

Curriculum Improvement Cycle

Draft Technical Framework

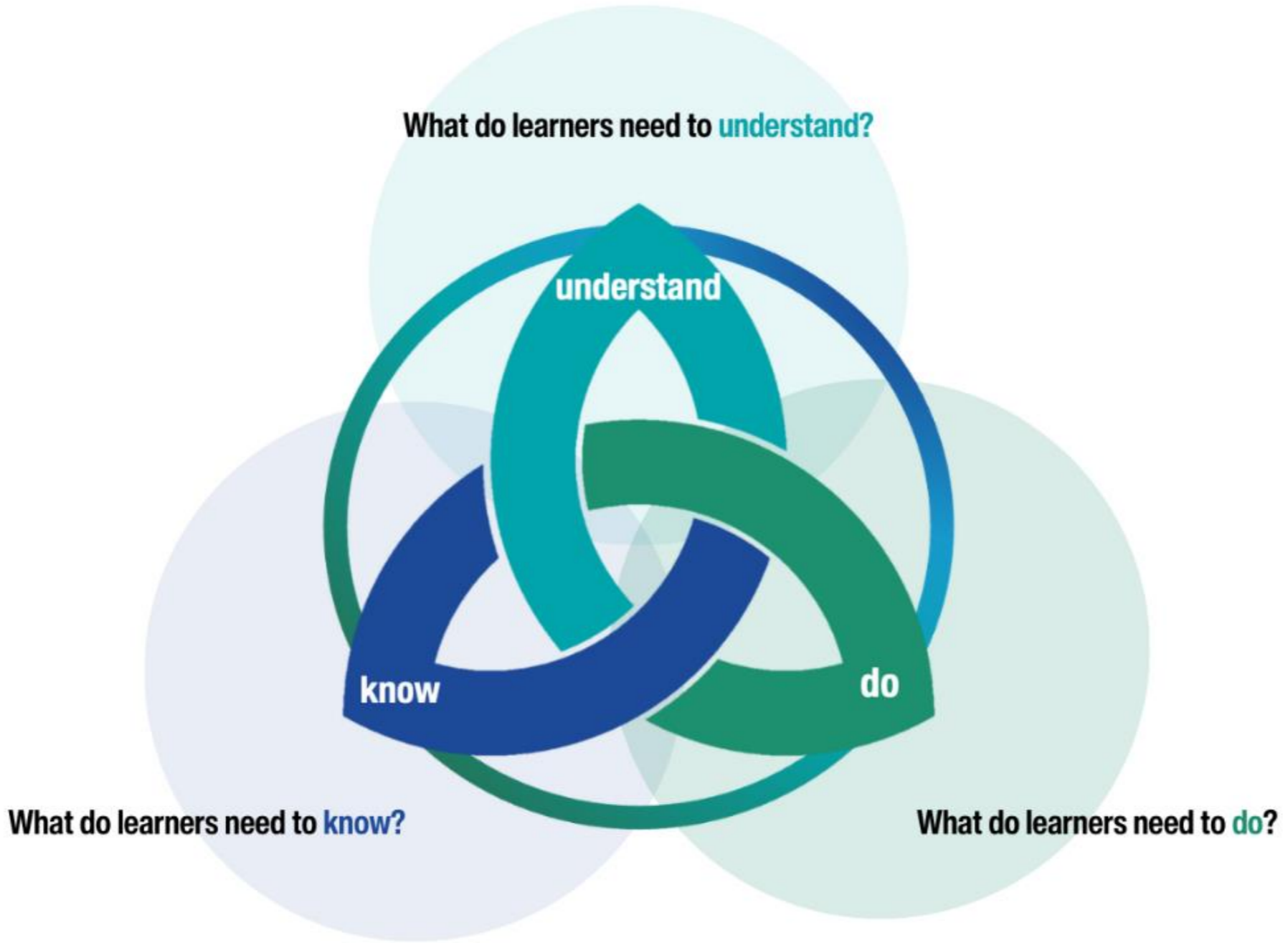
Religious Education Roman Catholic

Sample

June 2026

These are **draft materials**. The content, format and style are subject to change. It would not be appropriate to change current planning or tracking and monitoring systems in establishments at this stage.

