

*Healing*



# *Key Questions for the Topic*

*Why do we care for the sick?*

*Why do people give time and commitment for caring for others?*

*What gives a person comfort when they are very ill?*

# *Key Words for the Topic*

*care, sickness, hospice, compassion, Sacrament, anointing, sin, forgiveness, parable, Lourdes, responsibility*

*The Church believes that the anointing of the sick is one the seven sacraments.*

*It is intended to strengthen those who are ill.*

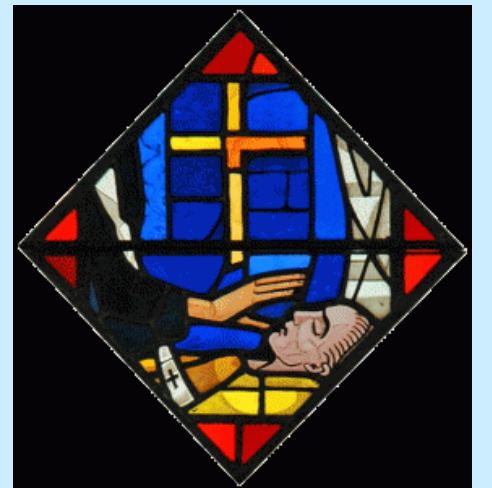




*The sacrament of anointing of the sick is given to those who are seriously ill by anointing them on the forehead and hands with duly-blessed oil - pressed from olives or from other plants - saying, only once:*

*'Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.'*

*When people become sick  
and need care*



Children, as well as adults, can become sick and have need of care. Sister Frances Dominica, a Church of England nursing nun, first thought of a children's hospice through her work caring for a young girl named Helen, who lived at home with her family but needed 24 hour care. She founded Helen House, the world's first children's hospice, which opened in November 1982.

A hospice is a place rather like a home for those who are very seriously ill and likely to die.

H O S P I C E

*It is natural that the parents of a much-loved but very ill child would want to care for them at home, but caring for your child every day and night, as well as looking after the rest of your family and earning a living, can be exhausting. Helen's family's experience highlighted the need for care and support for children with life-shortening conditions and for their family.*





*Helen House was set up to help families cope by providing occasional respite care, modelled on that provided in the family home - personalised and tailored to individual needs.*

*The hospice was designed to be as much like an ordinary home as possible. It had eight children's bedrooms, as well as rooms for parents to stay. The hospice is about making the most of life, whatever the circumstances.*







Thirty years on, there are now two hospice houses. Helen House is for children from birth up to 18 years old, and Douglas House for young adults. The two hospice houses offer specialist care and pain management, short breaks and end-of-life care, as well as counselling and practical support for the whole family.

Jane came to Helen House in 2003 with her 9 year old son Sebastian, who was battling with cancer. Helen House cared for us; it made us feel very safe. It gave us the chance to do what we wanted to do for our son, the way that we wanted to do it. There was so much love and support. We have much cherished memories.

Helen House stayed in touch with us and we became part of a Helen House group of families and we continue to support one another.



## *Questions to discuss:*

- What has been your experience of illness and who or what helped you most?*
- What do you think sick children need most?*
- How do you think their parents feel?*
- What do parents need?*
- How do you think you can show compassion and care for those who are ill?*

*Task: Write a job description for a carer or volunteer in a hospice. What qualities do you think are needed to look after someone who is sick? What beliefs and values would be important? What could they offer, etc?*

# Reflection...

Gather round the display or focus. Have a quiet moment together to reflect on and appreciate when people become sick they need care and compassion.

*Think about:*

*Your family and friends.*

*Those who care for anyone in need.*

*The importance of hospices or places of care.*



*Jesus cares for the sick*



From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, he was concerned with the sick and needy. He never turned anyone away even when he was tired and weary.

In Jesus' day, there were many sick people and they often had to survive by begging at the roadside.

Read the story where Jesus gives sight to a blind man. This story from Luke illustrates Jesus' compassion:



As Jesus was coming near Jericho, there was a blind man sitting by the road, begging. When he heard the crowd passing by, he asked, "What is this?"

"Jesus of Nazareth is passing by", they told him.

He cried out, "Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!" The people in front scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David! Have mercy on me!"

So Jesus stopped and ordered the blind man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Sir", he answered, "I want to see again." Jesus said to him, "Then see! Your faith has made you well." At once he was able to see, and he followed Jesus, giving thanks to God. When the crowd saw it, they all praised God.

