

Curious and Active

Learning objectives:

- Describe what is meant by the Catholic virtues **curious** and **active**
- Engender curiosity in the children, in the form of research and questions
- Encourage an active responsibility in the classroom and the community.

Curious: exploring God's creation and asking questions to find out more.

Everything around us was created by God. Being curious about these things – from tiny insects to enormous planets, from the languages of the Earth to the patterns made by numbers – brings us closer to God.

Active: working to make things better where we can.

As we use our curiosity to explore, we find things that could be better: a friend is unhappy; a neighbour is lonely; there is litter in the playground; the whiteboard needs wiping. Some of these problems we can fix. By being active we take responsibility for these tasks and look after God's creation.

Key stage 1: mini play

In small groups, write a short play to perform for the rest of your class. In the play, an older person has fallen and can't get up. The others must help them and make sure they are not hurt.

What might have happened if nobody had been around to help them?

Help me Jesus
Know your ways
Through the night
Through the days
Give me love
To show a friend
You're always there
You never end.

Prayer: © L Cain, July 2006

Key stage 1: circle time

Do the children know any older people who live on their own? What could help these people feel less lonely?

Do the children know anyone who has moved here from another country? What could help these people feel at home?

*Encourage the children to be **curious**, to ask questions about the issues affecting older people and refugees.*

What happens when people get old? What if they have no family to look after them?

What happens when people arrive in England from a faraway country? What if they have no friends here, little money and cannot speak English?

*Guided by Catholic social teaching, Father Hudson's Care is **active** in the community. The charity runs lunch clubs and activities for older people in Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. The Brushstrokes Project in Smethwick gives advice, food and clothing, social groups and English classes to new arrivals. Fatima House and BRAID provide accommodation to refugees in Birmingham and Oxford*

www.fatherhudsons.org.uk

Can the children think of ways they can help people in the school or local community?

When we hear about people who need help, how does that make us feel? Is there any way we can help? Father Hudson's Care works with others to find ways to help people in need. They are curious, because they look for people who are experiencing problems. And they are active because they share God's love with others by finding ways to act and help with those problems.

The Bible tells us that we should look after other people. For example:

- “Look out for one another's interests, not just for your own.” (Philippians 2:4)
- “Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)
- “Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it.” (Proverbs 3:27)

Key stage 2: activity 1

Look at Father Hudson's website, www.fatherhudsons.org.uk.

Working in pairs, groups or individually, explore the website and find out about the work of Father Hudson's Care. Make notes during this process.

Ask the children to find out:

- Who founded Father Hudson's Care?
- What does the charity do now?
- Who does it help today?

Example answer: It was founded by Father George Hudson to help homeless Catholic children. It provides care and support for people in need. It helps people who are disabled, the elderly, children and families, asylum seekers and homeless people.

Key stage 2: activity 1 – continuation activity for quick finishers

Go to the Community Projects section on www.fatherhudsons.org.uk and, in small groups or pairs, look at either Fatima House, Tabor House or Young at Heart. Ask the children to find out:

- Why was the project set up?
- Who does it help?
- What does it do?

Example answer for Fatima House: It was set up to help refugees living in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. It helps female asylum seekers who have nowhere to go. It gives them somewhere to live for a while.

Key stage 2: activity 2

In groups, write a short play to perform for the rest of your class. In your play, one of your characters is unhappy. The other characters must find out what's wrong and come up with ways to help.

Key stage 2: activity 3

Read Luke 10: 29-37, the parable of the Good Samaritan

The teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbour?”

Jesus answered, “There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Take care of him,’ he told the innkeeper, ‘and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.’”

And Jesus concluded, “In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour toward the man attacked by the robbers?”

The teacher of the Law answered, “The one who was kind to him.”

Jesus replied, “You go, then, and do the same.”

What is the message of this parable? Which of Father Hudson’s projects or services puts this into practice? How can we help them?

Example answers:

Love and care for your neighbour, show mercy to others and help people regardless of their race or religion.

Brushstrokes welcomes refugees from all over the world, helping them become part of their community.

Fatima House helps women from many different countries who need help.

Tabor House gives homeless people a place to stay and helps get them back on their feet. No matter what their background, it shows mercy and offers them friendship and support.

We can help by raising money during the Good Shepherd Appeal in Lent. We can donate food to Brushstrokes.



*The Parable of the Good Samaritan, from Die Bibel in Bildern,
by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld.*

Father Hudson's Care is your local Catholic charity, reaching out to those most in need in our shared community. They are curious because they look for problems that need solving, for people that are experiencing difficulties. They are active because they find ways to help those people and put this into action.

You can help Father Hudson's Care to act by raising money for them through their Good Shepherd Appeal, which happens each year during Lent. Father Hudson's uses your donations to help people in need.

If the School and Parish Engagement Officer for your area is coming to the school to give an assembly in Lent, this can be mentioned here.

Biblical inspiration:

Isaiah 58:10 "Give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon."

1 Peter 4:11 "Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies."

Prayer: Heavenly Father,
thank you for your hand of blessing in my life.
Thank you for choosing to work through me today.
I submit myself and my resources to you.
Show me ways to be a blessing to others so that the earth will be
filled with the knowledge of your glory in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Source: Solid Rock Family Church



Curious and active

I perceived that there is nothing better for them
than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live.
Ecclesiastes 3:12

Father
Hudson's
Care