

Year 3 – Universal Church



Our World - Special Places

Lesson 1

Special Places

Everyone has a place that is special to them.
Where is your special place?



What makes your place special?



Do you like to be with others or on your own?



Yulissa's story

Picture credits: Paul Smith, Sarah Davison

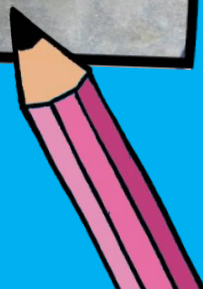
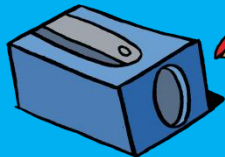
Illustrations: Per Karlen



Hi my **name**
is **Yulissa**.

I am **eight** and I
live in **Colombia**.

Here I am in my
school uniform,
looking **smart**
and ready for
hard **work**.



This is my
Grandmother.
I **live** with her. She
looks after **me** and
my **three**
brothers.



I like living
here with my
Grandparents
because they
are **helping** me
grow up.



Here are **two** of
my **brothers**,
Esteferson who is
twelve and **Dalmar**
who is seven.

Esteferson is in a
football team and
trains with a
female Brazilian
footballer. He says
she is
very **good!**





Dalmar and I **walk**
to **school** together.

School is a **special**
place for me. When
I **grow up** I want
to be a **teacher**
so that I can
teach **children**

how to be
lovely adults.

At **school** my
favourite **subject** is
Spanish because I
like **reading**
and **writing**.





As you can see
home and **school**
are **two** of my
special places.

**What places are
special to you?**



Questions to discuss:

What is a special place?

What places are special for Yulissa?

Where is your special place?

What makes it special for you?

Is it a place you go when you feel happy/sad, fed up/angry, just because, or another reason?

How do you show you appreciate your special place?

In what ways have any of your special places changed as you have grown up?

Why do think that everyone needs a special place?

Special places in our world



**Think about what makes
each place special**



Special places at home...









Special places in school...







Special places in the community...











Special places around the world...





How do you feel in your special place?

**Where is your
special place?**



Task:

On a piece of paper, encourage the children to draw/write about their special place. Make links by writing words to join these places together.

OR

Ask the children to create their own imaginary special place. What would it look like?

Draw and/or describe this special place.

Use a computer art programme to draw this place.

Create this place using modelling dough.

Be sure to share with us on Class Dojo!

Reflect



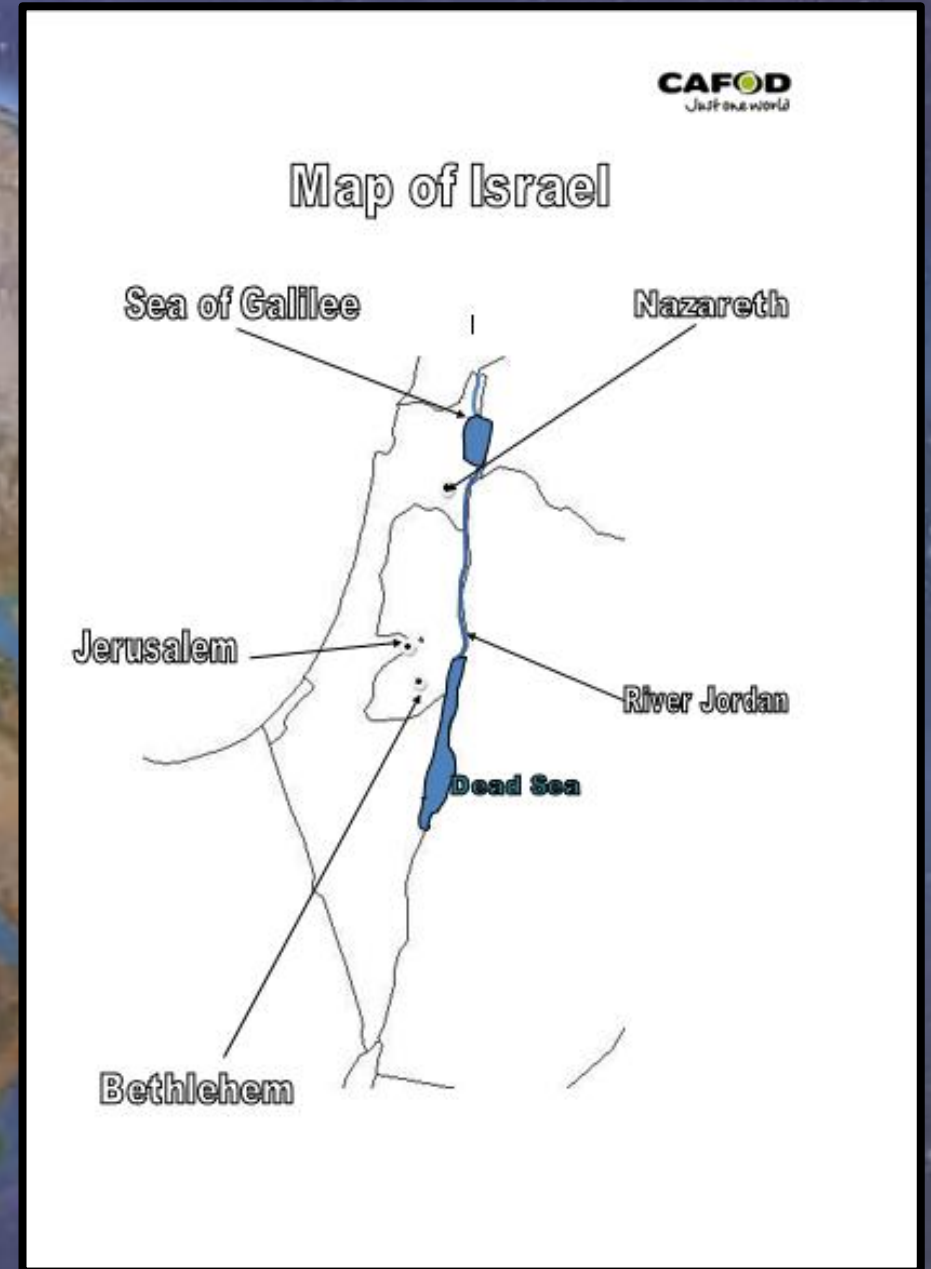
Draw and colour a picture of our world, and on it write a word to describe how your safe place makes you feel.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 2