Luke 18: 35-43

*Have mercy on me!”*

*Questions to discuss:*

- Why do you think Jesus was so concerned with the sick and needy?*
- Why do you think the people scolded the blind man?*
- How do you think the blind man felt?*
- What do you think was the significance of the title the blind man gave to Jesus, ‘Jesus! Son of David!’ What did it show about his faith?*
- What was Jesus’ attitude to the blind man?*
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, ‘Your faith has made you well’?*
- What do you think of the attitude of the people once they saw Jesus’ healing power?*
- How do you think the blind man felt when he could see?*

*“I want to see again.”*

*Task:*

*Write a report for the Jericho Times about the incident and explain who people believe Jesus is and what ideas and experiences people have of him. Link it to other scriptural texts if you can and include quotes from bystanders about how it has affected their faith.*

*Jesus said to him, “Then see! Your faith has made you well.”*

# *Caring for those in need; a Christian responsibility*

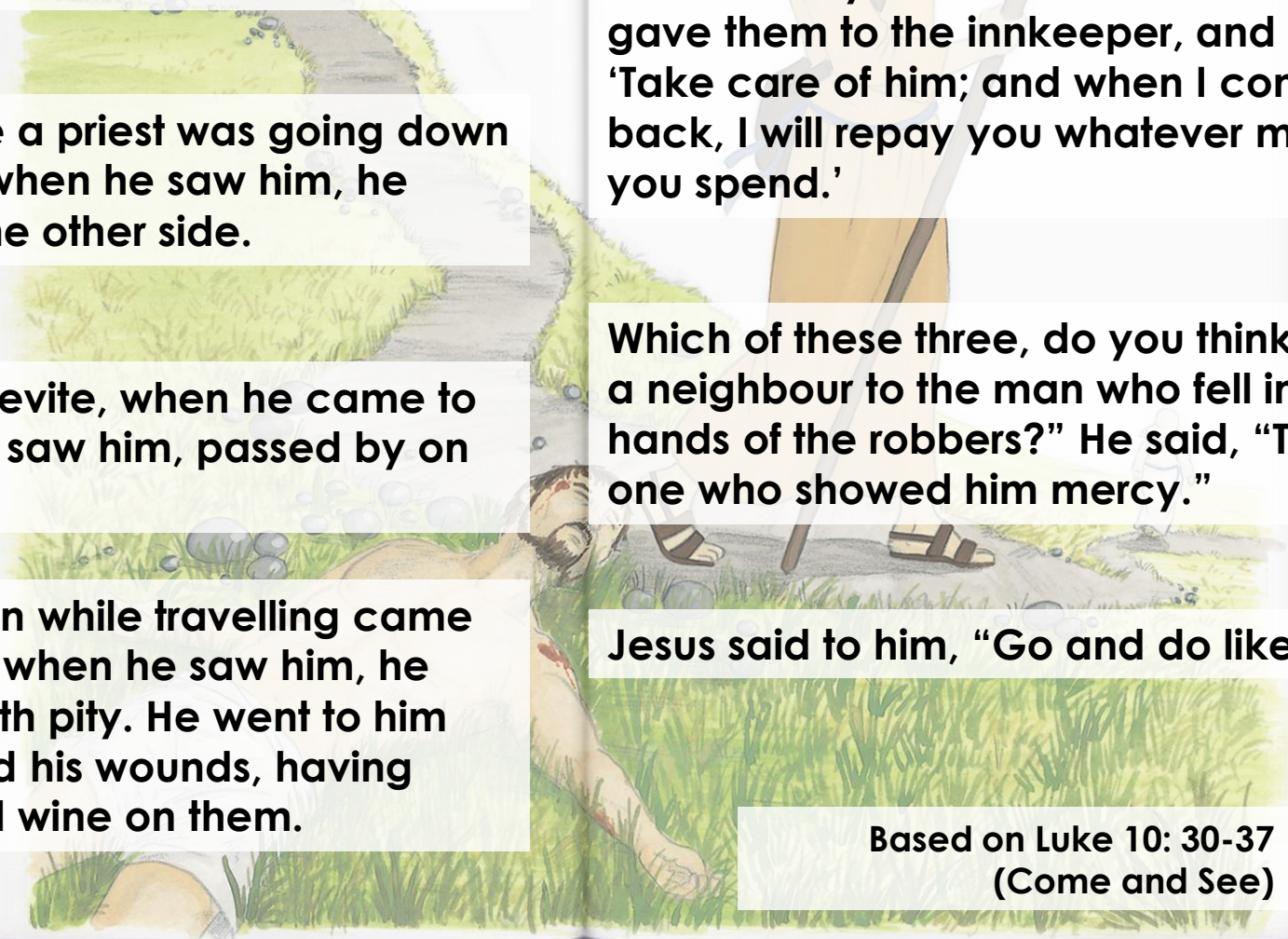


Christians are called to care for others, especially for those most in need. Jesus explains this very clearly in a parable he told. A parable is a story which conveys an important meaning or more than one meaning.