There is **no expectation** on educators, schools or settings to do anything now with these samples. They are being shared as part of the co-design process and in advance of engagement and feedback time during the 2026/27 session.



Religious Education Roman Catholic								
Illustrative Big Idea	To Know God through encountering Jesus Christ, grow in faith and live that faith daily through prayer, worship, moral choices and service.							
	Religious Education enables learners to know God as He reveals Himself through Jesus Christ, Sacred Scripture, Tradition, and the life of the Church. It supports learners in exploring how God speaks through salvation history, the teachings of Jesus, and the living witness of the Christian community. Learners engage with the big questions of life and death, considering human purpose, hope, suffering, and the promise of eternal life. Through opportunities for prayer, worship, and spirituality, learners grow in awareness of God's presence and deepen their understanding of the central mysteries of faith. This Big Idea fosters a personal, reflective, informed response to God's call to relationship; nurturing hope, identity, and a sense of belong.							
Strand	Encountering the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ The Cross is the school of love- St Maximillian Kolbe							
Early Level	Understand: Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Mary			Understand: Jesus rose from the dead and is with us always				
	Know:	Do:		Know:	Do:			
	The figures in the Christmas narrative.	Name and describe the figures in the Christmas story. (Luke 2: 1-20; Matthew 2: 1- 12)		Jesus died on Good Friday and God raised Him from the dead on Easter Sunday.	Recall the Easter Story. Reflect on the joy and wonder Jesus' friends felt when they discovered He was risen.			
	The background to the birth of Jesus.	Recall the difficult journey and search for shelter in Bethlehem. Discuss some of the symbolism e.g. the star.						
	Notes:			Notes:				
First Level	Understand: Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Mary and He was part of a human family.		Understand: Jesus rose from the dead and we too can have eternal life in Heaven.		Understand: Jesus' life on earth can influence my own life and the life of others.		Understand: Some aspects of social, political and religious life 2000 years ago.	
	Know:	Do:	Know:	Do:	Know:	Do:	Know:	Do:
	The Angel Gabriel brought a special message to Mary, asking her to be the Mother of God's Son.	Recount the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1: 26 – 38). Pray the Hail Mary (reflecting on the Annunciation and Visitation).	Jesus died on a cross out of love for God his Father and for us.	Explore the events of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.	Jesus was a healer and a teacher.	Hear, read and recall the healing actions of Jesus' miracles: the cure of the centurion's servant, first miracle of the loaves. Hear, read and recall the parables of: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, he Lost Son.	Jesus was Jewish and had an ordinary Jewish upbringing.	Hear, read and recall scripture about Jesus' life as a boy.- (Luke 4:16-22 Luke 2: 41-50).
The baby Jesus was part of a human family: the Holy Family.	Reflect on the preparations Mary and Joseph made for the Baby Jesus' birth.	Jesus celebrated the Last Supper on Good Friday. This was the first Eucharist.	Read and reflect on The Last Supper (1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26).	Jesus chose 12 special friends, the Apostles (Luke 5: 1 – 11).	Research one or more of the apostles in depth.	The Passover is when Jewish people celebrated their slavery from Egypt.	Listen and respond to scripture passages that tell this story (Luke 4: 16-22 (Luke 2: 41-50).	

