

Being part of my parish

1. Make a list of things that people in your parish could do to help make our world a better place.

2. Looking over your list, individually give 3 votes to activities that you think your class would be able to work together on as a parish project, 1 vote to activities that you think your class could manage with a lot of help and support, and no votes to any activity that you think is too difficult for your class. Add up the votes as a whole group. Do you have an outstanding activity? If not, go back to step 1.

3. Now work out 6 steps that need to happen for this project to take place.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

4. Complete this sentence:
Through being part of our parish we can make a difference to our world by...

5. Present your parish project idea to the class and decide on one project for the whole class to undertake.

6. Name 2 ways you could make a difference to our world by being part of your parish in the future.

- 1.
- 2.

Teacher Notes:

This activity will work best if students brainstorm some of the activities that already take place in the local parish and which help make the world a better place. Emphasise to students that through their baptism Christians are called to be part of their parish community by participating in a weekly celebration of Eucharist with other members of the parish community, and then going out to continue the work of Jesus in our world today. The parish community is trying to live the story of Jesus today – praying together, sharing bread and wine together, and listening to special readings from the Bible about how God calls us to live and working together to help make our world a better place. For this activity, encourage students to think about ways that the world could be a better place and be more like the world that God wants it to be. Students could undertake a community service project, an environmental project or a social justice project. Keep it manageable and ensure that the activity is included on the parish notice sheet for all parishioners to be aware of how students are choosing to participate in their parish. The project could also be displayed in writing or photo form on a notice board in the parish. Some students may even be able to speak about the project at parish Masses. Possible ideas for this project could include: visiting a home for the elderly on a weekly basis; planting and caring for trees in the parish yard; setting up a 'recycle project' for the parish and school; collecting clothes and toys no longer needed by parishioners to send to children in a third world country. Encourage students to be realistic about the project but also creative and adventurous, as this is a real opportunity to make a positive difference to the lives of others.