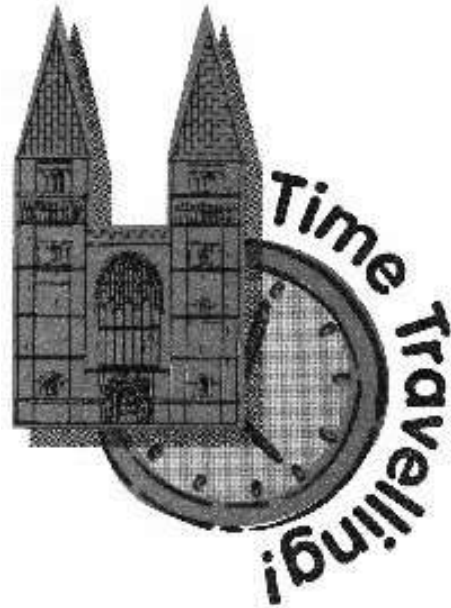


Time Travelling



"Opening the doors of faith to generations"

Signs and Symbols

Key Stage 2 supplement

Extra ideas and suggestions for teachers

www.timetravelling.co.uk

Introduction to the Signs and Symbols Supplement

Each year, **Time Travelling** retains as standard many activities such as the font and communion and introduces new ones following the theme for the year. We hope that the themes give teachers a 'hook' on which to hang introductory and follow up work at school, as well as giving us a common thread which links the activities at Southwell.

We aim to provide a high standard of service to you and your children, and are always looking for ways to improve. Please do get in touch if you would like to make comments about our existing materials or to make suggestions.

Our themes run on a two year cycle:

For Key Stage 1: Year A: *OPPOSITES*
Year B: *SENSES*

For Key Stage 2 : Year A: *SIGNS AND SYMBOLS*
Year B: *PEOPLE - FRIENDS AND FAMILY.*

This supplement is aimed at helping you make the most of your visit to Southwell Minster with your pupils, both beforehand and afterwards, by looking at some **signs and symbols** which are significant to those of the Christian faith. It has a short explanatory note for you, the teacher, followed by some suggestions as to how you might explore each sign or symbol with the children.

We have enclosed details of our other resources which you may find useful and are available to purchase either on the day or in advance, and remember you can also download a **Key Stage 2 Teacher Pack** from our website. This contains enough teaching suggestions to enable your visit to Southwell to form the core of a whole term's work in RE.

We are looking forward to welcoming you, your pupils and your adult helpers to Time Travelling, and we hope you all have a wonderful time.

With very best wishes from

Diana, Emma, Sue and the Time Travelling team ☺

Available Materials: Please order using the form at the bottom of the page.

Photo pack 1 'In A Church': Containing 7 A4 sized photos of items found in a church (font, lectern etc). All photos are taken in the Minster, but relate to church buildings in general. Notes are included, with activity suggestions. **Cost: £5.00**

Photo pack 2 'In The Minster': Specific to the Minster, these 10 A4 sized photos show some of the features of the building and people who work there. Includes notes and activity suggestions. **Cost: £5.00**

Resource Book 'Exploring Churches': A practical guide to visiting churches and church yards, covering most areas of the school curriculum including Citizenship and other places of worship. There are photocopyable resources. **Cost: £4.99**

Minster Guide Book: These full colour A4 glossy guide books are useful for reference in the classroom, and are now available at a special price. **Cost: £1**

Music Pack: Sheet music and CD accompaniment for all Time Travelling music for practice before the event. CD contains vocal and instrumental versions of songs. **Cost: £5**

We can post these items at a cost of £1 per item or you can collect them when you visit Time Travelling.

Please send me:	No. of copies:	Total:
Photo pack 1 'In A Church' £5.00		
Photo pack 2 'In The Minster' £5.00		
Book 'Exploring Churches' £4.99		
Minster Guide Book £1		
Music pack £5		
+ POSTAGE / packing @ 1.00 PER ITEM		
TOTAL		

*Cheques made payable to **Southwell Cathedral Chapter***

Sorry but we can't send items without payment. Please tick if you require a receipt.

Name.....

Postage address.....

Phone Contact number.....Email.....

NB: our aim is to be 'teacher friendly'. None of these resources make a profit for Time Travelling.

1. Dove

In the Bible it tells us that when Jesus was baptized, the gates of heaven were opened and God sent his Holy Spirit in the form of a dove (Mark's Gospel Chapter 1 verses 9-11), and see the Baptism window **PCM7** . The Holy Spirit brings us many gifts – the Bible says

“...the spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.....The spirit has given us life...we must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another.”