	Heaven and Earth rejoiced at Jesus' birth.	Recognise we sing the angels' song, the Gloria at mass (Luke 2:14).	God raised him from the dead and many of His followers saw him and talked to him.	Reflect on Scripture accounts of Jesus including eats beside the lake: (John 21: 1 – 14), Doubting Thomas (John 20: 19 – 29).				
			When people die, they can live forever with God in heaven.	Reflect on eternal life as a message of hope.				
	Notes:		Notes:		Notes:		Notes:	
Second Level	Understand: Jesus is truly human and truly divine. We acknowledge Him as our Saviour.		Understand: The significance of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus and the Catholic meaning of eternal life		Understand: The role of Jesus as a teacher and healer and how His words and actions influence my own life and lives of others		Understand: Some aspects of social, political and religious life 2000 years ago and Jesus' response to these.	
	Know: Jesus performed miracles and actions that revealed he was the Son of God.	Do: Read and explore portrayals of Jesus from different Gospel passages.	Know: Jesus died on the cross for me and that is the greatest demonstration of God's love for me.	Do: Read and recall the events of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus in scripture passages.	Know: Jesus proclaimed the Good News and called people to repent.	Do: Describe the ways in which I can experience repentance and forgiveness.	Know: Geographical locations that were associated with Jesus including Judea, Galilee, Bethlehem and Nazareth.	Do: Explain how this links to Jesus' ministry.
	Jesus became man through the Incarnation.	Recognize two or more Gospel passages that show Jesus was fully divine.	During Lent and Holy Week, we reflect on the Passion & Death of Jesus (Paschal Mystery)	Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary recounting the story of Jesus death prayerfully.	Jesus teaches us how to pray.	Study scriptural examples of prayer: -Jesus prays alone (Luke 5:-15) -Jesus prayers before choosing his disciples (Luke 6:12-16) -the Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)	Jesus reached out to groups of people who were outcasts in Jesus' time.	Identify those who are treated unfairly today. Recognise that Christians are called to affirm the dignity of all.
Mary had a special role to play in God's plan for salvation, making her different from the beginning to the end of her life.	Explain what is meant by the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.	We are offered the promise of eternal life.	Recognise the Paschal Mystery in our celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday.	Jesus encourages fasting and almsgiving.	Identify times in the liturgical year when we fast and give alms.	There were two groups of Jewish authorities Pharisees and Scribes.	Describe the difference between these authorities.	

	Jesus was fully human.	Hear, read and recount Gospel passages that illustrate this including Mark 1: 12-13, Mark 1: 16-20, Mark 14: 3-9.	Jesus sent His disciples to tell the Good News to everyone.	Identify, list and describe the post resurrection appearances of Jesus. Learn and pray the Nicene Creed. Consider how we share in this mission of sharing the Good News.	Jesus showed the love of God and His divine power through miracles of healing.	Examine and discuss what Jesus said and did in these scriptural accounts.	The role of women in the time of Jesus.	Examine how Jesus tried women publicly.	
	John the Baptist recognised and proclaimed Jesus as Saviour.	Recognise that we too are called to proclaim Jesus as Saviour and witness to his message.	Jesus forgave those who crucified him.	Forgive those who hurt us like Jesus did.	Jesus calls people to discipleship.	Reflect on the ways that I can be a disciple of Jesus.			
	Jewish people expected the saviour to suffer for the many and Jesus fulfilled this in His passion and death.	Read and respond to the readings from Isaiah that tell of the “suffering servant”. Recognize the significance of these readings in the Holy Week liturgy.	Jesus offers us model of service and humility when washing His disciples’ feet.	Reflect on the ways in which all Christians are called to be of service to the world.	Jesus reached out to all and acknowledged their human dignity.	Identify ways that we can acknowledge the human dignity of others.			
	Notes:		Notes:		Notes:		Notes:		
Third Level	Understand: Jesus is truly human and truly divine; Our Saviour who brings the New Covenant.		Understand: The connection between the ministry, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus; the mysteries of Christ’s life culminate in the Paschal Mystery.		Understand: Social, political and religious life in the time of Jesus and the Jewish expectations of the Messiah.				
	Know: The divine nature of Jesus cannot be separated from his humanity.	Do: Explain why Jesus is the “Saviour who brings the New Covenant” Pray and reflect on Jesus as God and Saviour.	Know: The connection between the Ministry, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.	Do: Explore and explain key events during the Ministry, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus	Know: What life was like for a Jewish family living at the time of Jesus.	Do: Research and describe aspects such as family life, geography of the land, tension between religious groups.			
	The Titles of Jesus as Son of God/Son of Man.	Explore the inseparability of Jesus’ human and divine nature in key scripture passages (Mk 4:35-41, Mk 5:21-34).	The presence of the Holy Spirit in the Ministry, Passion and Death of Jesus and the beginning so of the Church.	Identify the influence of the Holy Spirit in key events in the life and passion of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church. Explain how the Holy Spirit strengthened Christ followers after his death.	The social, political and religious situation in Palestine at the time of Jesus.	Explain how these factors influenced the lives of Jewish people at the time.			

