

ENCOUNTER RESOURCES

ADVENT 1

WELCOME



How do we encounter Jesus through the theme of Welcome?

See — *for use in displays and Collective Worship*

- Videos
 - You're welcome — Moana <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79DijltQXMM>
 - Be our guest — Beauty and the Beast <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afzmmwAKUppU>
 - What is Baptism? — <https://bustedhalo.com/video/baptism>
 - What is confirmation? — <https://bustedhalo.com/video/confirmation-why-were-confirmed>
 - Some guys go to an airport to welcome strangers home — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfED9SkC7i0>
 - Members of the United Church of Canada welcome some refugees from Syria, having fundraising to bring them over and provide them with a home — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGZrABNUnsw>
- Art Displays
 - Poster(s) in each classroom welcoming visitors or new pupils/staff, with 'welcoming' quotes from the Bible

Hear — *ideas for the use of scripture and music connected to this theme*

- Scripture
 - Since Your Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - Romans 15:7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
 - Matthew 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me
 - 1 Peter 4:9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling
 - Matthew 8:1-4 Jesus heals the Lepar, showing welcome, love and empathy to an outcast
 - Matthew 8:5-13 Jesus heals the son of a Roman soldier, showing welcome and love to someone others expected him not to. He didn't judge the Roman soldier, but rewarded him for his faith.
 - The road to emmaus - the disciples talked with Jesus on the road, before inviting Him to eat with them and welcoming Him into the place they were staying - Luke 24:13-35

- Worship Music and Hymns — *more can be found on www.worshiptogether.com (modern worship music) or www.ocp.org (hymn more commonly found in hymn books).*
 - All are welcome
 - Welcome in this place — <https://www.worshiptogether.com/songs/welcome-in-this-place-hillsong-worship>
 - Bind us together
 - Holy Spirit you are welcome here — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFByOX8Fb0M>
- Secular Music
 - You've got a friend in me — Toy Story
 - You're Welcome — Moana
 - Be our guest — Beauty and the Beast

Think

- How do the sacraments help to welcome people into the Church? eg. Sacraments of Initiation, Reconciliation helps us to repair our relationship with God and makes us feel more welcome and a part of the Church.
- How can we get to know God by getting to know the people around us better? Can you be more welcoming to others?
- Jesus always welcomed the stranger, the outcast, those who were seen as the lowest in society - if we follow Jesus' example, who should we welcome? Refugees (Jesus was once a refugee), homeless people, those in our school who are not part of a friendship group or find it hard to socialise with others, those who are bullied or seen as different.
- Charities and Organisations
 - Leicester City of Sanctuary - charity working to support refugees and asylum seekers in Leicester <https://leicester.cityofsanctuary.org/>
 - Derby City of Sanctuary - as above <https://derby.cityofsanctuary.org/>
 - Welcome churches - a charity who support refugees in Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Lincoln by giving them welcome boxes, the details for their local 'welcome church' and visiting them as they settle into their new home

Do

- Mission:
 - Write a welcome note to give to a new member of the school (Y7, Reception, new student, new staff etc)
 - Make school a welcoming place by doing something nice for someone else this week eg. hold open a door, smile at everyone, offer to carry/give out books for a teacher
 - Write an affirmation note for someone in your class/school telling them something good about them/something you like about them/something you think they are good at
 - Create a welcome poster/display in your classroom, with welcoming quotes from the Bible, welcoming visitors into your classroom
- Home-School Link:
 - Students (and staff) encouraged to do something at their local church to welcome people to Mass (greet them at the door, hand out and collect hymn books, help serve tea, coffee and biscuits). Take a photo of them doing it with a parent/sibling/friend and bring into school to go onto an 'Encounter' display board.
 - Write a letter to a refugee charity (see above) welcoming the refugee to our country, letting them know we will pray for them, and perhaps teaching them some important information (good places to visit, important words or phrases they might need etc). Bring a copy of the letter in to school to stick on the display board

R.E.