(To read in full, see Galatians 5 verses 16 – 26)

In church the dove is a symbol often used at baptism. In Southwell Minster there is a dove hanging above the font.

The Dove is also a widely accepted symbol of peace all over the world, and they feature in the triptych (3 panelled painting) in the Airmen's Chapel at the Minster.

Suggestions

- Discuss the meaning of peace – how can we define it? Where might it be found?
- Write peace poems: Make an ideas web together, and then begin each line 'Peace is.... ' using the web for ideas. Galatians 5 verses 16-26 gives the Christian perspective (see above).
- Design a modern symbol of peace incorporating the image of the dove.
- Make a dove by folding white paper in half, and placing the thumb along the fold. Draw around the hand and cut out. The body and beak should be formed by the thumb, the fingers become the wings. Children can then write their ideas about peace on their dove.
- Use the BBC Newsround website, which has a whole section on the Iraq war, including stories from Iraqi children affected by war. How do children think this conflict could be resolved?
- This may lead you into issues of forgiveness. With upper Key Stage 2 children, check out “The Forgiveness Project”. There you will find incredible personal stories of forgiveness.
- Read the story of Jesus' baptism (**PCM1**) or watch the clip from “The Miracle Maker”. Here we see the spirit of God take the shape of a dove.

www.watton.org/clipart has a selection of dove pictures and images.

The animated film “**The Miracle Maker**” is a useful resource for showing excerpts from the life of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is a good clip to show.

2. Candles / light

Jesus said “I am the light of the World”. Christians use the sign of light (often in the form of a candle) to represent Jesus. We believe that Jesus is like a guiding light in our lives, lighting our 'path'.

When Christians pray or worship they often light a candle as an act of remembrance: a sign that Jesus is there. The prayer candle burns long after the person who lit it has gone, and reminds others to pray too. Christians believe that their prayers bring light into dark situations. Light can also be used as a celebration.

Suggestions

- Think of some dark situations in the world and discuss them: what can the children do to help?
- Design some artwork on the theme of light and dark.
- Light a candle and allow children to watch the flame quietly, making their own responses to it. Think of words to describe the light and the feelings of calm it gives. Write a poem together or alone reflecting the images that spring to mind.
- Create a quiet thinking space in your classroom, where children can go to be quiet and still, or to think about themselves or others.
- Go to www.gratefulness.org where people can light virtual candles, dedicating them in some way, and where they will stay lit for 48 hours. You could encourage children to use this following a time of personal sadness or joy - or just to write their feelings. Used with appropriate reverence, this should give them to chance to experience the symbolism that candle lighting has for Christians.
- Think about the “light” things in the children’s lives – what is good about their lives that they could give thanks and light a candle for?

3. Signs and Symbols in the Bible

Old Testament:

The time before Jesus was born. God used signs in the Old Testament to show people that he was there.

- In the story of Noah, the rainbow was a sign of God’s promise never to destroy the whole earth again. *Genesis Chapter 6 verse 9 – Chapter 9 verse 17.*
- Joseph was given visions in his dreams that one day he would be great. *Genesis Chapters 37 and 39 – 47*, or watch “*The Prince of Egypt*” film about the life of Joseph.
- God wanted Moses to go to Pharaoh and ask for him to set free God’s chosen people, who had been enslaved by the Egyptians. Moses was reluctant to do this, and God gave him signs that he was really there and would help Moses (the burning bush, the stick turning into a snake). *Exodus Chapter 3.*
- Later on, Moses was given special power by God to use signs that would force Pharaoh to release the slaves. These were the plagues of Israel. *Exodus Chapters 7 and 8.*

New Testament:

Jesus’ birth, life and death and legacy. During his life, Jesus used signs to show people that he was God’s son. These signs were called **miracles**.

- Read a story about Jesus healing someone. You can find the story of the paralysed man in *Mark Chapter 2 verses 1 – 12 (PCM2)*, or the man with leprosy in *Matthew 8 verses 1 – 4.*
- Show “The Calming of the Storm”. Go to www.request.org.uk and go to main site, select *Bible*, then select *Life and teaching of Jesus*, then *Jesus calms the storm*. The story is short, but contains illustrations.

- Discuss how it would have felt to have actually seen these miracles happen.
- Retell one of the stories using comic strip format.
- Use clips from the film “*The Miracle Maker*” to bring some of these stories to life.

