



Junior Cycle

Moment One: Families of Hope

Keywords:

FAMILY
HOPE
COMMUNITY
FAITH
RESURRECTION
REMEMBERING
LOVE

On Easter Sunday 2017 Pope Francis reminded Christians that the Resurrection is central to our faith, that 'Jesus has risen from the dead ... and this is not a fantasy'.

As this is the month of November, during which we remember those who have died, we will explore how it is that even though death seems like the end when we lose someone we love, we continue to remember them and look forward to a time when we will meet them again. It is our faith that gives us this hope.

B Brainstorm

Pope Francis says that our Catholic Church is a **Family of Families** (*Amoris Laetitia*, 87). What do you think he means when he says this? He also says that 'Friends and other families are part of this larger family, as well as communities of families who support one another in their difficulties' (196).

W Watch: youtu.be/iMNtiSvQWyg (2 minutes 48 seconds)

B Brainstorm

Why was this concert held in Manchester earlier this year? What event preceded it?

D Discussion

- Did any of you attend Ariana Grande's concert in Dublin? Do you have older siblings or friends who did so?
- What was their reaction when they heard of the terror attack at her concert in Manchester two days later?
- Why do you think we felt so close to the people affected by this tragedy?





W

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-ovNfCdh1w
(50 seconds)

Discussion

Ariana remembered the victims who survived.

- Why do you think her visit meant so much to those who had been injured?

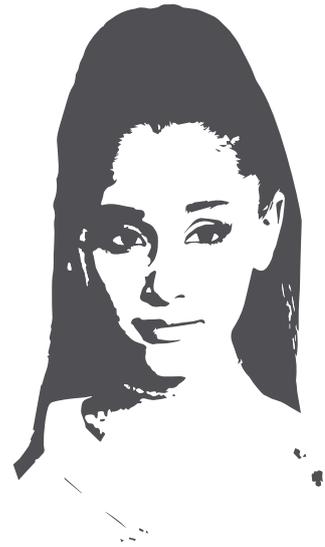
R

Reflective Exercise

In *Amoris Laetitia* Pope Francis quotes the prophet Hosea: 'When Israel was a child, I loved him ... I took them up in my arms ...'

- How does Ariana Grande's visit to the hospital reflect this image of God's love? Write your answer in your copy.

This was a tragedy that touched people all over the world and there was a great outpouring of sympathy and support for the families of those who had died. Ariana honoured those who had died by enlisting many other stars to join with her in a concert dedicated to their memory and to raise funds for their families.



W

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5npZDJzRoIQ (54 seconds)

Justin Bieber has come to realise just how important God's presence is in his life. His new-found faith has turned his off-the-rails lifestyle around. Bieber shares his faith in God's love for all of us courageously, and openly shows his conviction that God is with us always no matter what happens in our lives, even in the midst of the darkness.

- The video cuts to a clip of a policeman dancing with children. How does this reflect Justin's words?
- Why do we find it difficult to speak to other people about God?
- Does the message of the song 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' reflect the hope that Christians have in life after death?
- How do we remember people in our families or loved ones who have died?
- What do we miss about them?

When we lose a family member, we are filled with sadness; however, as Christians we are people of hope because of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



A

Activity

In groups, look up and read one of the following Bible passages.

The Daughter of Jairus	Matthew 9:18–19 and 23–26 or Luke 8:40–42 and 49–56
The Widow of Nain	Luke 7:11–17
The Raising of Lazarus	John 11:1–44



After some time for discussion each group will present a short summary of their miracle and what they have learned from it.

Miracle: _____ Ref: _____

What is the family situation in this story?

How does Jesus respond to the situation?

What do we learn about Jesus from this story?

How does this story give us hope in our own lives?





D

Discussion

When Jesus died his family and friends were overcome with grief. But Jesus showed us that through his life, death and Resurrection we too will live, in another way, after we die.

- What do you know about how Jesus died?
- What do you know about the story of the Resurrection?

A

Activity

Read Matthew 28:1–10. Imagine you are one of Jesus' disciples. You are devastated by his death. All your hopes and dreams are shattered. You are lonely for Jesus but also terrified that you too may be arrested for being one of his followers.

- Write the story of your reaction when you find that Jesus is alive, that he has risen from the dead.

E

Extension Exercise

How do you think Jesus' Resurrection makes a difference in our lives today? Write your thoughts in your copy.

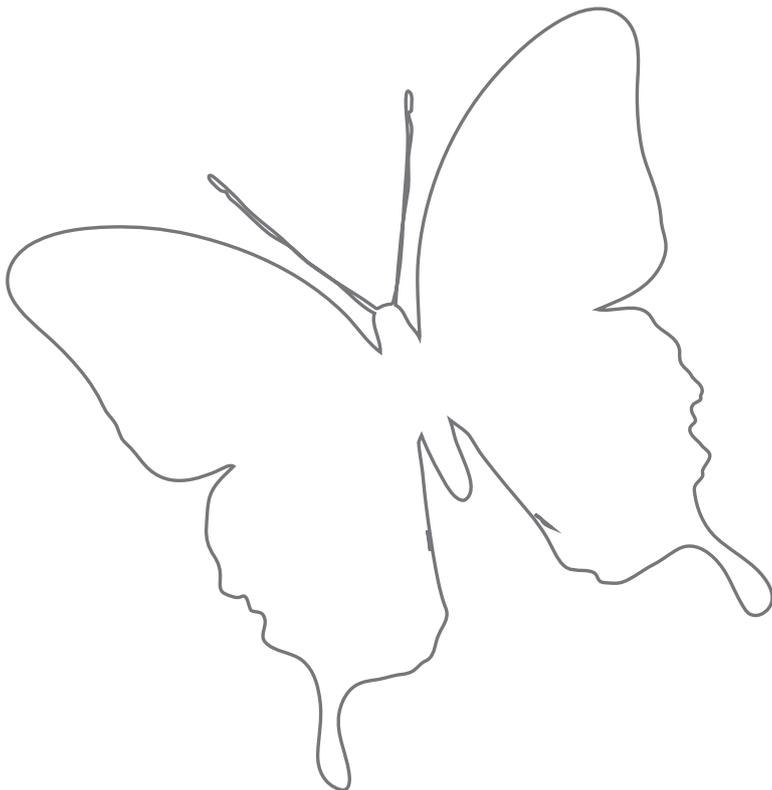
A

Activity

Christians are people of hope and joy because they believe in the Resurrection. Jesus rose from the dead to show us that when we die we will still have life, but in a new way.

When a caterpillar, which appears to have died, emerges from its chrysalis it has been transformed into a beautiful butterfly.

Write the name of someone you would like to remember on the butterfly. Colour it in if you wish. Cut it out and add it to the remembrance tree/board or stick it in your copy.





Prayer

Let us take a moment of quiet time to thank God for the gift of our school community, a family of families, a family of faith and, above all, a family of hope ...

We remember and pray for any family members or friends of our families who have died ...

We also remember the families of those who died at the Ariana Grande concert, and those who have died in other tragedies around the world ...

We thank you, God, for the gifts of life and of hope, for being with us always, especially when life is difficult ...

We thank you, Father, for always being a loving presence in our lives. We thank you, Jesus, for the certainty we have in everlasting life and the Holy Spirit for the flame of faith that burns deep within us and gives us the courage to live our lives as well as we can each day. Amen.