Special Places for Jesus

It is possible today to visit many of the places associated with the life of Jesus in what Christians call the Holy Land.



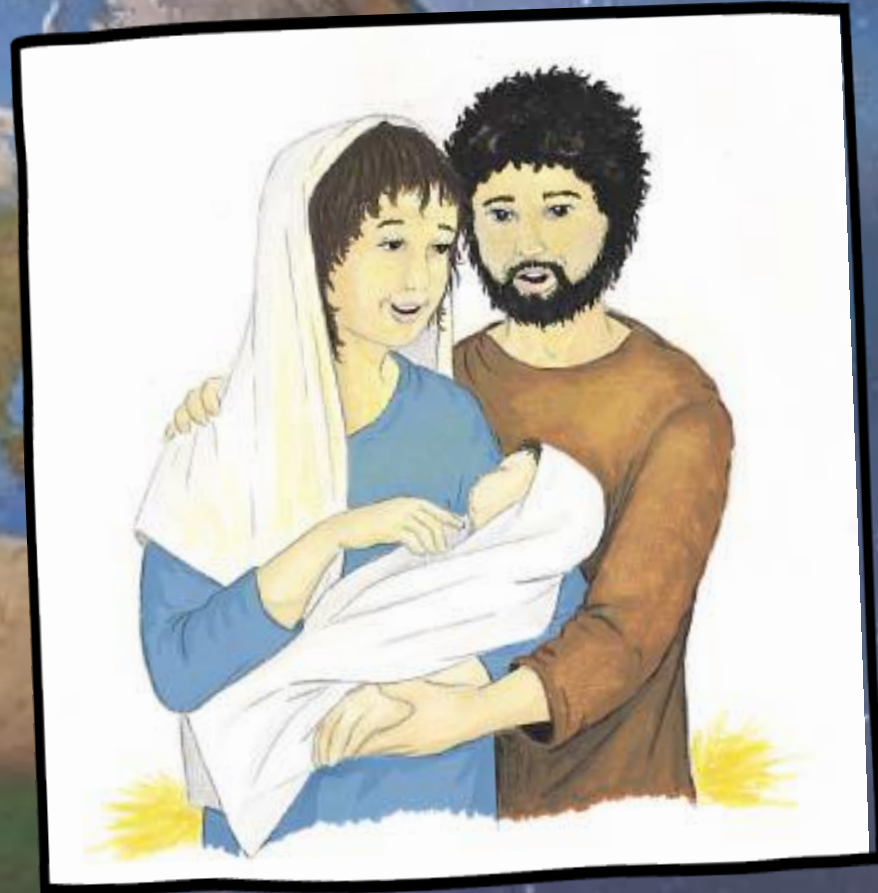
Special Places for Jesus



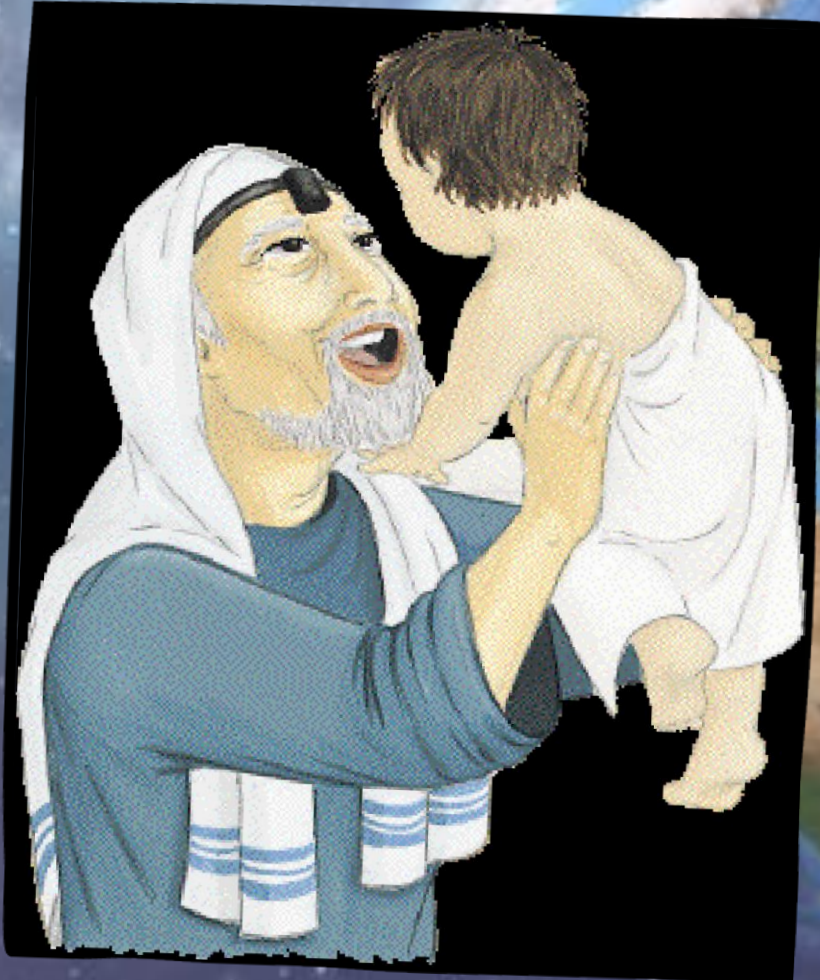
Where is the special place for Jesus here?