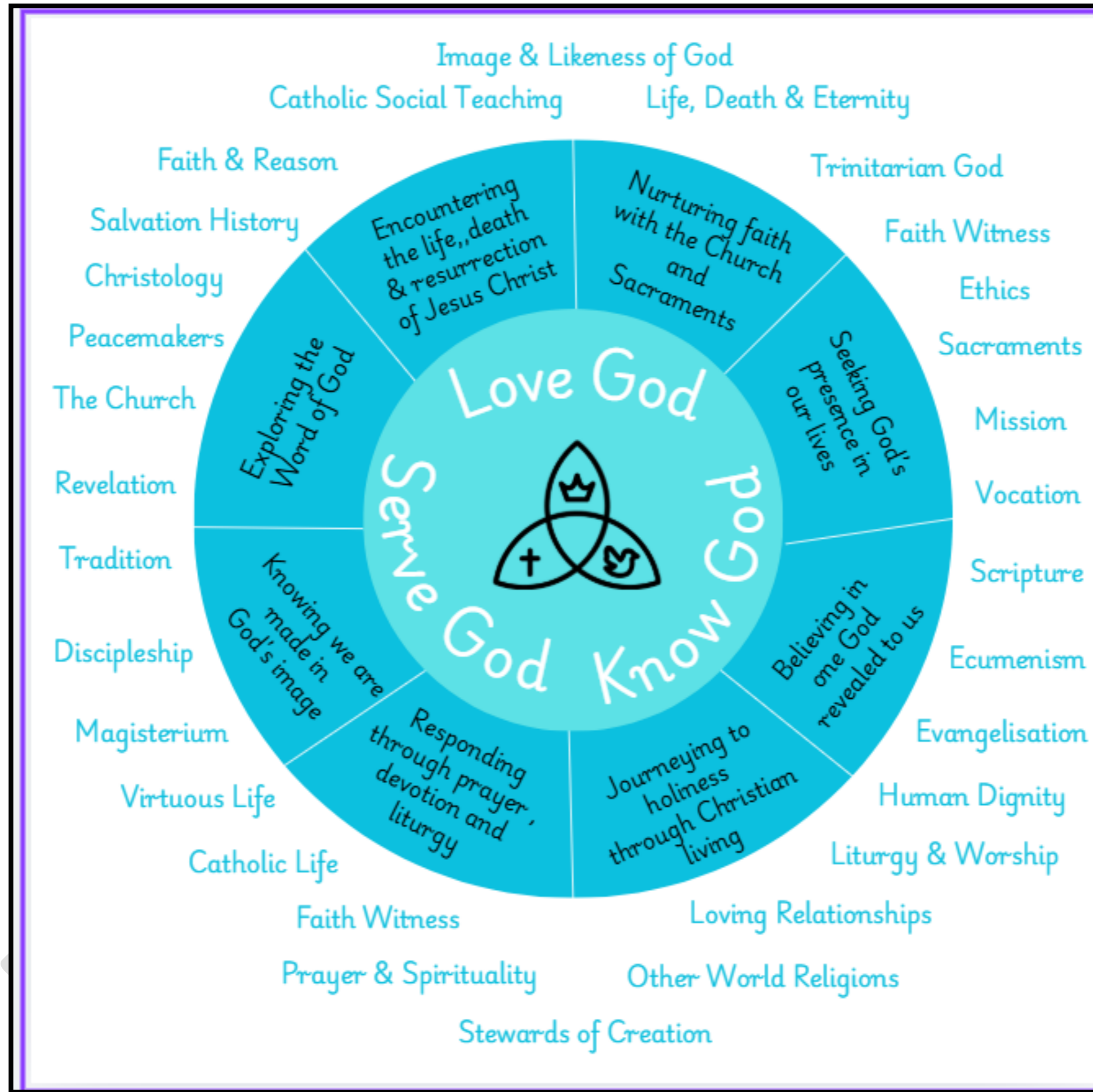
	Mary was preserved from Original Sin and redeemed from the moment of her Immaculate Conception.	Explain Mary's unique role in salvation history.	The mysteries of Christ's life culminate in the Paschal Mystery.	Explore how this belief influences our own life and relationship with God.	The meaning of Jesus as Messiah.	Explore Old Testament scripture passages that reference the Messiah including: (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Isaiah 7:14. Michah 5:1-4) .
	Mary was assumed bodily into heaven and into the glory of the resurrection.	Honour Mary through prayer and devotion.			John the Baptist prepared the way for Jewish people to understand Jesus as Messiah.	Assess the importance of John the Baptist's role and message reflecting on Old and New Testament passages.
	Notes:		Notes:		Notes:	
Fourth Level	Understand: In Jesus, God enters and transforms human nature and exists at the centre of all creation.		Understand: The centrality and significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus to the Christian understanding of Jesus as Son of God and Son of Man.		Understand: Social, political and religious life in the time of Jesus and the Jewish expectations of the Messiah.	
	Know: Why God became man and the need for salvation.	Do: Explore Creation and Fall, Covenant events and the New Covenant.	Know: The events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus are central to the Christian understanding of Jesus as Son of God and Son of Man.	Do: Explore the events surrounding the Death and Resurrection of Jesus considering the Christian understanding of his divinity, humanity, redemption and salvation. Explain how this is significant to Christians today.	Know: Jesus did not meet the Jewish expectation of the Messiah and was rejected.	Do: Interrogate scripture to evaluate whether Jesus fulfilled the Jewish expectation of the Messiah.
	In the incarnation, God saved us, reconciled us and made us his adopted children.	Participate in prayer and reflection that deepens our relationship with God.	The celebration of the Eucharist is central to our understanding of the death and resurrection of Jesus.	Reflect on how the Paschal Mystery is central to our lives. Prepare liturgies to express in words and actions a more mature belief in Jesus.	Even in rejection, Jesus did fulfil Scriptural expectation of the Messiah.	Consider the impact of Jesus as Messiah in my everyday life.
	Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, has always existed.	Explore and reflect on scripture which demonstrates including John 1:1-3. 8:23. Colossians 1:16.				
	Jesus' teaching on repentance and conversation is a model for Christian living,	Consider situations in my own life and reflect on how they could be transformed by following this example.				
	Notes: NA		Notes: NA		Notes: NA	

