### Suggested Assessment Tasks

**Assessment tasks for this unit may include:**

**Outcome 1:** Investigate the significance of the signs/symbols of each sacrament.
- Choose one symbol from each sacrament and design a visual representation, then create a Word Web (refer to icon in Planning Tool) of possible meanings for the symbol.

**Outcome 2:** Explain the ritual structure of each of the sacraments.
- Choose a sacrament to study in detail and draw a flow chart showing the sequence of the rite.

**Outcome 3:** Identify the significance and meaning of each sacrament.
- Students list the sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Commitment. Write three or four sentences to explain the significance of each sacrament.
  
  **OR**

  - Students match each of the sacraments with a brief description of their significance. Students then group them into sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Commitment.

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

Gather examples of symbols, discuss and record their attributes. In groups students record personal, local, national and global symbols.

- Brainstorm symbols used in the sacraments eg oil, water, wedding rings etc. Research, in small groups, the origin and application of the symbol. Present information as a series of wall charts/posters.

- Look up ‘Ritual’ in the Dictionary. Discuss the meaning of ritual in students’ families, community and school.

- Use individual KWL charts to record what the students already know and want to know, about the sacraments. (The K and the W)

- In groups students study one of the suggested Scripture References. Using Scripture Graffiti - (White, D. (2003). Into the deep. Mayayong, NSW: KD Publications. (pp 122-126) record any key insights or learnings that this reading gives about a sacrament.

- In groups students research the ritual structure of the seven sacraments. Use the Five W’s to guide the students through this task. Who? What? Where? Why? When?

- Create a Matrix to organise information about the sacraments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the Sacrament?</th>
<th>What symbols are used?</th>
<th>What are the ritual actions?</th>
<th>What is the purpose of the Sacrament?</th>
<th>Who receives the Sacrament?</th>
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- Teaching and Learning Experiences for these specific groups of sacraments may be found in the following resources:
  Sacraments of Initiation: - BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION and EUCHARIST - Expressions Book 3
  Sacraments of Healing: - Penance and ANOINTING - Expressions Book 5
  Sacraments of Commitment: - HOLY ORDERS and MATRIMONY - Expressions Book 6

- Complete the L of the KWL begun earlier in the unit. What have I learnt about the meaning and importance of sacraments?

- Jas 5:13-16 To PREPARE TO HEAR the Word - The author, James has traditionally been identified as ‘James the leader of the Church in Jerusalem’. In this text he is encouraging the early Christians to live as a caring community, to love one another. Using oil to anoint the sick was a common practice in Ancient times when people thought that sickness was a punishment for their sins, so healing was both physical and spiritual.

- Jas 5:13-16 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text from the Bible, use the Dictagloss Strategy to rewrite/retell the text.

- Jas 5:13-16 To RESPOND to the Word – Within a reflective prayerful setting students use oil to anoint one another on the palm of their hands while saying a Blessing Prayer. eg May the Lord Bless and keep you.

Prayer and Ritual

Set up a prayer place with symbols from the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Sing a hymn about healing. Read the text from James 5:13-16 and give the students time to reflect on the text. Have students write the name of anyone they know who is unwell and place around the prayer focus. Lay hands on one another and end with a prayer of blessing and a hymn about healing.
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.