A **messenger** from **God**
said to the **shepherds**,
“Tonight a **baby**
called **Jesus** has been
born in **Bethlehem**”

Luke 2:10-12



Where is the special place for Jesus here?



The **law** says that the **eldest boy** in each **family** must be taken to the temple to be presented to **God**. **Mary** and **Joseph** took **Jesus** to the temple to see an old man called **Simeon**. Simeon gave **blessings** to God for Jesus.

Luke 2:23-28

Where is the special place for Jesus here?

When **Joseph** and **Mary** had finished doing all that was required by the **law of the Lord**, they returned to their home town of **Nazareth** in Galilee.

Jesus grew and became strong; he was full of **wisdom**, and **God's blessings** were upon him.

Luke 2:39-40



Reconstruction of First-Century Nazareth

And he went and **lived** in a town called **Nazareth**

Matthew 2:23

Where is the special place for Jesus here?

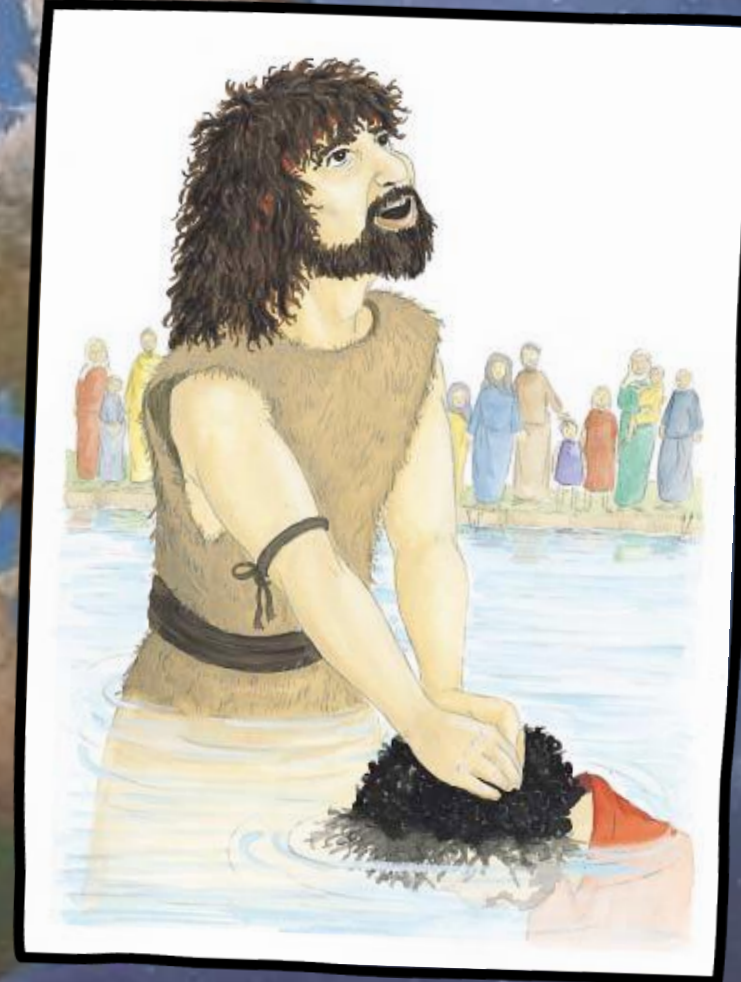
Every year his parents went to **Jerusalem** for the **Feast of the Passover**. After three days they found him in the **temple courts**, sitting amongst the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Luke 2:41,46

Where is the special place for Jesus here?

Jesus came from **Nazareth** in **Galilee** and was **baptised** by **John the Baptist** in the **River Jordan**.

Mark 1:9



Where is the special place for Jesus here?

Jesus saw the **crowds** and went up a **hill**, where he sat down. His **disciples** gathered round him and he began to **teach them**.

Matthew 5: 1-2



A high-resolution image of Earth from space, centered on the Middle East. The landmasses of Africa, Europe, and Asia are visible, with the Mediterranean Sea and surrounding oceans in shades of blue. The background is a deep blue space filled with numerous bright, multi-pointed stars. The text "Can you think of any more special places in Jesus' life?" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

**Can you think of any more
special places in Jesus' life?**



Questions to Discuss:

- Where were the special places for Jesus?
- Why were they special?
- Why do you think some of these places are still special and holy today?
- Why are these places so special for Christians today?

