

## BENCHMARKS AND ASSESSMENT

In March of 2017 Education Scotland, in agreement with the Bishops Conference of Scotland, published a series of what are called **Benchmarks** that have been developed to provide more clarity on the national standards expected with Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (RERC). These are used to make clear what learners need to know and be able to do in order to progress through the levels and therefore form the basis for **Assessment**.

For example, in the sample unit on 'Covenant' referred to in this leaflet there are three Learning Outcomes identified:

- RERC 3-02a** (*Image of God*)
- RERC 3-03a** (*Revealed Truth of God*)
- RERC 3-12a** (*Word of God*)

These are matched to a number of Benchmarks that would be used in putting together an assessment. In doing an assessment for this unit, the pupils would be expected to do the following:

- ◇ *Explain why the Old Testament is important for Christians*
- ◇ *Apply learning about literary forms to interpret Biblical texts*
- ◇ *Describe in detail how God speaks to people and how God is revealed in Sacred Scripture.*
- ◇ *Identify and discuss situations of wonder and mystery and describe how these make us aware of God's presence.*

The specific form of any instruments of assessment will vary from school to school and from RE Department to RE Department. There may be set assessments at particular stages in the year, such as class tests. However assessment may be done on an ongoing basis and could even involve the production of a piece of artwork, some form of research project, or individual pieces of writing.

Further information is available from your local school and also from:

[www.catholicism.org](http://www.catholicism.org)

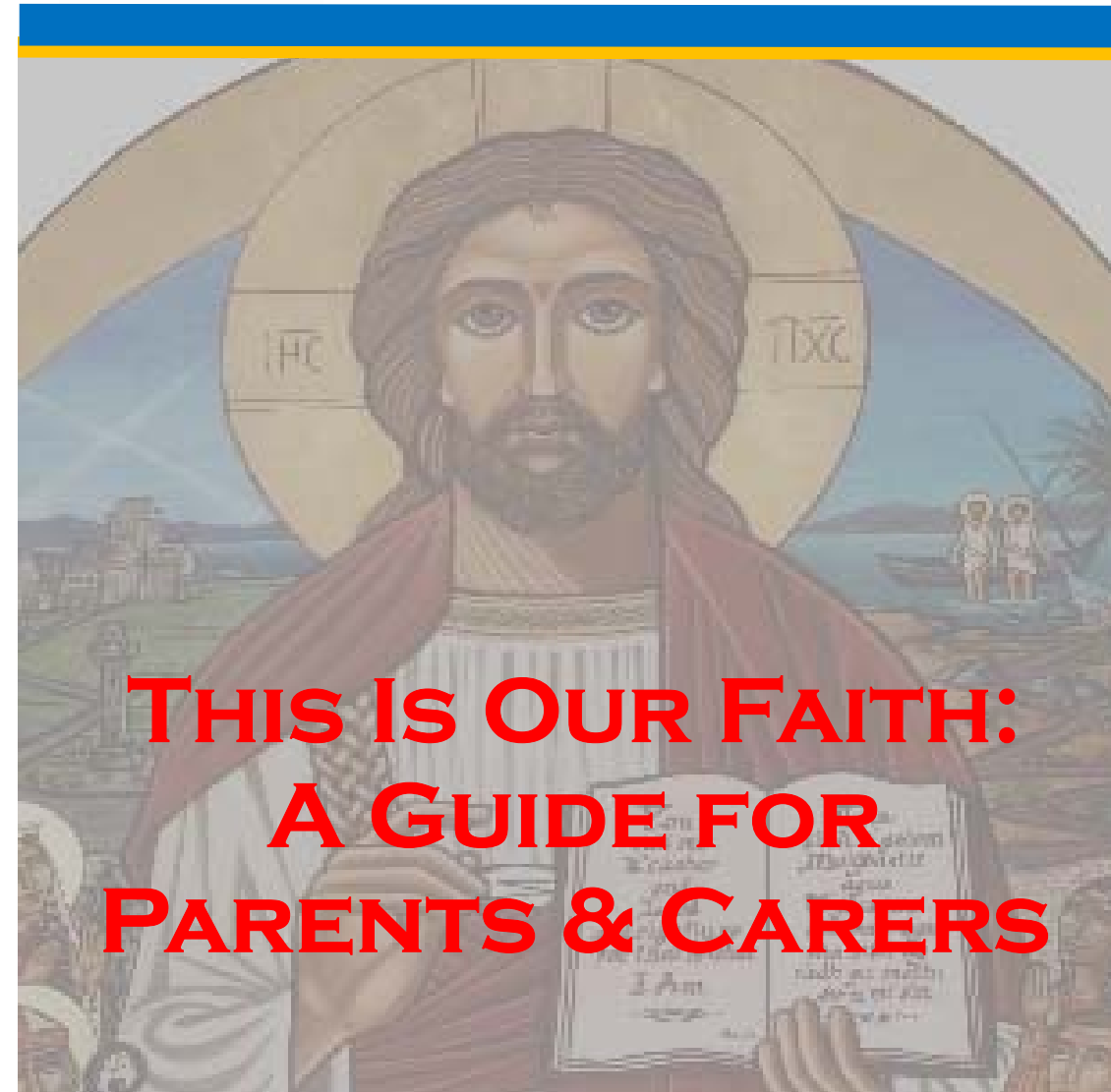
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THIS IS  
*our faith*