In this story from Luke's Gospel, a lawyer was trying to catch Jesus out with questions. The final one was, 'Who is my neighbour?' Jesus answers this with a story, but the story also has another meaning. It shows the care and compassion with which we should treat each other.

Notice the care and concern the Samaritan showed to the man who had been mugged.





**“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half-dead.**

**Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.**

**So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.**

**But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.**

**Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.**

**The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’**

**Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.”**

**Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”**

**Based on Luke 10: 30-37  
(Come and See)**



## *Questions to discuss:*

- *Why do you think the Samaritan acted as he did?*
- *How do you think the man who was mugged felt?*
- *What showed that the Samaritan was doing more than his mere duty towards another person?*
- *What does this parable have to say to us today?*
- *What do you think 'mercy' means?*
- *Good deeds are often called 'acts of mercy'. Why do you think that is?*
- *Why are these acts of mercy a particular responsibility for the Christian?*

## *Task:*

*Compose a litany prayer (like the one used in the reflection at the end of Explore), for all those in the neighbourhood who are in need.*

*Think of someone in your community that is sick or anyone in the class who has a sick relative or friend. Explain why it is a responsibility of Christians to care for the sick.*



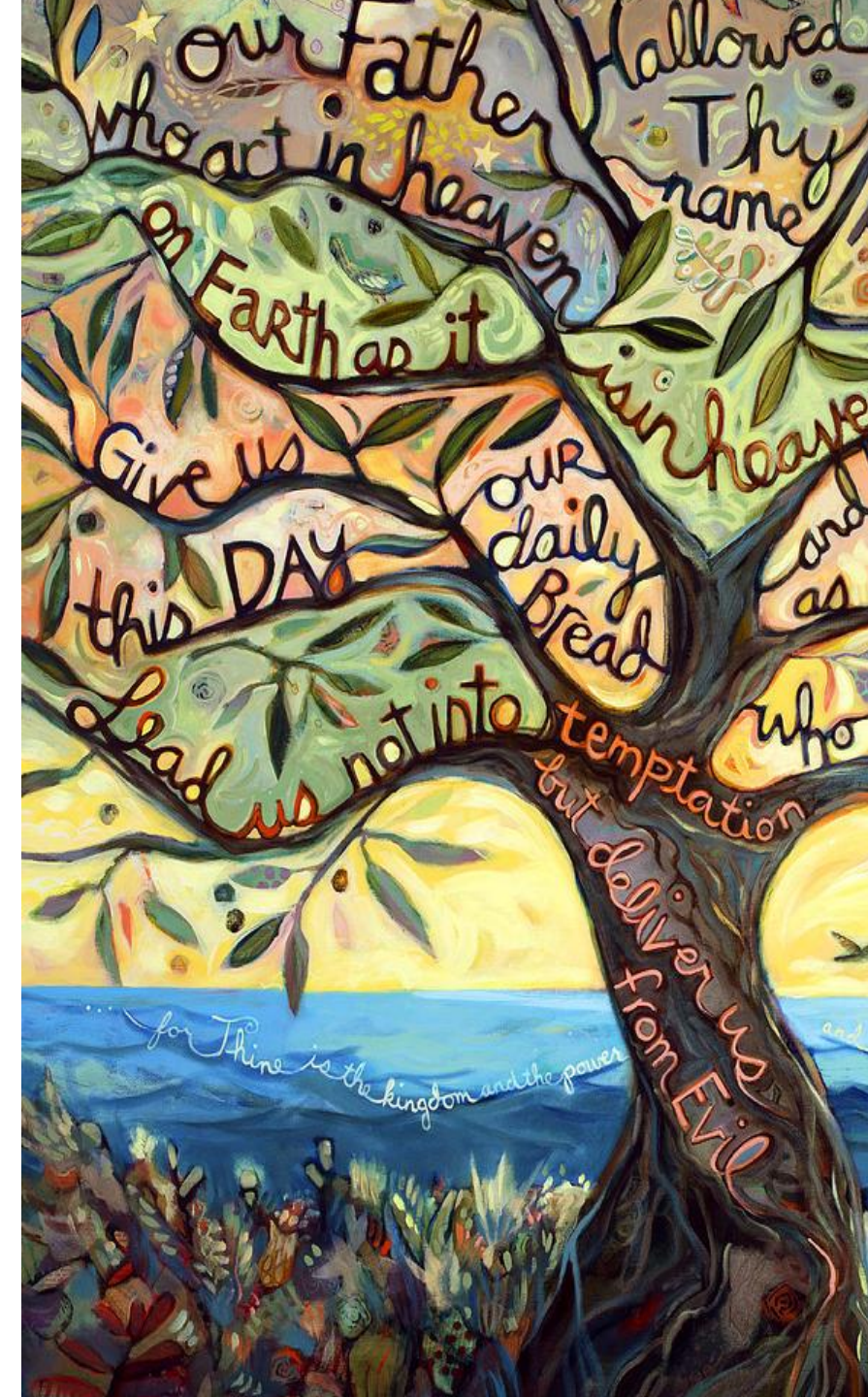
# *Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick*