Task:

Use the map with all of the special places to Jesus marked on it. Label what happened there and write a sentence to describe why it is special to Jesus.

OR

Write and retell your favourite story about Jesus, from the slides you have just seen. Include where it happened, why it was special and explain why it is a special place for people today.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Special Places for the Christian Community



Many countries around the world have their own places of pilgrimage. There are places of pilgrimage in England and Wales, for example:

Our Lady's shrine at Walsingham in Norfolk. This shrine honours the Annunciation and was one of the greatest shrines for Christians in medieval times – when travel to the Holy Land was very difficult.

Pilgrim:

A person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons.

Pilgrimage:

A journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion: *a pilgrimage to Lourdes.*

Part of a pilgrimage to a special place is that it reminds people how important it is to pray and take time to think about what is important in their lives. Have a quiet moment with the children to reflect on God being with us always.

PILGRIMAGE

You will remember that the writer of Genesis expressed God's view of creation in the words 'And God saw that it was good'. That is why the Church calls people to be stewards of creation and to love and respect the world in which we live as a holy place. All through the history of humankind some places have become special because of the people who lived there and the events that happened there. When people make a special journey to such a holy place it is called a 'pilgrimage'.

People go on pilgrimage for many different reasons: to walk in the footsteps of Jesus; to pray and reflect on a decision; in search of God; to share life and prayer during the pilgrimage; to be alongside others in their needs.

ROME

Many Catholics go on pilgrimage to Rome. They come to visit St. Peter's Basilica where, according to tradition, St. Peter is buried. St Peter's is in the Vatican City. The city takes its name from the Vatican, the home of the Pope.



Vatican City is an independent state within the city of Rome. In mediaeval times it had its own armies.

Nowadays, the Swiss guard are not a fighting force but a security force.



Above: View across Rome from the roof of St Peter's Basilica



Mother with her children in Nazareth today

THE HOLY LAND

Christians call the place where Jesus lived, died and rose from the dead the Holy Land.

BETHLEHEM

The little town where Jesus was born is larger today and in recent years has been the scene of fighting between Israelis and Palestinians.



The Church of the Nativity is built over the cave which has been visited for centuries as the birthplace of Jesus and where his coming into the world is marked by a star.

NAZARETH

The Basilica of the Annunciation marks the world-changing event of Mary's response to God's call.

JERUSALEM



The medieval walls of Jerusalem are still a thrilling sight for pilgrims from all over the world.

For Jewish people, the remains of the walls of Solomon's temple are a holy place for prayer.



For Muslims, the Dome of the Rock is one place of pilgrimage.

For Christians, the site of Calvary where Jesus died and rose again is a sacred place.



LOURDES

Lourdes is a town in South-Western France.

Catholics believe that Mary appeared here to St. Bernadette in 1858.

Today, Lourdes is known throughout the world as a special place of pilgrimage for the sick.



Lord, thank you for giving us so many special places

*In our homes, In our school,
in our churches, in our world,
in our hearts.*

Help us to take time to be still.

Questions to discuss:

Have you or anyone you know been on a pilgrimage? Share your experiences.

Why do you think people go on pilgrimages?

What might be the joys of a pilgrimage and how would it help the person in their Christian life?

What do you think the challenges of making a pilgrimage might be?

Why do you think a pilgrimage is a special time to pray?

Task:

On the internet, research one site of Christian pilgrimage – you could choose somewhere in England, or somewhere else in the world.

Create a poster to share on Class Dojo, including lots of information. Make sure you include information to show how people's beliefs affects their behaviour.

Share with us on Class Dojo!