4. The Cross / Crucifix

The **cross** is used in worship in most churches. It is the reminder to Christians of their fundamental belief that by the death of Jesus we are forgiven by God and promised a place in heaven when we die. In dying on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty we deserve for all our sins so we can be united with God, and shows us how much he loves us all.

The **Crucifix** is a common representation of the cross, which generally shows Jesus hanging on the cross in the clothes in which he was crucified. Sometimes, a crucifix may have a sign at the top representing the sign “King of the Jews”, which was placed there by the Roman soldiers.

The figure of Jesus on the cross symbolizes the suffering and pain of his death and the sacrifice he made by giving his life. Many people wear a cross or crucifix as a necklace while others may have one in their home.

An alternative version of the Crucifix is the **Christus Rex**, which means “Christ the King” or “Reigning Christ”. This shows Jesus in royal robes wearing a crown. There is a large Christus Rex hanging over the Nave in Southwell Minster, which is **an important symbol of welcome**. The statue represents the presence of Jesus after he rose from death, alive again as the king of humankind. The arms are outstretched in welcome, the hands and feet have small holes in them; the outline above the head can be seen as both a halo and a crown of thorns.

Suggestions

- From *google images* find as many different styles and shapes of cross as you can. Compare these with the children. www.watton.org/clipart has a whole section of different designs of crosses for you to download.
- Look at the painted cross (**PCM4**) – ideally project onto a large screen. You will find lots of signs and symbols on it, and Jesus is in the centre. This type of cross is common in South America, and people fill it with those things which are important in their lives, showing Jesus and all he stands for in the centre. Discuss the imagery and items included with the children.
- Ask them to design their own, a class one or a school one using **PCM5**.
- You could make a themed cross or crosses by making an enormous one and cutting out news stories from the paper about some of the terrible things happening in the world. This might be a way of representing a prayer that Jesus will be in the centre of these events or with the people who live there.
- Children could take photos or make drawings of themselves to stick all over it to show that Jesus loves them.
- Ask a Christian to come and share their beliefs with the children and ask them what the sign of the cross means to them.

- Find out about palm crosses and Palm Sunday on www.bbc.co.uk/religion
- Follow the instructions to make a palm cross on www.request.org.uk/main/festivals
- Read about Jesus' death in the bible. It can be found in Mark chapter 15 verses 21-41 or watch the crucifixion clip on 'The Miracle Maker'.

5. The Celtic Cross

There are many versions of the **Celtic Cross**, which can be found in **jewellery** and **decoration** as well as in **churches** and **graveyards**. Some Celtic Crosses have very ornate patterns and shapes carved into them. The Celtic Cross is based on a simple cross shape with a circle connecting the four arms of the cross. The **circle was an ancient Celtic symbol of eternity**. The cross in the circle represents the everlasting nature of Jesus who died on a cross. Sometimes the ring is replaced by a crown of thorns. The circle as a symbol of eternity continues to be used during the marriage ceremonies –rings are exchanged as symbols of eternal love.

You will find hundreds of images to study on **google images** if you put in '**Celtic Crosses**'.

- Children could design and colour or paint their own Celtic Cross.

6. Fish Symbol

The shape of a fish is a traditional Christian symbol which has its origins in the early days of the Christian church. The letters in the Greek word for "fish" (ICTHUS) formed the initial letters for the phrase "*Jesus Christ, God's Son Saviour*".

The first believers often had to meet in secret and used signs to communicate with each other. It is thought that the fish sign was one of their symbols. Fish and fishing feature in many stories about Jesus to be found in the Gospels.

The fish badge is commonly used on cars and also worn by Christians as a sign of their belief.

Suggestions

- Discuss badges that show we belong eg: cubs / brownies, school crest.
- Find out about stories of Jesus to do with fish and fishing
- Copy the Greek initials and writing (**PCM6**)
- Make a fish badge out of cardboard
- Ask children to design a secret sign for them to use with their friends.

7. Water

Water is symbolic of the cleansing of sin and the giving of life. Jesus says that he gives ‘living water’ to those who believe.

If we imagine bad things to be like dirt which stick to us, water is used to clean it off. In baptism water is used either to wash a baby’s head, or in the case of adult full immersion to clean the whole body. Jesus

was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, and to Christians baptism symbolizes the beginning of a new life as a member of the church. By being baptized we are washing away all our sins in God’s sight.

The signs of baptism are, traditionally, water, light, the dove and the cross.

See **PCM8** for references to Jesus giving living water.