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



## WHAT IS THIS IS OUR FAITH?

***This Is Our Faith***, the syllabus for Catholic Religious Education in Scotland, governs the teaching of Religious Education in Scotland's Catholic schools.

This is the first Religious Education syllabus to be originated wholly in Scotland and designed to meet the needs of young people in Scotland. It was published in November 2011 by the Scottish Catholic Education Service on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Scotland; a **Senior Phase** version was published in October 2015.

***This is Our Faith*** is designed to inform teachers' understanding of the nature of the Catholic school, the purpose of religious education, the role of the teacher, the 'Strands of Faith' under which is organised the 'core learning' in faith which young people are expected to experience through their **Broad General Education phase (P1 through to S3)** and at the **Senior Phase (S4 to S6)**.

The Holy See's granting of the **Decree of Recognitio** is a rare and momentous achievement and pays testimony to the great efforts of so many people who have contributed their time and knowledge to the development of the new syllabus.

***This Is Our Faith*** will help parents, carers, teachers, catechists and clergy to ensure that young people can:

- ◆ *Develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith;*
- ◆ *Nurture respect for other Christian traditions and world faiths;*
- ◆ *Experience opportunities for spiritual growth;*
- ◆ *Acquire the skills of reflection, discernment and moral decision-making;*
- ◆ *Commit to beliefs, values and actions in a positive response to God's invitation to faith.*

1. About how God called Abram to serve him.

2. About the nature of the Covenant that God made with his people through Abram.

3. To reflect upon how God chose to test Abraham.

I am learning . . .

4. About how God called Moses to lead his people.

5. About the impact of the 10 Plagues in the freeing of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

6. About the importance of the 10 Commandments in shaping God's Covenant with his people.

### KEY VOCABULARY

Covenant	Revelation	Passover	Exodus
Decalogue	Word of Mouth	Holy Men and Women	

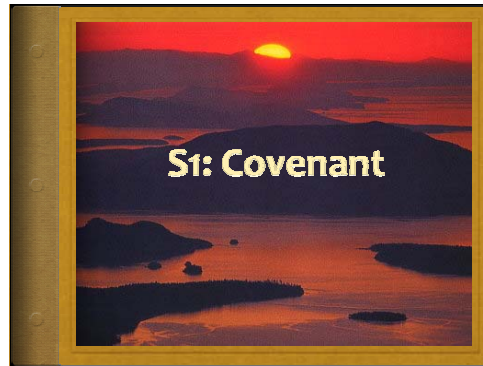
### SUCCESS CRITERIA

1. Recall the first part of Abram's story and what God asked him to do.
2. Describe the environment and culture that Abram was living in.
3. Record, remember and understand the key term 'Covenant' using modern day examples as well the story of Abraham.
4. Describe the importance of the of the story of The Sacrifice of Isaac in relation to God's relationship with His people.
5. Explain why God called Moses to lead his people.
6. Explain how Moses (with God's help) was able to free the Hebrews from slavery.
7. Reflect upon my learning and describe my understanding of what the 10 Commandments mean to me and to the people of God.

## THE STRANDS OF FAITH IN PRACTICE

To understand how the **Strands of Faith** work in practice, we shall look at a sample unit suitable to the S1 Syllabus, based on the theme of **'Covenant'**.