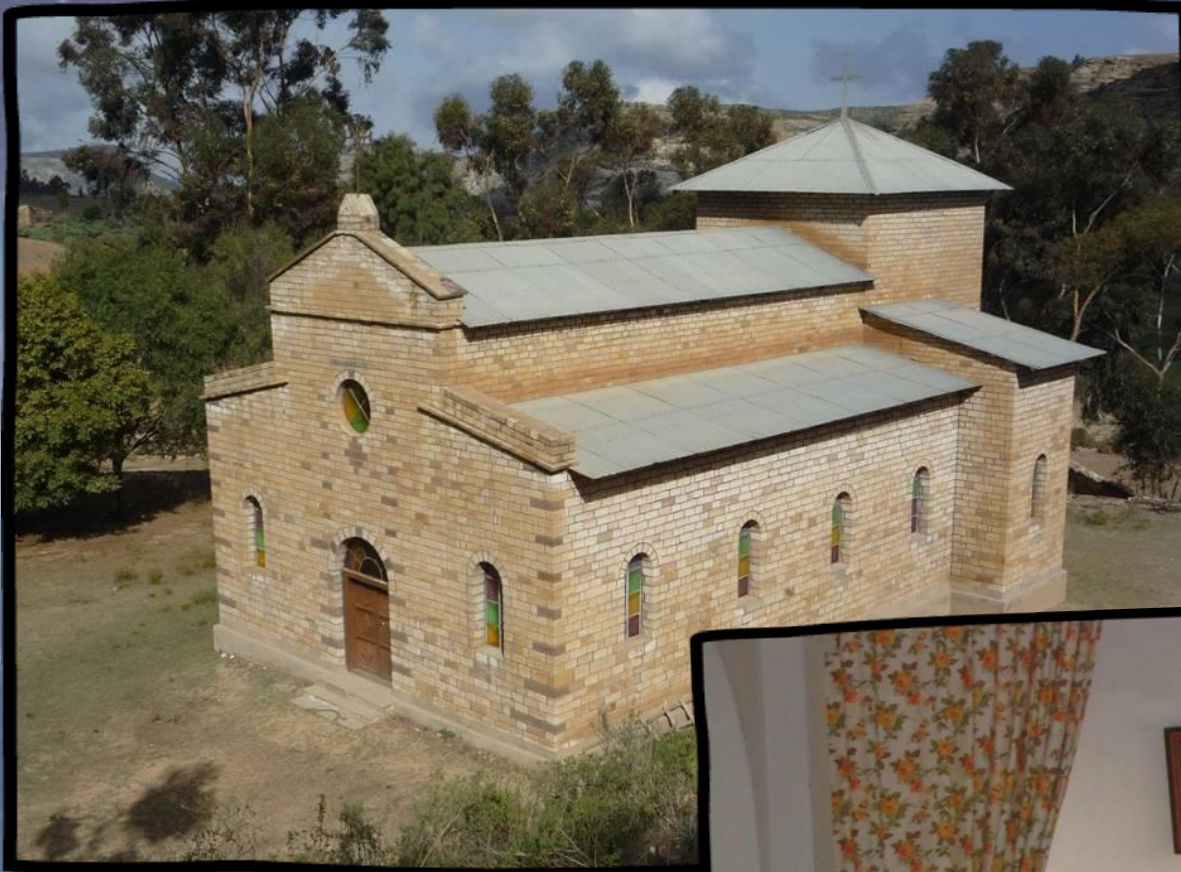
Lesson 3

Holy Places of Worship

It is possible today to visit many of the places associated with the life of Jesus in what Christians call the Holy Land.

Holy Places of Worship





Biera
Catholic Church
in **Ethiopia**



Church in Jambaló,
Colombia



The **new** thatched
mud-wall **church**
Lutaya in **Sudan**.



Procession through
the streets of **São**
Paulo in **Brazil**



Lighting a **candle** in
a **church** in **North
East Nigeria**



St Patrick's Church,
Manchester



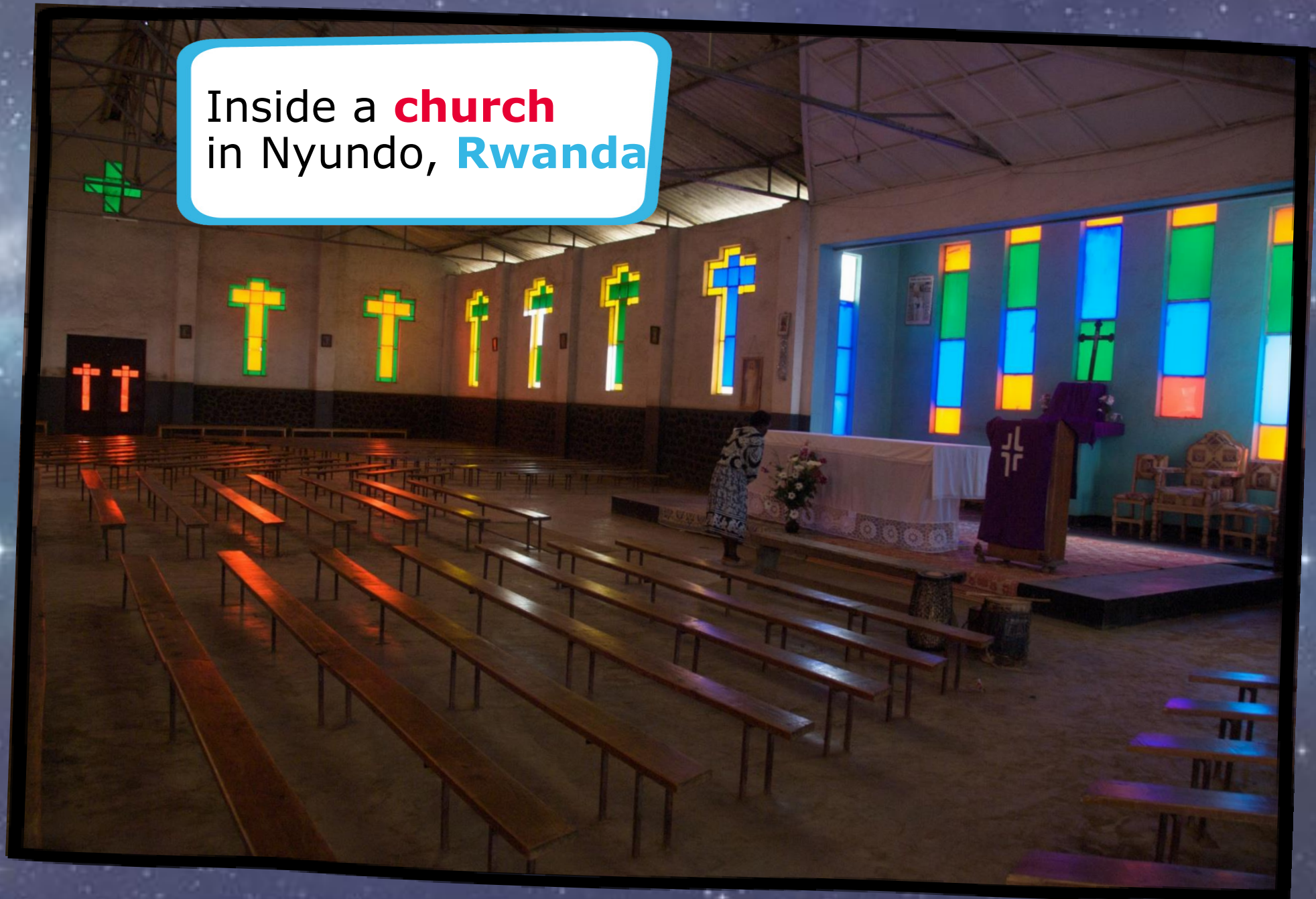
A photograph of the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Blantyre, Malawi. The cathedral is a large, light-brown stone building with two prominent towers and a central cross. It is surrounded by lush greenery, including several tall palm trees and other tropical plants. A dirt path leads towards the entrance of the cathedral. A few people are visible near the entrance. The image is framed by a black border and set against a dark blue background with white star-like patterns.