Suggestions

- Go to www.educhurch.co.uk and you will find a Church of England baptism video clip under *themes*.
- Research the life of Paulinus, Archbishop of York (born 563 – died 644) who baptized people in the Trent during his lifetime. There are images of him to be found in the baptism window at Southwell (**PCM7**). *Have a close look at the photo, and you will see John baptizing Jesus at the top of the window, the holy spirit in the form of a dove, Paulinus in green Bishop’s robes to the left holding the Minster in his left hand, a cross in his left. The Nativity scene is at the bottom.*
- Enlarge the image on a large screen and copy the Latin words – see if the children can find out what they mean.
- Listen with older Key Stage 2 to the **Daniel Bedingfield song “Honest Questions”**. In the verses, God is being asked questions – does he know what we as a race are suffering? Does he really know and understand? In the chorus God’s voice can be heard
“I will pour water down upon a thirsty barren land and streams will flow from the dust of your bruised and broken soul. You will grow like the grass upon the fertile plains of Asia by the streams of living water you will grow...”

Discuss the imagery with the children. What does the song say about people? What does it say about God? How is the symbol of water like God? (See **PCM3(b)** for references in the Bible to water.)

- There is a whole exploration here about why towns and villages are built near water – water gives us life and food and is the basis of our whole lives. Without it we would be dead. What does this tell us about how Christians view their relationship with God? In what way could God be said to be like water or a river.

8. Bread and Wine

The basis of Christianity is that Jesus died in order to forgive our sins and guarantee eternal life through his death on the cross.

At the communion service we celebrate his death and resurrection by eating and drinking together – and the bread represents Jesus' body, the wine his blood which was spilt. Before we share the bread and wine, prayers are said and we remember the events of the Last Supper at which Jesus taught us how to remember him together; he passed around bread and wine, referring to it as his blood and body.

Suggestions

- Jesus said
"I am the bread of life. Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty." John Chapter 6 verse 35.
- Discuss with the children the meaning of these words. Is Jesus talking about literal hunger – food and drink as fuel for the body, or does he mean something else?
- What does this tell us about Jesus and his importance to Christians? (*ie if we rely on bread to keep us alive, then it is likening him to something vital to our existence*).
- Make some bread and discuss the significance of it as the basis of our diet. In past times, bread was the staple food for many people who could not afford more expensive meats. In what ways do Christians believe that Jesus is as important as real food and real drink.
- Look at the colours of bread and of red wine. In what ways could this represent blood and flesh? (*Bread, as skin, comes in all shades of brown and white. Blood is red as represented by the wine.*) Discuss whether or not white wine would be a suitable drink or whether it has to be red.
- Go to www.educhurch.org.uk and select **St Mary's, inside, altar**, and there you will find video clips, comments by church leaders, photos etc. *You can explore this with the children through the projector or they could check it out themselves. It can be a bit tricky to navigate systematically without being diverted into other areas.*
- It would be interesting to explore the interactive section at www.educhurch.org.uk "communion" together as a discussion point. This asks the children to put in order the reasons why Christians might take communion.