In this Unit, you can see how three of the Strands of Faith combine to develop the pupil understanding.



3-02a Image of God	3-03a Revealed Truth	3-12a Word of God
I have considered the Christian vision of the dignity of the human person, made in the image and likeness of God	I have examined the way that God is revealed in the lives of people and key events described in the Old Testament.	I can describe what I believe biblical texts say about the way God spoke to people in the past and how God speaks to people today.
<i>I can identify some characteristics of God by reflecting on relevant passages of the Old Testament which describe the history of the Covenant between God and mankind (Abraham and Moses).</i>	<i>I have developed and understanding of how God reveals himself to humanity: through personal relationships with people of the Old Testament—as God, who cared for, saves and remains faithful to his chosen people.</i>  <i>I have explored the instances of revelation and relationship within the Old Testament.</i>  <i>Abraham: his call, children, test, leadership (how God through Abraham and his descendants, including Jacob, chooses the Jews as his own people).</i>  <i>Moses: his birth, burning bush, return to Egypt, plagues and Passover, Exodus and years in wilderness, Decalogue, Mount Nebo and his death, God's saving law and love for his chosen people.</i>	<i>I have explored key Biblical texts to discover ways in which God 'spoke' or communicated His will to people in the Old Testament, e.g. Abraham (Gen. 12:1-20) and Moses (Ex. 3:2).</i>

## STRANDS OF FAITH

MYSTERY  
OF GOD

IN THE IMAGE  
OF GOD

REVEALED  
TRUTH OF GOD

SON  
OF GOD



THIS IS  
*our faith*

REIGN  
OF GOD

SIGNS  
OF GOD

WORD  
OF GOD

HOURS  
OF GOD

This Is Our Faith is structured in such a way as to allow for eight **Strands of Faith** which are used as the organising principles of the framework of experiences and outcomes for Catholic Religious Education, or RERC.

It is not intended that any one Strand of Faith should be taught discretely, but as a combination of one or more that contribute to build up a bigger picture . . . the **Paisley Pattern** of Religious Education, as it were. Each Strand of Faith contains three elements as follows:

### WE BELIEVE . . .

*Provides relevant extracts from the Creed—the core statement of Faith professed by the Catholic community.*

### WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH . . .

*Provides some relevant sources from Scripture and Tradition (Church documents, particularly the Catechism of the Catholic Church)*

### WE UNDERSTAND . . .

*Offers a summary of each Strand, based on the relevant teachings of the Catholic Church*