**Roman Catholic
Cathedral** Blantyre,
Malawi

Mass at a **chapel**
in Mindanao,
Philippines



Inside a **church**
in Nyundo, **Rwanda**





Puentecitos
Catholic Church
in **El Salvador**



Place of worship in
Mongbwalu, **Congo**
Democratic Republic

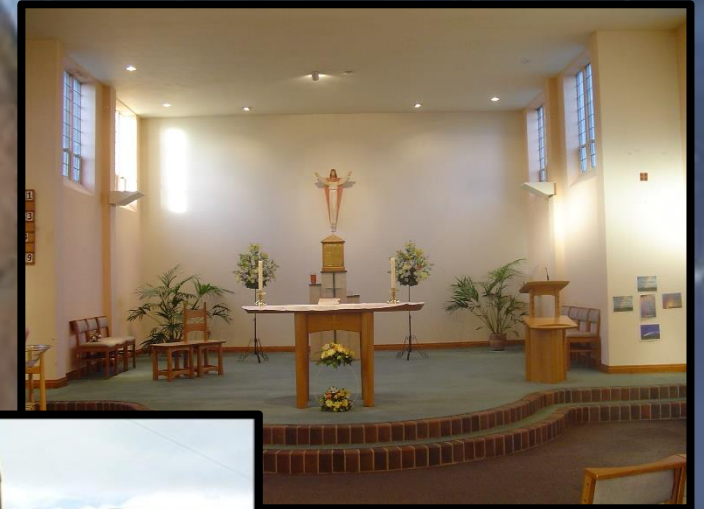


**St. Peter's
Basilica, Rome**



What is your place of worship like?

Compare these places of worship with our own church buildings – what is the same? What is different?



All of these buildings are for worshipping the same God.

Questions to discuss:

What do you notice about these places of worship?

What is the same or different about them?

Why do you think people like to go to special places to worship?

What do you think makes somewhere holy?

Have you ever been to Mass or church in a different country? What was it like?

Have you ever been to a Mass not held in a church? What was it like?

Task:

Create a special place of prayer outside, using various materials. The prayer area could include a prayer focus and be an area of quiet reflection for the children to spend some time being still and quiet with God.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 4

The world as a special place for the Christian community.



Our world is a special place,
given to us by God.

It was given to us to enjoy, to
share and to take care of.

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24*

The world as a special place for the Christian Community



**The earth is the Lord's
and everything in it,
The world, and all who live in it**

Psalm 24



The World is a Special Place



But what about this?





Or this?



CAFOD works alongside poor communities around the world to enable people to care for and protect God's world as a special place.



**How can you help to keep
our world a special place?**







Questions to discuss:

Why is God's world so special?

How can you help to keep it special?

Why is it important for Christians to keep the world a special place?

How are some people stopping certain places from being special?

What can you do to change this?

What ideas do you have for making your school, classroom, home and God's world a place that is enjoyed, shared and cared for?

Task:

Look up the word *ecology*: it is about everything working in harmony, as God planned it.

Produce some ideas for bringing more harmony into our school environment e.g. grow something to enjoy and share, tidy a messy area etc.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 5

Respecting our world as a special place



Our world is a special place,
given to us by God.

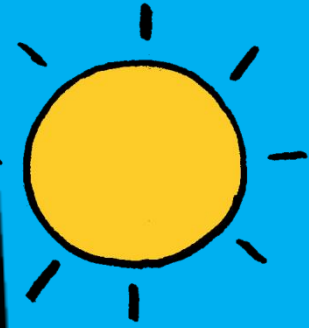
It was given to us to enjoy, to
share and to take care of.

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24*

Taking Action

Respecting our World as a Holy Place.





These **children** took part in a **powder-paint-throwing** activity to **raise awareness** of CAFOD's **Brighten Up** campaign during **Harvest**

These **children** believe that the **world** is a **special place** and that we have a responsibility to **help others** in our world.





Mary and Waleed are from **Syria** and they are refugees. They **understand** that we need to remember that the **world** is a **special place** and that all children deserve to have a **home**.

Pupils at **Blessed Sacrament Primary School** in London encouraging fellow pupils to give something up for **Lent** and raise money for **charity!**



Taking Action through Prayer



Loving God, you made
this special world for
us to protect and
preserve. Help us to
respect our world as
we learn to respect
our sisters and
brothers
everywhere.