In **Religious Education Roman Catholic**, strands will not be taught in isolation. Our big Ideas, concepts and strands are very much interconnected and intertwined.

To further illustrate this, we have shared our **3 big ideas with supporting statements**, our **Religious Education Roman Catholic graphic** and a **high-level overview of all stands at 3rd level**.

Early Draft Save

TO KNOW GOD	TO LOVE GOD	TO SERVE GOD
<p>To Know God through encountering Jesus Christ, grow in faith and live that faith daily through prayer, worship, moral choices and service.</p>	<p>To Love God through a deep and personal relationship with him expressed through prayer, worship and care for others.</p>	<p>To Serve God by putting faith into action through acts of charity, justice and respect for all creation and communities.</p>
<p>Religious Education enables learners to know God as He reveals Himself through Jesus Christ, Sacred Scripture, Tradition, and the life of the Church. It supports learners in exploring how God speaks through salvation history, the teachings of Jesus, and the living witness of the Christian community.</p> <p>Learners engage with the big questions of life and death, considering human purpose, hope, suffering, and the promise of eternal life.</p> <p>Through opportunities for prayer, worship, and spirituality, learners grow in awareness of God’s presence and deepen their understanding of the central mysteries of faith.</p> <p>This Big Idea fosters a personal, reflective, informed response to God’s call to relationship; nurturing hope, identity, and a sense of belonging.</p>	<p>Religious Education supports love of God and neighbour through understanding and participation in the life and mission of the Church. It enables learners to explore Christian community, the sacraments, the liturgy, and the Catholic vision of human flourishing.</p> <p>Through moral formation and the study of the virtuous life, learners apply Gospel values to decisions, relationships, and responsibilities.</p> <p>This Big Idea includes exploration of human dignity, the nature of the human person, and the profound questions surrounding life, death, meaning, suffering, and hope. Through prayer, worship, and spirituality, learners encounter God’s love and are inspired to reflect that love through empathy, inclusion, respect, and dialogue with others.</p>	<p>Religious Education encourages service to God and the common good through action and witness. It enables learners to explore the call to discipleship through Catholic Social Teaching, stewardship, justice, charity, and global responsibility.</p> <p>Learners deepen their understanding of morality and the virtuous life, forming a conscience that guides action with integrity, compassion, and courage.</p> <p>This Big Idea emphasises that authentic faith is expressed through service, witness, respect for human dignity, and commitment to the common good within families, communities, and wider society.</p>



