St Elizabeth's Catholic Voluntary Academy

"Be like Jesus. Be your best. Be safe. Be caring."

Life Choices

Our Big Question
Is commitment important?

Key Knowledge

- Through Baptism, Christians are called to a particular mission/**vocation**. All are called to holiness.
- **Blessed John Henry Newman** wrote "God has created me to do Him some definite **service**…"
- **Marriage** is a vocation and a life-long **commitment**.
- The Sacrament gives the couple grace – special help to sustain them living out the promises made.
- In the 'Collect' the priest gathers to the prayers of everyone - that the lives of the couple give witness to their love.
- The Bride and Groom respond to three questions that they must answer "Yes" to honestly.
- **Marriage** is the total self-giving between two partners.
- **Marriage** is exclusive; the love they give to others may not be the same kind of love they share as man and wife.
- Catholics believe that **marriage** should be open to the possibility of children.
- The rings are blessed as a sign that the love they stand for is holy. Then they are exchanged.
- The bride and groom say, "Take this ring as a sign of my love and **fidelity**" The ring symbolises completeness and unbrokenness because it has no beginning and no end – just like God's love.
- The Nuptial Blessing is given after the Lord's prayer because it symbolises that the couple will share in the parenthood of God when they become parents.
- The Beatitudes.

Key Vocabulary and Definitions

commitment	A promise, pledge, obligate or devote oneself to something.
fidelity	To be loyal and faithful to the promises or people a commitment has been made to.
marriage	Marriage is one of the 7 Sacraments. It is the meeting point with God, where God unites a man and woman with his love.
responsibility	A duty or obligation that you should do.
service	To do things for other people and/or for God.
vocation	To feel called or drawn to live a particular way of life.

Scripture

Ephesians 4: 1-7 (There is one body and one Spirit)
Romans 12: 4-6 (We have many parts in one body)
Ephesians 4: 11-13, 15 (Preparing for Christian Service)
Ruth 1: 16 (Wherever you go, I shall go)
Mark 10: 6-9 (No human must separate what God has joined)
John 13: 34 (Love One Another)
Ephesians 5 (A man loves his wife…)
Proverbs 31: 10-29 (The Capable Wife)
Matthew 5: 6-9 (The Beatitudes)
1 Peter 4: 10 (Use the gifts that are given)

Key Skills

- I can **make specific links** between Ephesians 4 and mission. AT1 (i)
- I can use developing religious vocabulary to **give reasons** for the actions and symbols used in the Sacrament of Marriage. AT1 (ii)
- I can **give reasons** for the many ways Christians show love and service. AT1 (iii)
- I can **make links** to show how feelings and beliefs affect my own and others' ability to care and show commitment. AT2 (i)
- I can **compare** most of my own and others' ideas about questions that are difficult to answer concerning care and commitment. AT2 (ii)
- I can make a link that supports a point of view. AT3

Other Sources

Hymns
We are one in the Spirit
Abba Father
Here I am Lord
Bind us Together
Song of Ruth
On this house, your blessing Lord

Prayers
Our Father – Family Prayer
Hail Mary – Help and Support
Prayer of John Henry Newman
Prayer for Unity

Blessed John Henry Newman

Rings: A symbol of the never-ending love of God.

Pope Francis: An example of service

Prior Knowledge and Skills

- I have started to give reasons for the symbols and actions of **Baptism** and **Confirmation**.
- God **calls** people in different ways.
- Through the **Sacraments**, the **Holy Spirit** helps us to grow closer to God in love and guide us in our lives.
- Through Baptism we become a new creation are invited to share in the life of God.
- A Christian is **anointed** with the oil of **Chrism** at Baptism and Confirmation as a sign of being called and marked for God's service.

We are in Ordinary Time

The colour for Ordinary Time is green. It is a time when we continue to grow in God's love. Through the Gospels, we are journeying with Jesus on his mission.