Illness and suffering are not easy to cope with. They make a person feel powerless and realise their limitations. When a person is very sick, they are not able to do what they normally do. They may not be able to work or to enjoy life as they used to.

Often it is an occasion when people have time to reflect on what is important to them in life. It is often a time when people think about God and pray more.



Christians remember the suffering of Jesus. When Jesus sent out his disciples to preach the Good News they;

“...anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.”

Mark 6: 13

Recall how the Good Samaritan anointed the wounds of the man who had been mugged and used oil to clean and heal them. The person who is very ill welcomes the prayers and kindness of those who visit them.



*James' letter has many practical suggestions which include reference to anointing of the sick:*

*“Are any of you ill? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”*

*Based on James 5: 14-15*





*Look at the images  
and think about  
how they show  
healing.*





The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament for anyone who is seriously ill. It is a sacrament that is commonly given a number of times during an illness, sometimes because the person becomes more ill, or because the sick person would benefit from the strength and comfort the Sacrament gives them.

The Sacrament of Anointing 'is meant to lead the person to healing of the soul but also, of the body if such is God's will.'

*Through the Sacrament, the Holy Spirit helps to calm the worry, anxiety and discouragement the sick person may experience.*



## *Questions to discuss:*

- *Why do you think oil is used in healing?*
- *What other sacraments include anointing with oil? (there are three others Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.)*
- *How do you think the sick person feels when they know someone is praying for them?*
- *What do you think James means when he says: 'the Lord will raise him up'?*





## *Task:*

*Prepare a liturgy for your family with the theme of caring for the sick people in your school, homes and/or parish.*

*Choose a reading (from James or another suitable) and then say how you will gather and respond with the message the reading is telling us about.*

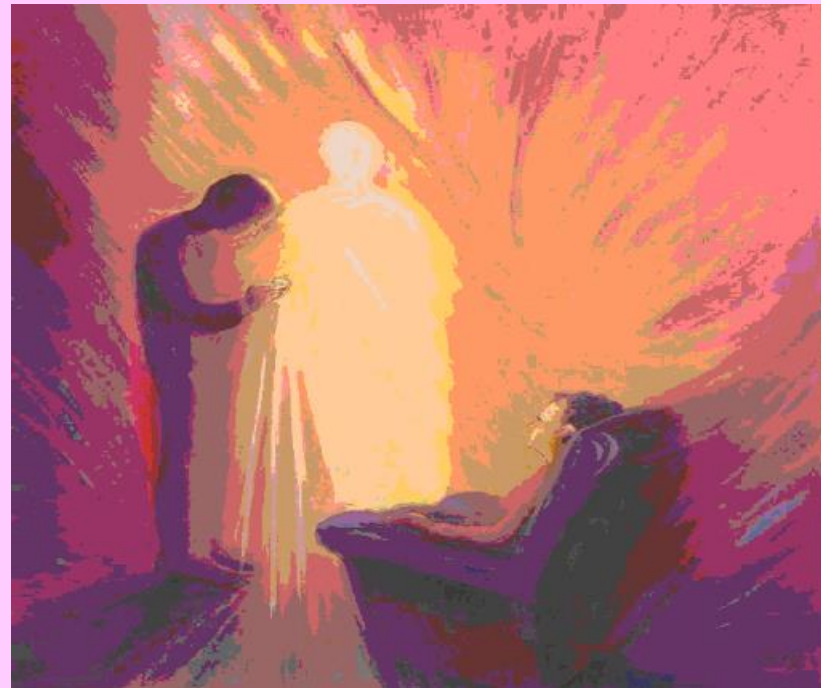
*Within the worship make the Sign of the Cross on one another's foreheads and any other symbolic gestures.*

