

Part 1: THE WORLD OF RITUAL

Syllabus Aim	To show how ritual and worship have always been part of the human response to life and to the mystery of God.
Syllabus Objectives	As a result of studying this section, the students should: 1. have an understanding of how particular places and times come to be significant.
Key Concepts	places of significance; sacredness
Description of Content	1. Identifying and naming places and buildings in Ireland and elsewhere considered to be of special significance 2. Exploring how these places and buildings achieve significance
Methodology	This lesson plan involves the use of a variety of methodologies including interpretation of data, group-work, discussion, research, case study and concept formation. In using this variety of methodologies students would be given an opportunity to explore and clarify the concepts, as well as elaborate on their existing knowledge and understanding of the content.

Procedure

Introduction - Places of special significance

Write the heading “My Favourite Place” on the board and brainstorm students as to what places come to mind.

Written Assignment: Name your favourite place and draw/write a paragraph to describe it.

Take feedback and discuss: What is it about this place that makes it special for you?

or

Read a story in which someone recalls a place of significance for them, such as the extract referring to Grandmother’s House in Letter to Daniel by Fergal Keane and discuss the following questions:

1. What memories does the author have of the house?
2. How did the house save the family business?
3. Why is the house special to the author?

Write the word “significance” on the board.

Brainstorm students on the meaning of the word and note feedback on the board.

Read dictionary definitions of the word significance e.g.

- Collins dictionary: “import, weight; meaning”.
- Oxford dictionary: “1. the meaning or intention of something. 2. importance”.
- The Universal English dictionary: “importance, weight, consequence”.

Written Assignment: Pick any one of the dictionary definitions of significant and describe how it is similar or different to the ideas noted earlier on the board?

Take feedback and discuss:

What importance or meaning does your favourite place have in your life?

or

What significance does his grandmother’s house have for Fergal Keane?

Identifying and naming places and buildings in Ireland and elsewhere considered to be of special significance

Photograph Quiz: Divide students into groups

Present each group with photographs of significant places and buildings in Ireland and elsewhere. Ask each group in turn to identify the name of a place or building in the photographs. The group that identifies the highest number of photographs correctly is the winner. When all photographs have been correctly identified discuss:

1. Why are these places considered to be of special significance for people?
2. Are any of these places considered to be of religious significance? Which? Why?

or

Write the heading “places and buildings of special significance” on the board and brainstorm students as to what places in Ireland and elsewhere come to mind.

Note feedback on the board and discuss:

1. Why are these places considered to be of special significance for people?
2. Are any of these places considered to be of religious significance? Which? Why?

Written Assignment:

Name two places in Ireland and elsewhere considered to be of special significance and write a paragraph explaining why this is the case.

Or Complete the following sentences:

..... is a place of special significance in Ireland because.....

..... is a place of special significance because.....

Exploring how these places and buildings achieve significance

Review literature or view a video clip about Newgrange (Dec 21st News reports etc.)

Discuss:

1. What is there about Newgrange that would indicate it was a place of importance for the people of the New Stone Age?
2. What significance might Newgrange have had for the people of the New Stone Age?
3. Why does Newgrange have special significance for people in Ireland and elsewhere today?

Written Assignment:

Write a paragraph explaining how Newgrange is a place of special significance for people today.

Write the word “sacred” on the board.

Brainstorm students about what it means and note feedback on the board.

Read dictionary definitions of the word sacred e.g.

- Collins dictionary: “regarded as holy, set apart, reserved”.
- Oxford dictionary: “1 connected with God or a God, or considered to be holy. 2 regarded with great respect. 3 regarded as very important; solemn.”
- The Universal English dictionary: “1. Set apart for, dedicated, consecrated, to a deity, person, purpose, or sentiment. 2. Associated with the religion, with the religious rites and practices, of a people.....”

Written Assignment:

Pick any one of the dictionary definitions of sacred and describe how it is similar or different to the ideas noted earlier on the board?

Read WORSHIP AT THE RIVER GANGES (By Jacqueline Dooley, LOGOS website, www.materdei.ie)

Discuss:

1. Where is the river Ganges?
2. Why does the river Ganges have special significance for the followers of Hinduism?
3. Why is the Ganges described as a sacred river?