Amen.



Taking action is a way that Catholics can live out what they **believe**.
What action can you take to preserve God's world?



Look at the **CAFOD website** to see how **other people** have **taken action** to keep this world a **special place** and find out how **you can get involved**.

www.cafod.org.uk



CAFOD
Just one world

Questions to discuss:

Why are these people taking action?

Name some of the different ways these children are showing respect for God's world.

Why is it important to think about our brothers and sisters around the world?

In what ways do people in some other parts of the world contribute to the way you live?

In what ways can we and our families contribute to the way of life of people in other parts of the world?

What action can you take to preserve God's world as a special place?



Task:

Write an acrostic poem using the letters of the words RESPECT at the start of each new line, linking this to how we look after God's world.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 6

We have a special place in our hearts where God dwells

Share and discuss this scripture:

...the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Romans 5:5

God dwells in a special place in our hearts, and it is a special kind of prayer when we take time to think about God in our hearts.

Wherever we pray, God has a special place in our hearts.

We have a
special place in
our hearts where
God dwells



*"the love of God has been poured
into our hearts by the Holy Spirit"*

Romans 5:5

Let's hear **Rosena's** story

My name is **Rosena**.

I am 11.

I live in a **village**
in **Zambia**.



I used to **walk** for **five hours** every day to fetch **water**.

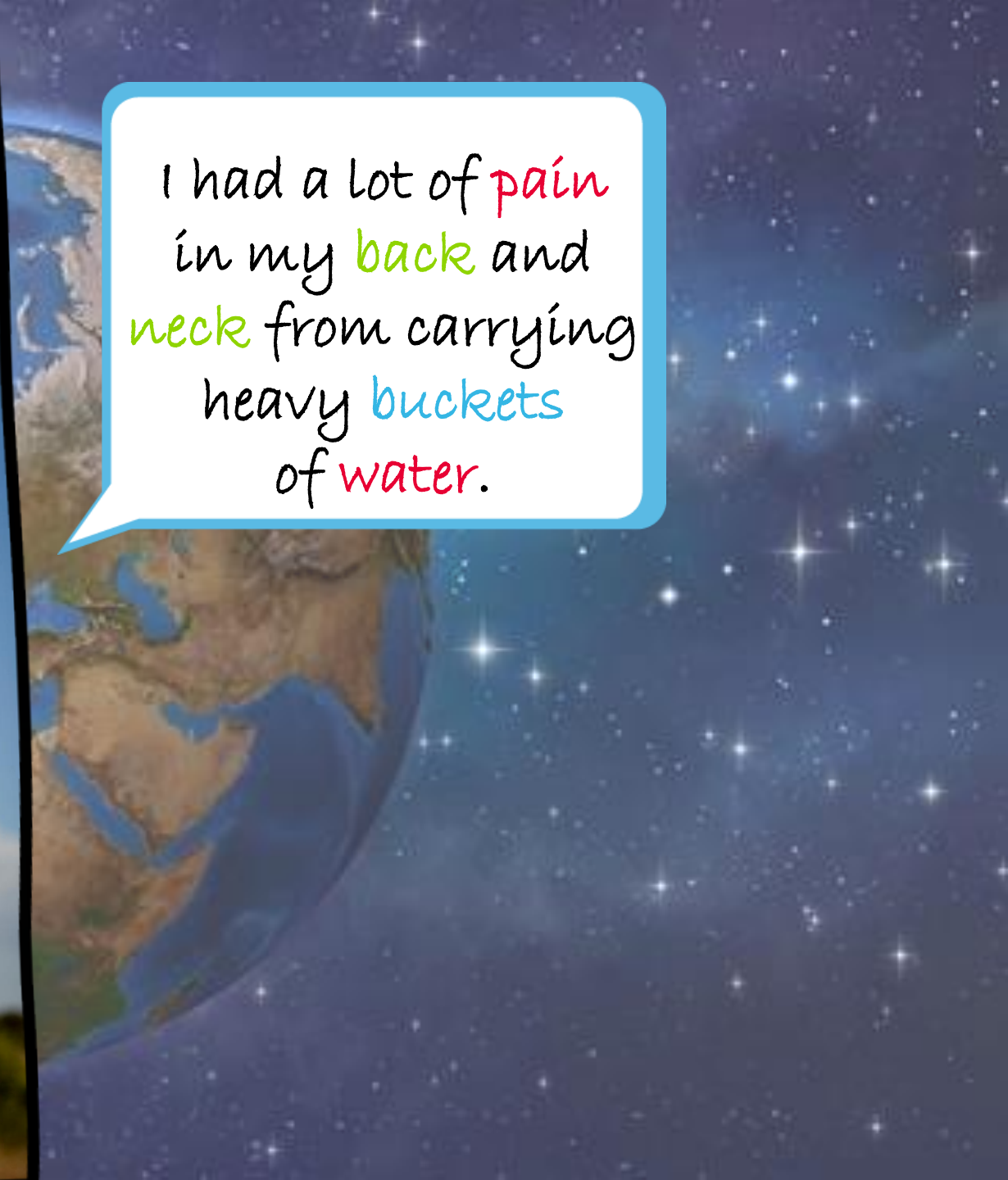



Sometimes it took
so long that I had to
run for school and
I was often late.





I had a lot of **pain**
in my **back** and
neck from carrying
heavy **buckets**
of **water**.