*Remember to pray for those who are sick.*





# *The Sacrament of the Sick*





*The Church names two Sacraments as Sacraments of Healing; the Sacrament of Reconciliation and of the Anointing of the Sick.*

*They are not healing in the sense of making a person physically better, but spiritual healing, or helping them feel closer to God and better in themselves.*



*Barbara is 98 and is quite frail so Father Pat is going to anoint her.*



*The table is prepared for the Sacrament of the Sick, with a white cloth, a Crucifix, the container with the holy oil, and a pyx with the Blessed Sacrament*





*Father Pat blesses Barbara with Holy Water.*



*Father Pat prays the penitential rite.*





*Barbara receives forgiveness.*



*Father Pat reads the Gospel.*





*Next Father Pat leads the litany.*



*Father Pat lays his hands on Barbara to bless her.*





*Father Pat prepares to anoint Barbara.*



*Barbara is anointed with holy oil on her head,*





*and on her hands.*



*Barbara receives Holy Communion.*





*Father Pat prays the final prayer and blessing.*



*Barbara thanks Father Pat.*



## *Questions to discuss:*

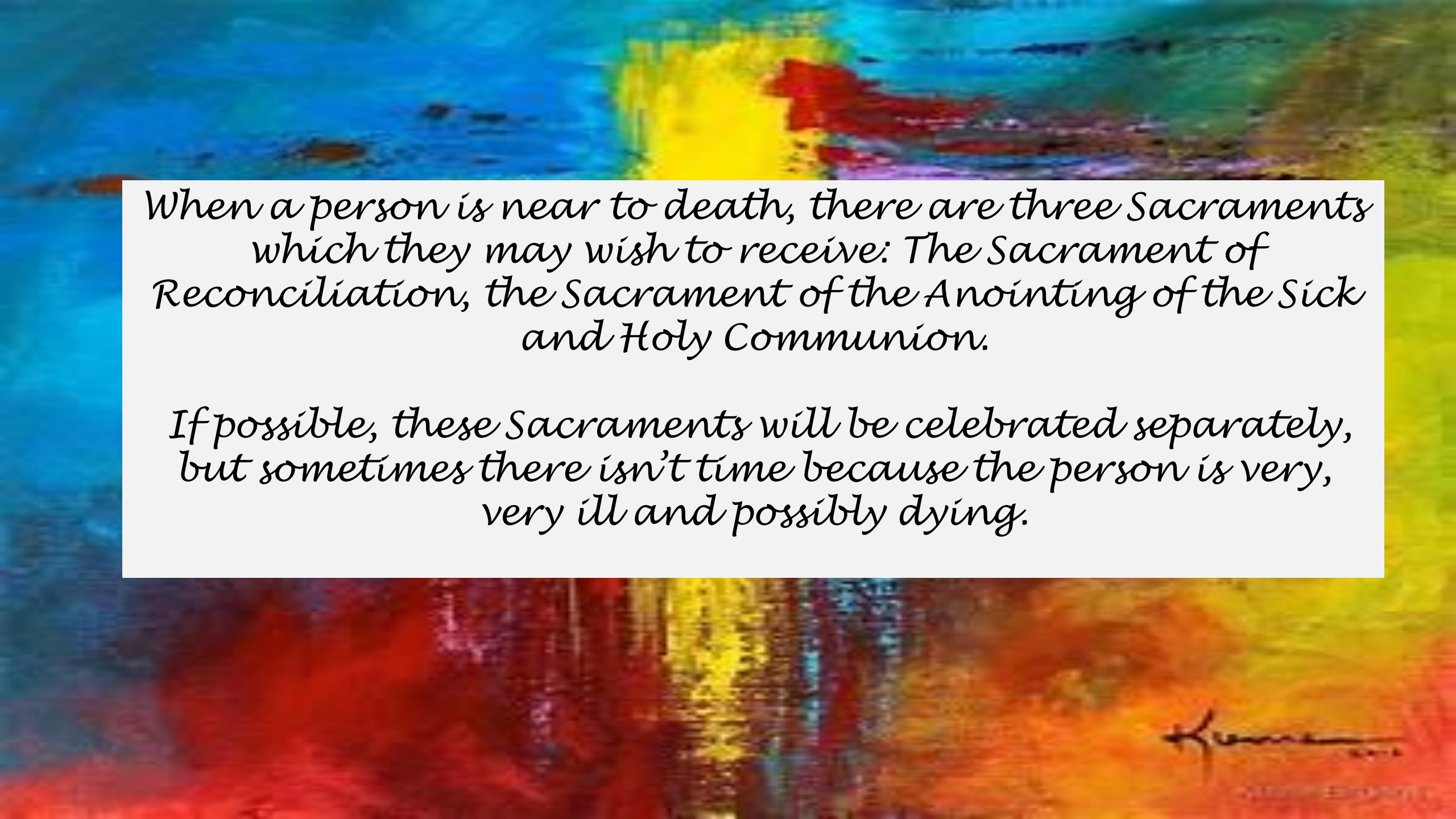
- *In what way does the Anointing of the Sick heal a person?*
- *What is important about a person being anointed at a gathering of the parish family?*
- *Why do you think the hands and forehead of the person are anointed?*
- *What words of comfort and hope did you notice in the prayers?*