Written Assignment:

Write a paragraph using five of the following words to explain the significance of the river Ganges for people.

people	Hinduism	important	sin	bathing
soul	sacred	cleanse	meaning	ashes

or

Research Assignment:

Pick a place from each of the columns and prepare a five-minute presentation on it.

The presentation should include an account in words or pictures of the events / people etc. associated with the place that give it religious significance.

A Holy Well/ Shrine/ Graveyard	Glendalough
Assisi	Newgrange
Clonmacnoise	Mecca
Croagh Patrick	Rock of
Ganges	Cashel
Jerusalem

Give students time to research and prepare their presentations in pictures using for example photographs / Ireland Colouring Book (1992 Grandreams Ltd., London)

or

Give students time to research and prepare their presentations in words. Students could use information from the following sources and discuss the questions below.

Place:

Resources which teachers have suggested include:

Clonmacnoise Clonmacnoise Visitors' Guide, Duchas The Heritage Service website <http://www.iol.ie/~mcgibbon/clon/clontime.html>

Questions for discussion:

1. Where is Clonmacnoise?
2. What is to be found there?
3. Why is Clonmacnoise a place of special significance for people today?

Croagh Patrick

Climbing the Reek b - Fr. Michael Rodgers, Africa magazine July/August 1999

Questions for discussion:

1. Why did the author and his friend begin their pilgrimage at night?
2. Why do some people make this pilgrimage in their bare feet?
3. In what ways does Croagh Patrick have a special significance for people today?

Mecca

"A Time To Live" - Veritas

"Strange Worlds, Amazing Places" - Reader's Digest Association.

Questions for discussion:

1. Where is Mecca?
2. Why is it an important place for people of the Islamic tradition?
3. In what ways does Mecca have special significance for people today?

Jerusalem

"Strange Worlds, Amazing Places" - Reader's Digest Association

Questions for discussion:

1. Why is Jerusalem a city of special significance for followers of Christianity?
2. Why is Jerusalem a city of special significance for followers of Judaism?
3. Why is Jerusalem a city of special significance for followers of Islam?

Assisi

"Strange Worlds, Amazing Places" - Reader's Digest Association

Questions for discussion:

1. Where is Assisi?
2. Why is the little church of San Damiano associated with St. Francis?
3. In what ways does Assisi have special significance for people today?

- Ganges Worship at the River Ganges - Logos Website
Questions for discussion:
 1. Where is the River Ganges?
 2. In what ways does the River Ganges have special significance for people?
- Newgrange People of the Past 1-New History in Context 1, Collins, Gallagher, Byrne & Keogh
 Discovering Times Past - Edmund O' Donovan, Folens
 Evidence of the Past - Foley and Enright, School and College Publishing
Questions for discussion:
 1. What is there about Newgrange that would indicate it was a place of importance for the people of the New Stone Age?
 2. What significance might Newgrange have had for the people of the New Stone Age?
 3. Why does Newgrange have special significance for people in Ireland and elsewhere today?

Take feedback from students giving time for presentations on each of the places listed.

After the presentations on each place discuss:

1. What happened in this place that gives it religious significance?
2. Why does it have religious significance for people today?

When all presentations are complete discuss: What do all of these places have in common?

Written Assignment:

Design a one-page leaflet for visitors to two of the places and buildings in Ireland and elsewhere you have researched giving information on significant events/ people etc. associated with them.

or

Pick five of the following words to describe the places you have researched and explain how these words apply to them.

Sacredness	Religious	Blessed	Heavenly	Set-apart
Important	Meaningful	Special	Significance	Holy

Resources which teachers have suggested include:

A Time To Live New Christian Way Series 3 Veritas, pages 108 & 109.

All About Faith 2 Gill & Macmillan, pages 157–165, pages 171-172

Community of Faith Veritas, pages 108–113, pages 150–151, pages 154 -155.

Community of Hope Veritas, pages 107–114.

Cyberclass Manual Scholastech Disk 1 & junior certificate year one

Logos

Love One Another New Christian Way Series 1 Veritas, pages 78 - 85; 89 – 92.

Show Us The Way New Christian Way Series 2 Veritas pages 100 – 115, pages 169-170.