The **word** of **God** keeps
me **safe**.
Our **life** is full of
calamities and I
pray that God keeps
us **safe** and **well**.

Even in **difficult** times **Rosena** felt God in **her** heart.




CAFOD has recently **drilled** a well in Rosena's village, which **people** can use to **pump water** from deep **underground**.

Now **Rosena** can
fetch **clean water**
just **ten minutes**
from her **home**.


This has made a **big**
difference to her **life**.



A young girl with dark skin and short hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a black t-shirt. She is holding a blue plastic container to her mouth and drinking. Her head is tilted back, and she has a joyful expression. The background is a clear blue sky with a thatched roof visible behind her. The image is framed by a dark blue border with a starry, galaxy-like pattern on the left and right sides. A white speech bubble with a blue border is positioned above the girl's head, containing text.

Having **water** near our **house**
has made a **big difference** in
my **life** because it saves me
time and **energy**.

Rosena now has more time to do other things.

A young girl with dark skin and short hair is sitting on a light-colored cloth on the ground. She is wearing a black t-shirt with a cartoon character on it and white shorts. She is holding a blue plastic cup in her right hand. Behind her is a traditional house with a thatched roof and mud-brick walls. To the left, there is a white plastic jug and a green bowl on a wooden stand. The background is a clear blue sky. The image is framed by a dark blue border with white star-like patterns.

I gave thanks to God
when the borehole was
drilled because it
has made life so
much easier.

When I **grow** up I want
to be a **Sister** in the
church so I can **work**
for **God** and **listen** to
his **Word**.



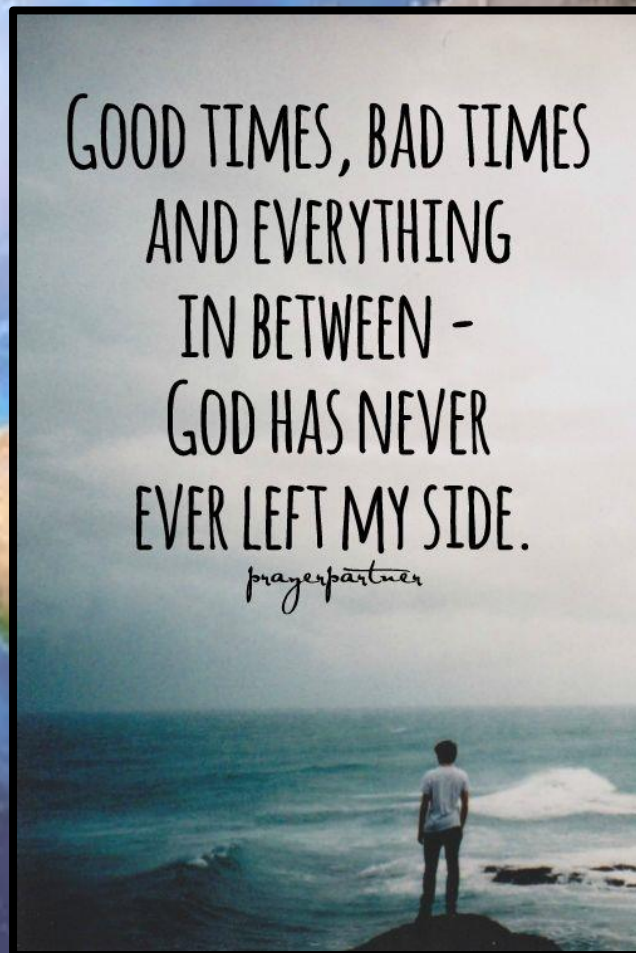
Who **helped** Rosena in **difficult** times?



God has a **special place** in our **hearts** in good times and difficult times.



When things were difficult for Rosena, she could still feel God in her heart, and the Word of God kept her safe.
God has a special place in our hearts in good times and difficult times.



Questions to discuss:

What was difficult for Rosena?

Who helped her in the difficult times?

What kind of things did Rosena do when she felt God close to her in her heart?

What kind of things do you do that help you feel God close in your heart?

What would you like to tell Rosena about the good times and difficult times in your life?

Task:

God is always in our hearts. Gather together for a quiet moment to recognise the times you have been aware of God in your hearts, in good times and in difficult times.

Draw a heart. Inside the heart, write a thank you prayer to God, for being in your heart. Include an example of a good time and a bad time.

Share with us on Class Dojo.

Lesson 7

Remembering, celebrating and responding to: everyone has a special place and special places for Jesus and for the Christian community

Remember

Start the session with a moment of quiet reflection.

Ask the children if there is anything they wonder and ask questions about:

How do places become special?

What makes a place special?

Discuss:

- Where are special places for you?
- Where are the special places for your family?
- Where were the special places for Jesus?
- What does it mean to go on a pilgrimage and what effect does it have on a pilgrim?
- Why are Lourdes, Rome and Walsingham special places for the Christian community?
- Why do Christians want to keep the world a special place?
- How can you help to keep our world a special place?
- Why is our heart a special place?
- Where can we always find God?
- What did you learn from Rosena?

How can you help to make the world a special place?

Say this prayer together:

***God, thank you for having a special place in our hearts.
Help us to take time to be still,
To know that you are always there in good times
and difficult times.
Fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit.
Amen***

Share what we could do in the coming weeks to show how we and others are able to enjoy, to share and to take care of God's world.

Be sure to share all of your work with us on
Class Dojo!