## *Task:*

*Write a diary entry, imagining you were one of the people being anointed. Describe your experience and understanding of the Sacrament, how you feel and what effect you hope it will have on your life.*

*The Sacrament of the  
Anointing of the Sick for  
those who are very ill.*



The background is a vibrant, abstract painting with a mix of colors including blue, yellow, red, and green. A white rectangular box is centered on the page, containing two paragraphs of text in a black, cursive font. The text discusses the three sacraments available to a person near death: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion.

*When a person is near to death, there are three Sacraments which they may wish to receive: The Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion.*

*If possible, these Sacraments will be celebrated separately, but sometimes there isn't time because the person is very, very ill and possibly dying.*

*When the priest enters the room where the sick person is, he will greet them with the words:*

*“The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”*



*Those present will reply:  
“And with your spirit.”*



# FORGIVENESS

*The priest then sprinkles the sick person with holy water, reminding them of their baptism. At this point, if possible, the sick person will confess their sins and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

*Sometimes the person is too ill to make their Confession, however they still receive forgiveness and there will be a Penitential Rite like the one at the beginning of Mass.*

*This is followed by a short scripture reading.*

*The Anointing of the Sick is the same as when it happens during Mass: the priest lays his hands on the head of the sick person and anoints their head and hands.*

*The priest gives the person Holy Communion. (Sometimes the person is too ill to receive Communion).*



*These three sacraments prepare the person who receives them for their final journey to God and marks the end of their pilgrimage of life on earth.*

*They provide spiritual healing, giving the person strength, peace, courage and forgiveness of their sins. They will know that Jesus Christ is very near to them.*

*It does sometimes happen that the person regains their health and continues on with their life on earth.*







# The Lord is near

## Questions to discuss:

- How do you think the sick person feels at this time and what about their family and friends?
- How do you think each of these three sacraments helps the person who is ill?
- God is always very close, but why especially at this time?
- How do you think you would feel if you were very ill?
- What do you think would help you?
- What kind of healing might happen to the person who receives these sacraments?

## *Task:*

*Create a guide for someone who is unfamiliar with the Anointing of the Sick and has a sick person at home who needs to receive this Sacrament. Describe and explain the meaning and purpose of the three Sacraments the sick person is likely to receive.*

*Include a prayer of your own composition at the end.*





## *Reflection*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkGopmZE89Y>

\*\*\*\*\*

*Remembering, celebrating and responding*

*to the experience of when people become sick*

*and have need of care*

*and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.*

Jesus,  
With just one touch from your Almighty  
creative hand, You have healed the sick  
and raised the dead.

How amazing is your Lordship over all the  
earth, How powerful is your redeeming love.  
How great was your sacrifice to go before us  
and bring forgiveness and hope.

By your stripes I ask for healing.  
Standing within your reign and rule I ask  
for restoration.

May life and wellness grow in fullness until  
it overflows.

Amen.





our Father  
who art in heaven  
on Earth as it

is in heaven  
allowed be  
Thy  
name  
Thy Kingdom come  
Thy will be done

Give us  
this DAY  
our daily  
Bread

and forgive us our  
trespasses  
as we forgive others  
who trespass

Lead us not into  
temptation  
but deliver us

from Evil  
and the glory  
forever  
and

for Thine is the kingdom and the power

from Evil

and the glory  
forever  
and