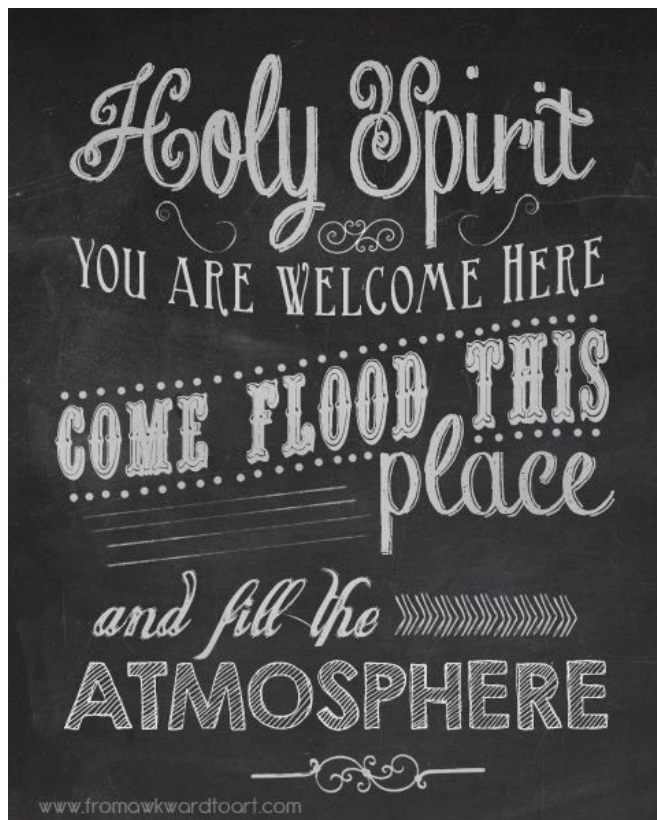
- GCSE:
 - Catherine of Sienna — Imago Dei. Mirror analogy — Our soul is a reflection of the characteristics of God. Therefore we should be welcoming and loving to others.
 - G K Chesterton — Imago Dei/Penny Analogy — just as a penny bears the head of the queen, and so they are all worth the same, we all bear the stamp of God, making us all equally important.
 - Sacraments of initiation — these are part of us being welcomed into the community of the Church.
 - Font near the front of the church to symbolise welcome.
 - Lumen Gentium - Literally, 'light for all nations' this document discusses the Church as 'one, holy, Catholic and apostolic'; we are the 'people of God' making up the 'new covenant' but God's plan for Salvation includes those who acknowledge him as Creator too. This encyclical recognised Mary as mediatrix and the role of all members of the Church (Religious. Laity, etc) in building up the Church by following in Christ's footsteps. - As a result of this, Lay people were able to give out communion and read in Mass, and do things like become teachers in Catholic schools

- Sacrosanctum concilium - as a result of this there were great changes made to the Mass aimed at ensuring a greater participation including the Mass being translated into the local language.
- Paschal candle - lit at baptism as a symbol of our new life with Christ.
- Come and See — Topics 1 on *the Domestic Church* and topic 2 on *Belonging* link extremely well to the theme of Welcome. The building blocks of the Church and society is the family, and each of us individually are called into life in Christ through the sacraments. During these topics we can explore how we encounter God in our family, school and parish communities; and that the sacraments are moments of encounter that bring us into a deeper relationship with God.

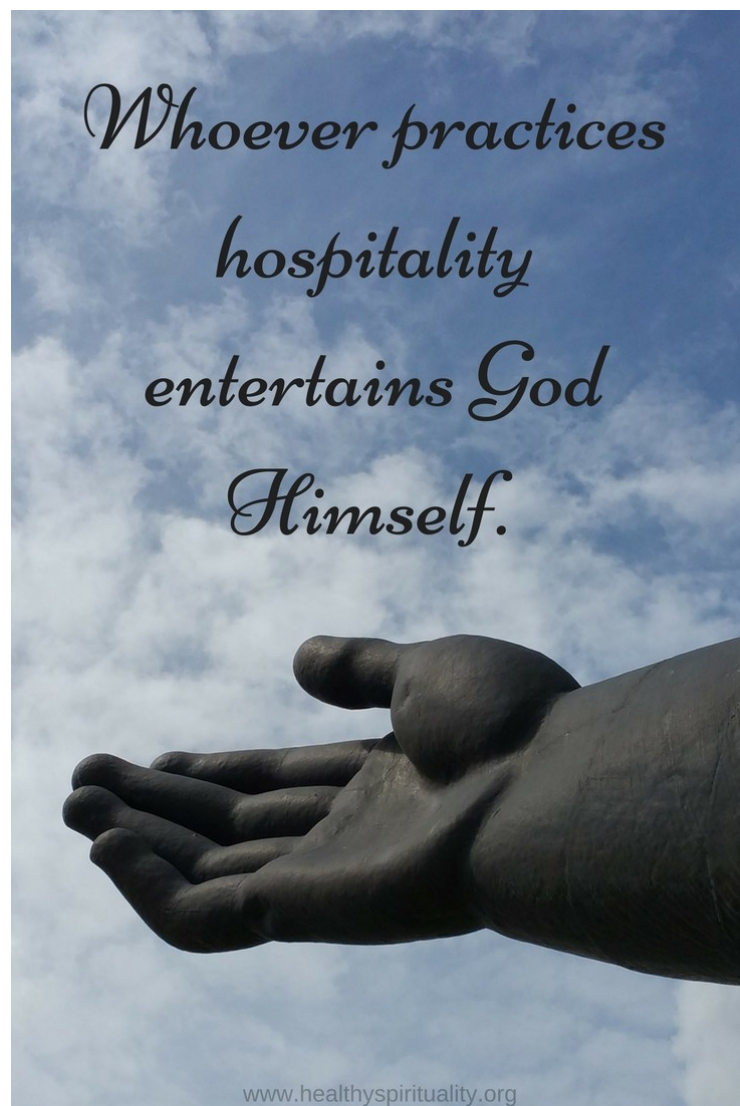
Remember!

It can be easy to get carried away with doing things but it is important to remember that our focus on welcome is not just on building community but giving every member of our school community to be welcomed into the love and friendship of Jesus Christ. So at the forefront of what we do should be the question: How will this help us/others encounter Jesus in the theme of welcome?

Picture Bank



PRAYER:
 — welcoming —
 GOD'S
 GRACIOUS
 HAND IN
 MY LIFE!



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