	Encountering the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ	Believing in one God revealed to us	Seeking God's presence in our lives	Nurturing faith with Church and the Sacraments	Exploring the Word of God	Responding through prayer, devotion and liturgy	Knowing we are made in God's image.	Journeying to holiness through Christian living	OWR
Third Level (Usually S1 and S2)	<p>The Divinity of Jesus The Humanity of Jesus (Inseparability of divinity & humanity).</p> <p>The Titles of Jesus.</p> <p>Jesus as Saviour who brings the New Covenant.</p> <p>Messianic Expectation Palestine & Roman Occupation The covenant Jesus as fulfilment of OT Prophecies.</p> <p>Understanding of the presence of the Holy Spirit at key events in the life, passion and death of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church.</p> <p>Mary's unique role in history.</p>	<p>Old Testament Revelation: Covenant- Abraham & Moses. Prophets</p> <p>Christians read Old Testament in light of Christ crucified and risen.</p> <p>New Testament Revelation: Ministry of Jesus & Beginnings of the Church.</p> <p>The importance of the Passion and Death of Jesus.</p> <p>The Loving and saving nature of God.</p>	<p>Awareness of God in my life.</p> <p>My Body and my feelings & my relationship with God.</p> <p>My gifts and talents as gifts from God.</p> <p>Discerning God's plan for my life.</p> <p>Jesus and mystery in his life.</p> <p>Angels as God's messengers</p>	<p>Significance of sacraments of initiation for my own faith development and as encounters with Jesus.</p> <p>The mission of the Church carried out in a particular way through sacraments at the service of communion.</p> <p>They help others to understand God's message of love.</p> <p>Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holiday of obligation.</p> <p>The Church: Makes Jesus present in the world. Domestic Church. Heaven & Earth, One Family.</p>	<p>God communicates his love through Scripture.</p> <p>God acts through the writers of the Bible.</p> <p>The writing of the Old and New Testament</p> <p>Literary forms in the Bible.</p> <p>Learning through the Gospel of Mark and Luke.</p> <p>The Church teaches what Scripture intended and how we should act in response.</p> <p>Prayer and reflection using Scripture.</p>	<p>Know certain prayers* and ways of praying and that these develop my relationship with God. Pilgrimage and church as 'pilgrim people'.</p> <p>Mary: Mother of the Church. Aspects of Church buildings dedicated to Mary.</p> <p>Mary within liturgy.</p> <p>Preparation and participation in Mass.</p> <p>The Mass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as sacred meal, link to Passover. • as sacrifice <p>Worship through liturgy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing Christ's priesthood. • Participate in liturgies throughout liturgical year. • Use of symbols and rituals at liturgical celebrations. <p>Service through liturgy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing Christ's Kingship <p>Liturgical understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Week • Easter vigil & Easter Sunday liturgies • Sundays of Advent, The Nativity of the Lord • Advent & Christmastide 	<p>Made in God's image & likeness.</p> <p>Characteristics which are 'God-like'.</p> <p>Human inclination to sin.</p> <p>Conscience & responsibility.</p> <p>Vocation & service</p>	<p>Jesus' new commandment central to understanding the Reign of God.</p> <p>Charity. Compassion Sin Forgiveness and reconciliation- free will.</p> <p>Moral decision making.</p> <p>The sacredness of life.</p> <p>Issues of poverty.</p> <p>10 commandments & The beatitudes teach us about transformation & conversion. Wisdom.</p>	<p>Focus on an OWR.</p> <p>Knowledge of God's revelation and the sacred in this religion.</p> <p>Compared and contrasted the response to values & moral issues in this religion and my own response to these issues.</p> <p>Current faith practices within the religion.</p> <p>Why religious ceremonies and customs influence the lives of the followers of this faith.</p> <p>How my respect for other faiths develops as I study them.</p> <p>How my learning about other religions affects my understanding of my own beliefs and practices.</p>

Version History

Version	Date	Detail
Version 1	23 June 2026	First released

Early Draft Sample