

## **CHRISTIANITY KEY STAGE 2 & 3 RESOURCE BOX - ARTEFACTS**

### **Crucifix on a Stand**

The Cross or Crucifix has become a symbol to Christians of the suffering of Jesus.

Jesus was put to death as his beliefs and teachings went against some of the beliefs of the Jewish priests. They encouraged the Roman Authorities to arrest Jesus and he was put to death by 'Crucifixion', this was an agonising death where the victim was nailed to a wooden cross and left to die slowly in the hot sun.



### **Wooden Crosses from El Salvador**

Brightly painted these crosses made completely by hand, in El Salvador from cutting and drying the wood to painting and varnishing. Includes triangular hook for hanging.

These crosses were first designed by an artist called Fernando Llorca during the 1970's, when violence and chaos that would later turn into declared war was developing, Llorca began working with people in the villages of Las Palmas (El Salvador) in the north east region near the Honduran border. Llorca's designs usually depicted images of rural life with predominantly animals, birds, flowers and simple adobe houses with red tiled roofs. As the war progressed, and the consciousness of the poor deepened, themes such as the value of women, the importance of community and the Salvadoran face of God became common. Crosses with community scenes depict the suffering yet the ground of hope in their communities.

Many crosses feature a dark, black Christ this reflects the Cristo-negro statue that can be found in Portobelo, nobody knows the true story behind the findings of the black Christ statue or how it came to be in Portobelo. Thousands of Pilgrims flock every year to worship the statue for miracles they want to receive, but it is said that if a promise is made to the statue and not kept there is severe retribution.



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### **Rosary Beads**

Christians use Rosary Beads when they say the 'Hail Mary' which is a special prayer for Mary so that they can think about the important things that happened to both her and Jesus.

Roman Catholics have a special devotion to Mary this is because she was the mother of Jesus, and because she did exactly what God asked of her. Most churches have pictures or statues of Mary inside the church.



### **Pin Badges**

There are many different pin badges that are worn by Christians of all persuasions to demonstrate their faith to others.

The Dove design is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, when Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan the Holy Spirit was said to descend upon Jesus like a dove. The dove is also a symbol of peace.

The Fish design is said to be one of the earliest Christian symbols. It is said that after Jesus's death Christians were persecuted, the fish symbol was used to enable them to identify fellow Christians but non Christians wouldn't recognise this as a significant symbol, therefore Christians could connect with each other without their oppressors identifying them.



### **Paschal Candle**

A new Paschal candle is blessed and lit every year at Easter, and is used throughout the Paschal season and then throughout the year on special occasions, such as baptisms and funerals.

The flame of the Paschal candle symbolizes Christ's illuminating light and his presence in the midst of his people. The Paschal candle is sometimes referred to as the "Easter candle" or the "Christ candle." The term "Paschal" comes from the word *Pesach*, which in Hebrew means Passover. The tall white candle in many ways signifies the Divine pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night that lead the Israelites in their exodus from slavery in Egypt.



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### **Advent Calendar**

The Christian church starts to get ready for Christmas on the fourth Sunday before the 25th December, this time of preparation is called Advent. It means 'the coming'. It began over 1500 years ago and is celebrated on the last 4 Sunday's before Christmas. The first Sunday of advent is called Advent Sunday, on this day many Christians attend a special service in church. There are readings from the Bible and advent hymns which look to the coming of a great saviour. It is a time for looking forward with hope and expectation.

Most children celebrate Advent by opening a calendar for each day of December to count the days up to the birth of Jesus. Some calendars have chocolates or sweets inside but others are more traditional and depict pictures or scenes that symbolise Jesus and Christianity in some way.



### **The Life of Jesus Map**

This finely detailed map of the Holy Land helps children to learn and remember Scripture verses, events and places related to the life of Jesus. Numbers on the map indicate where particular events happened. There are 50 scenes altogether arranged chronologically, tracing Jesus life from the Nativity to the Ascension.

By starting with the circle marked 'Where it began' and opening one numbered window on successive Sundays, the map can provide almost a years enrichment. A window can also be opened each day during Lent.



### **Salvation Army Flag**

Through the explanation of the colours and the writing, the flag of the Salvation Army becomes actually a symbol of the faith of each Salvationist. The blood of Jesus Christ (Red), which cleanses and delivers from our guilt and the spirit of God (Yellow) who leads and guides, and finally the blue border as a symbol of purity. Salvation and sanctification are expressed through the words 'Blood & Fire'.



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### **St Cuthbert's Cross**

The original, of gold set with garnets was found in St Cuthbert's coffin in Durham Cathedral. The original is set with 12 garnets in each arm, the centre is roofed in a gold setting containing another garnet under which there was probably a tiny relic.

Cuthbert was originally a Celtic Christian, that connection plus the similarity in shape gives this cross the alternative name 'Thors Cross'. *Cuthbert* means 'brilliant light', which leads nicely to the story about St. Cuthbert.

One night in August, 651, the shepherd boy Cuthbert was praying on a hillside near Melrose monastery which lies at the heart of the Scottish Borders. He saw "*a great light and a choir of angels*" descend from the night sky. The next day he learned that St. Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, had died the previous night. Cuthbert believed he had witnessed St. Aidan's soul being carried to Heaven and took this as a sign of his calling to missionary work. He became Bishop of Lindisfarne on Easter Day, 685. Many miraculous healings have been attributed to St. Cuthbert and his remains now lie in Durham Cathedral.



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### **BOOKS:**

Jesus & Christianity (Religious Lives)  
Ruth Nason

Easter (A World of Festivals)  
Catherine Chambers

Jesus & Christianity (Great Religious Leaders)  
Alan Brown

Christian Stories (Storyteller)  
Anita Ganeri/Rachael Phillips

Christian Festivals through the Year (A year of festivals)  
Anita Ganeri/Watts

Christmas (A world of festivals)  
Catherine Chambers/Evans

Christian (Beliefs & Cultures)  
Carol Watson

Rome  
Alpha Books/Nicola Barber

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Alpha Books/Nicola Barber

He is Alive the Easter story  
Mary Holmes/Alison Hedger

The Easter Story  
Anita Ganeri/Rachael Phillips

The Bible and Christianity (Sacred Texts)  
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The Vatican and other Christian Holy places (Holy places)  
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Christianity (Atlas of world faiths)  
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Christianity (World Religions)  
Katherine Prior/Watts

Christianity (Religions of the World)  
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India – Children's Rights, Children's Needs  
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