## STRANDS OF FAITH

THIRD LEVEL (S1)	THIRD LEVEL (S2)	FOURTH LEVEL (S3)	SENIOR PHASE(S4)	SENIOR PHASE (S5)	SENIOR PHASE(S6)
<b>Situations of wonder and mystery. Invitation to Faith.</b>	<b>Situations of wonder and mystery. Gifts and Talents.</b>	Created by God: call to relationship with God—openness to God.	<b>The Holy Trinity: Belief in One God—ultimate questions.</b>	<b>Holy Trinity: Mystery of Christian Faith.</b>	<b>Holy Trinity: Deepening in understanding.</b>
Dignity of the human person and who I am?	Dignity of the human person: God's plan for us.	Journey of fulfilment; awareness of sense of vocation.	In the image and likeness of God: Sacramentality of body.	In the image and likeness of God: relationship with God and others.	Image and likeness of God: the Theology of the Body.
God as revealed through the Old Testament.	God as revealed through the Old Testament: Prophets.	Nature of God: Trinity—teachings of the Church (Magisterium)	Nature of God: arguments to prove existence of God.	Nature of God: responding to God's call to faith.	<b>Nature of God: Divine Revelation.</b>
Understanding of Trinity in the Testament.	Crucifixion of Jesus: Trinity and the nature of God.	<b>Truly God and Truly Man: Jesus the New Covenant.</b>	<b>Jesus as Saviour: Redemption, Atonement, Salvation.</b>	<b>Jesus as Saviour: "The Word became flesh"</b>	<b>Jesus as Saviour: fulfilment of God's Plan.</b>
<b>Jesus as truly human and divine—new Covenant.</b>	<b>Human nature of Jesus: Son of God, Son of Man.</b>	<b>Expectation of a Messiah: Jewish understanding</b>	<b>Sacraments: a sign of God's presence.</b>	<b>Sacraments: encounters with Jesus—Body of Christ.</b>	Sacraments: inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Life in the time of Jesus—a new Messiah.</b>	<b>Palestine 2000 years ago: waiting for a Messiah.</b>	<b>Passion, Suffering and Death of Jesus: Son of God, Son of Man</b>	<b>The Church as Communion of Faith: Social Teaching.</b>	<b>Marks of the Church: bearing fruit in the world.</b>	The Holy Spirit unites the Church: spirituality, faith and practice.
<b>Ministry, Passion and Death of Jesus : Birth of Church.</b>	<b>Ministry, Passion and Death of Jesus: Paschal Mystery.</b>	<b>Sacraments in the community of faith: personal encounter.</b>	<b>Divine Revelation: Infancy Narratives and Revelation.</b>	<b>Divine Revelation: the Holy Spirit speaks to the Church today.</b>	<b>Relating to God: Genesis chapters 1-3—life has purpose.</b>
<b>Encountering Jesus through the Sacraments: Real Presence.</b>	<b>Jesus through the Sacraments: the Sacraments of Service.</b>	Sacraments: Healing Sacraments and reconciliation/Viaticum	<b>God speaks to us: Word of God in the words of men.</b>	<b>Magisterium of the Church: Sacred Scripture and Tradition.</b>	<b>Sacred Scripture: Language of the Bible.</b>
<b>The Power of the Holy Spirit and the life of the Church.</b>	<b>Holy Spirit: Communion of Saints and Body of the Church.</b>	The Holy Spirit: prophetic mission of the Church—Social Teaching.	Prayer: human response to life in relationship with God.	Prayer, ritual and worship: the Divine Office.	<b>Sacred Scripture: Faith and Reason</b>
Understanding the Bible: Literary forms: God speaks to his people.	The Bible: Inspired Word of God—God teaches us, past and present.	Divine Revelation—Sacred Scripture—Apostolic Succession.	Mary's "Fiat": responding to the call of God.	Mary: Mother of the Universal Church.	Forms of Prayer: Divine Office and monastic tradition.
The nature of prayer: Liturgical and devotional life of the Church.	Prayer: Personal and Communal—forms of prayer.	Sacred Scripture: God speaks to us. Christian witness.	The Mass as Christ's Sacrifice: source and summit.	The Mass: Real Presence of Jesus	Mary: The New Eve.
Marian devotion.	Marian devotion: the place of Mary in the Liturgical Calendar.	Forms of Prayer: liturgical and devotional life of Church.	<b>Catholic vision of what it means to be human.</b>	<b>Church Teaching: Responding to the needs of others.</b>	The Mass: Christ's sacrifice perpetuated in time.
The Liturgy of the Mass: Ritual and symbol in Sacred Liturgy.	Sacred Liturgy of the Church: the meaning of ritual and symbol.	Marian devotion: Mary as role model.	<b>An Informed Conscience: making right choices.</b>	<b>Informed Conscience: Responding to issues.</b>	<b>Church Teaching: service of the common good.</b>
Liturgical Calendar: importance of key Liturgical events.	Liturgical calendar: Holy Week, Easter and Christmas.	Liturgical Calendar: Holy Week, Easter and Christmas.	<b>The Beatitudes: call to holiness—responding to Jesus.</b>	<b>Christian witness: responding to the call of Jesus.</b>	<b>Informed Conscience: responding to moral challenges.</b>
Ten Commandments. Teachings of Jesus. The Common Good.	Teachings of Jesus: transformed world of love, justice and peace.	Teachings of Jesus: Beatitudes, Golden Rule, Kingdom of God.			<b>The Beatitudes: responding to the call to holiness.</b>
Reconciliation and forgiveness: relationship with God and others.	Reconciliation and forgiveness: nature of sin and repentance.	Justice and Peace: Wisdom and Compassion—Common Good.			
Moral teachings and Catholic Social Justice.	Church teaching: justice, poverty, solidarity, common good.	Informing decisions: Conscience and moral decision-making.			
<b>Values and beliefs of the other major world religions.</b>	<b>Other world religions: values, beliefs and practices.</b>	<b>Other world religions: religious diversity and values.</b>			