

**GROW IN
FAITH**



**For
Families of
First Class**

**FAMILY ACCOMPANIMENT
RESOURCE BOOK**

Welcome to Grow In Faith

In this booklet you will find easy ways to accompany the families of First Class children. Children participate in classes in school through the **GROW IN LOVE** programme. This resource complements the **GROW IN LOVE** programme by linking to family experiences where sharing and praying at home can happen. It does not seek to reproduce the lessons in **GROW IN LOVE**, but provides ways for families to grow together in faith. This is why it is called **GROW IN FAITH**.

The resource links to key themes in **GROW IN LOVE**, and provides ways that families can share stories, have chats at home, build up prayer corners and share with the parish what they are doing.

The resource provides pointers for the Family Accompanier – this is a person or team of people who can help families engage on the journey towards sacraments. Each theme is explained and there are indicators of how families can be encouraged to engage.

There is also a Family Activity for each theme. These are designed to coach families into their key role of passing on faith. Families can be encouraged to display the work they are doing in the parish, so that all of the parish can support families in these important years.

GROW IN LOVE LINKS

Here are the GROW IN LOVE links for Reconciliation, with our suggested family activities. These do not reproduce the lesson but link with the theme.

GROW IN LOVE First Class Book	FAMILY CONNECTION
My Baptism p.5	Get the pictures out
God's love p. 6 - 7	God Talk
Good choice or bad choice p.28	Chat about choices
We can say that we are sorry p. 29	Sorry is a hard word
Lost sheep p. 30 -31	Story Telling
Reconciliation p. 32 - 33	Always Forgiven

Here are the GROW IN LOVE links for HOLY COMMUNION, with our suggested family activities. These do not reproduce the lesson but link with the theme.

GROW IN LOVE First Class Book	FAMILY CONNECTION
My Favourite story about Jesus p.9	More storytelling
At Mass we pray together p.17	Taking our part
At Mass we listen to stories from the Gospel p.27	Good News
What gift can you offer to God? p.35	Gifts to share
Prayer before Communion p.37	Preparing
Prayer after Communion p.39	Receiving

FOR FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: GET THE PICTURES OUT

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school.

Its connected to Pages 4 and 5 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where Baptism is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about their baptism?
- What memories would you like to share?
- Who was there to support your child at their baptism?
- What pictures of the day can you get out and chat about?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms..

Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you get out the baptism photos of your child?
- Could you have chats at home about the day, who was there and why you were so proud?
- Could you remember those who are no longer alive in the family but were there on the day?
- Could you set up a special space as we begin our preparation, where these photos are displayed?
- At baptism your child was signed with the cross on the forehead, would you have the confidence to sign your child on the forehead at the end of the day to remember their baptism?



FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: GOD TALK

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in friendly manner. Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school.

Its connected to Pages 6 and 7 of the GROW IN LOVE book where God's love is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about God's love?
- What does God's love mean to you?
- Who reminds you of God's love?
- What phrase on page 7 do you like most?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms..

Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about love?
- Could you share how we can share God's love with each other?
- Could you remember a time when your really felt loved?
- Could you share with your child how precious they are to you?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child remembering and repeating these words 'God says You are Precious to Me'?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: CHAT ABOUT CHOICES

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

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DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 28 of the GROW IN LOVE book where how we make choices is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about the way that we make choices?
- What do you want to explain about our freedom to choose the good or bad?
- Why is it important that your child learns about making good choices?
- How might the pictures on page 28 help you to chat about choices?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about choices we can make?
- Could you share how we can choose the good thing?
- Could you remember a time when you made a good choice?
- Could you share with your child how this helps us grow in love?
- Could you spend time helping your child to draw a picture of themselves making a good choice?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: SORRY IS A HARD WORD

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Pages 29 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where the importance of saying sorry is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about saying sorry?
- When in your family do you say sorry to each other?
- How does it feel after you have said sorry?
- If we say sorry to each other often, why might it also be important to say sorry to God?
- Have you noticed how the prayer of sorrow actually begins with a focus on God's love and acknowledging this love?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about saying sorry?
- Could you share how we sometimes do not show love to each other and God?
- Could you remember a time when you really felt sorry and made up with someone?
- Could you share why it's so important to say sorry and then move on?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child learning the prayer of sorrow?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: STORYTELLING

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

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Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Pages 30 and 31 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where God's kindness is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about getting lost?
- What happens when we get lost how do we feel?
- Why is the story of the Good Shepherd not just about sheep but about us?
- How might the parable of the lost sheep help us understand something of God's kindness and love for us?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about the lost story?
- Could you share how it helps us realise God's goodness to us?
- Could you remember a time when you got lost? Who found you?
- Could you read the story of the Lost Sheep and chat about it with your child?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child remembering repeating these words 'You care for me, Lord, as a shepherd cares for the sheep of his flock.'?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: ALWAYS FORGIVEN

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

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Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Pages 32 and 33 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where God's forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about this sacrament?
- What do you value about this sacrament for your own life?
- How can you talk about the 5 steps in the sacrament?
- How might this help us to experience God's constant forgiveness in our lives?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about the 5 steps of the sacrament?
- Could you share how it helps us experience God's forgiveness?
- Could you remember a time when you really felt forgiven?
- Could you read the poem 'I'm sorry' together?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child this week saying 'God our Father, I come to say thank you for your love today.'

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: MORE STORYTELLING

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Pages 8 and 9 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where the way we get to know Jesus is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about Jesus?
- What stories about Jesus are your favourite?
- How can you help your child find out about the stories of Jesus?
- How do you relate to Jesus as a friend and companion in your life?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms.

Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about stories of Jesus that you can recall?
- Could you share how these stories help us to get to know Jesus as a friend?
- Could you tell your favourite stories of Jesus at bedtime?
- Could you read some stories from a child friendly bible?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child this week thanking God for all the wonderful stories of Jesus and inviting Jesus to be your friend?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: TAKING OUR PART

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 17 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where learning how to take part in Mass is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- How are you going to talk to your child about taking their part at Mass?
- What helps you to take part in Mass?
- How can you help your child to respond at Mass so they feel included?
- Why might it be important that your child is confident about taking part in Mass?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms.

Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about how we can take our part at Mass?
- Could you share how we respond to prayers?
- Could you practise some of the responses at Mass together?
- Could you practise making the sign of the cross and saying the words slowly together?
- Could you spend time at prayer with your child this week simply making the sign of the cross together and taking time to thank God for the day?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: GOOD NEWS

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 27 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where welcoming the words of Jesus in the Gospel and listening well are explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- Why do you think we sing an 'Alleluia' before we listen to the Gospel at Mass?
- What does the word *Gospel* mean?
- How can you help your child listen to the words of the *Gospel*?
- Why might it be important that your child knows the responses to say when the *Gospel* is proclaimed?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about why the *Gospel* is Good News for us?
- Could you share the responses we use for the *Gospel*?
- Could you practise listening together to some sentences from the *Gospel*?
- Could you practise making the sign of the cross on your head, lips and heart with your child?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: GIFTS TO SHARE

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

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Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 35 of the *GROW IN LOVE* book where offering gifts of bread and wine and our own lives to God are explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- Why do you think we offer gifts of bread and wine at Mass?
- How can you help your child recognise that they too have gifts to offer?
- Why might it be important that your child makes a connection between the bread and wine at Mass and their own lives?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about why bread and wine is offered at Mass?
- Could you share the responses we use for the prayer of blessing?
- Could you spend time this week helping your child to name the gifts they bring?
- Could you spend time in prayer this week thanking God for all the gifts he gives us and end by using the response 'Blessed be God'?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: PREPARING

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 37 of the GROW IN LOVE book where prayerfully preparing to receive holy communion is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- Why do you think it's important to prepare to receive holy communion?
- How do you prepare as an adult to receive?
- Why might it be important that your child is helped to be calm, still and focused before receiving holy communion?

Give parents five minutes to share about this in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about why we need to prepare to receive holy communion?
- Could you help your child to practise receiving holy communion and role play at home?
- Could you spend time this week helping your child learn the simple prayers before holy communion?
- Could you spend time in prayer this week with your child simply saying the prayer for preparation together every night?

FOR THE FAMILY ACCOMPANIER: RECEIVING

GATHER and WELCOME

If your gathering is in person set out the room in Café style so that parents can sit in groups.

If you are gathering on a zoom welcome parents as they join in a friendly manner.

Let parents know how long the session will take. It should be no more than thirty minutes.

DESCRIBE and EXPLORE

Tell parents that this activity links with what children are doing in school. Its connected to Page 39 of the GROW IN LOVE book where prayerfully thanking Jesus after receiving holy communion is explored.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

- Why do you think it's important to be thankful for receiving holy communion?
- How do you feel holy communion helps us grow in friendship with Jesus?
- Why might it be important that your child is helped to be calm, still and focused after receiving holy communion?

Give parents five minutes to share about this is in small groups or break out rooms. Take some feedback about it.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Move to suggest a simple family activity that can be done at home.

- Could you spend some time this week chatting about why we want to pray in thanksgiving after holy communion?
- Could you help your child to imagine how they will feel after receiving holy communion?
- Could you spend time this week helping your child learn the simple prayers after holy communion?
- Could you spend time in prayer this week with your child simply saying the prayers after holy communion together every night?

Prayers you can learn at home together

*In the name of the Father
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit.*

*God our Father, I come to say
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family,
And all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night,
And in the morning send your light.
Amen.*



*Almighty God,
Thank you for sharing your love with us.
Help us to share your love with others.
Help us to make the world
the kind of place you want it to be.
Amen.*

*Loving God,
Thank you for sending Jesus,
Your Son, to teach us about you.
Help us to learn from Him.
We make our prayer through Jesus, our friend. Amen.*



*Loving God,
Thank you for our church buildings,
Where the friends of Jesus can gather together.
Bless all those who work in the Church.
We ask this through Jesus, our friend. Amen.*

*Open our minds that we may hear the Gospel.
Open our lips that we may speak of the Gospel.
Open our hearts that we may live as the Gospel shows us. Ame*



*God our Father,
Forgive us our sins and help us
to live like Jesus. Amen.*

*O my God, I thank you for loving me.
I'm sorry for all my sins.
For not loving others and not loving you.
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.*

*Gracious God,
At Mass we remember all the gifts you have given us.
We also offer our gifts to you.
Help us to be kind, patient and caring.
We know that these are the gifts you want to receive.
Blessed are you forever. Amen.*

*Lord Jesus come to me,
Lord Jesus give me your love,
Lord Jesus come to me and give me yourself.
Lord Jesus friend of children, come to me.
Lord Jesus you are my Lord and my God.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Lord Jesus I adore you.
You're my special friend.
Welcome, Lord Jesus, O welcome, thank you for coming to me.
Thank you, Lord Jesus, O thank you for giving yourself to me.
Make me strong to show your love wherever I may be.*

*Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay.
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all of us children in your loving care
And bring us to heaven to live with you there.*

*I'm ready now, Lord Jesus to show how much I care.
I'm ready now to give your peace at home and everywhere. Amen.*