PCM 1

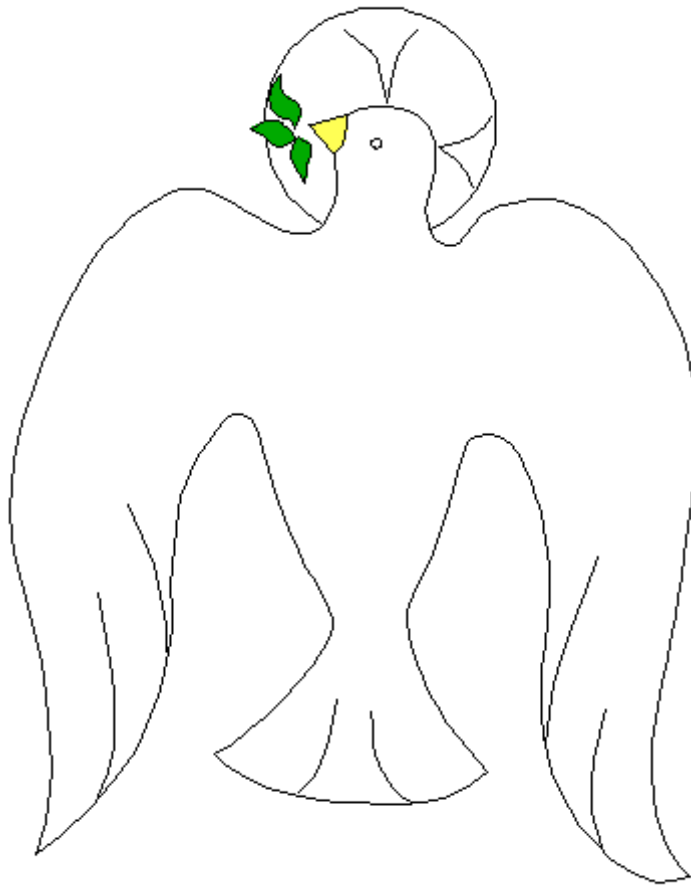
Jesus is Baptised

This story can be found in the bible in Matthew Chapter 3 verses 13 – 17. This is a direct transcript from the "Rainbow Good News Bible."

Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the River Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "and yet you have come to me!"

But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the spirit of God coming down like a dove and alighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear son with whom I am pleased."



PCM 2**Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man**

You can find this story in the Bible in Luke chapter 5 verses 17-26

Jesus spent much of his time teaching people about God, and many people would sit around listening to him as he talked. One day, he was talking with some important people who had come from all over town to listen to him, when there was a disturbance at the back of the room. Some men had walked for miles carrying their friend who was paralysed upon a stretcher. They were wanting to get him to Jesus to heal him, but there was such a big crowd that they were unable to get to the front, and no one was prepared to move aside to let them through – they all wanted to be near to Jesus.

The friends had to think of a different plan. “I know,” said one, “let’s go up onto the roof and see if we can find a way to lower him down to Jesus.”

So they found the steps that went up to the roof (buildings in those days in Nazareth had flat roofs), and climbed all the way up – struggling not to injure their friend on the stretcher. When they got there, it took some time to dislodge the roof tiles and make a hole in the roof wide enough to lower their friend through. They attached ropes to the stretcher and gently lowered him through the hole to where Jesus was sitting.

Jesus saw how much the friends cared for the man, and how much effort they had made to make sure the man saw Jesus. This showed the strength of the faith they had that Jesus could heal their friend. To the friends Jesus said “Because of your faith, your sins are forgiven.”

All the important people were very angry with Jesus, and thought that only God could forgive sins. Some of them did not like Jesus at all, and weren’t sure whether to trust him. By way of reply, Jesus turned to them and said “I will prove to you that I have God’s authority to forgive sins.” Here he turned back to the sick man and said “You are healed. Pick up your bed and walk home with your friends.”

To the amazement of the onlookers, the sick man did as Jesus said. He stood up for the first time in his life, gathered up the stretcher on which he had been carried from his home, and left with his friends telling everyone they met how wonderful Jesus was. As for the important people who had not believed Jesus was God’s son, they left too, also full of praise for him.

PCM3 (a)**The Feeding of the 5000**

This can be found in the bible in all 4 Gospels, Matthew Mark, Luke and John. This is a transcript of the version to be found in Matthew chapter 14, verses 13 – 21 in the Rainbow Good News Version.

This takes place just after the death of John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin.

When Jesus heard the news about John, he left there in a boat and went to a lonely place by himself. The people heard about it, so they left their towns and followed him by land. Jesus got out of the boat, and when he saw the large crowd, his heart was filled with pity for them and he healed those who were ill.

That evening his disciples came to him and said, "It is already very late, and this is a lonely place. Send the people away and let them go to the villages to buy food for themselves."

"They don't have to leave," answered Jesus. "You yourselves give them something to eat!"

"All we have here are five loaves and two fish," they replied.

"Then bring them here to me," Jesus said. He ordered the people to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. Everyone ate and had enough. Then the disciples took up twelve baskets full of what was left over. The number of men who ate was about 5000, not counting the women and the children.

PCM3 (b)**Bible References to Water.**

John Chapter 4, verse 10:

Jesus is at a well with a Samaritan woman. Jesus was a Jew, and Jews and Samaritans traditionally did not mix with each other, and would treat each other with great suspicion. Jesus is breaking a taboo by interacting with her.

"Jesus answered, 'If only you knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life giving water.'"

John Chapter 7, verse 37

"Whoever is thirsty should come to me, and whoever believes in me should drink. As the scripture says, 'streams of life-giving water will pour out from his side.' Jesus said this about the Spirit, which those who believed in him would receive."

Revelation Chapter 7, verse 17

The book of Revelation is a vision of how heaven and earth will be at the end of time.

"...the lamb (*this means Jesus*) who is in the centre of the throne, willguide them to springs of life – giving water."

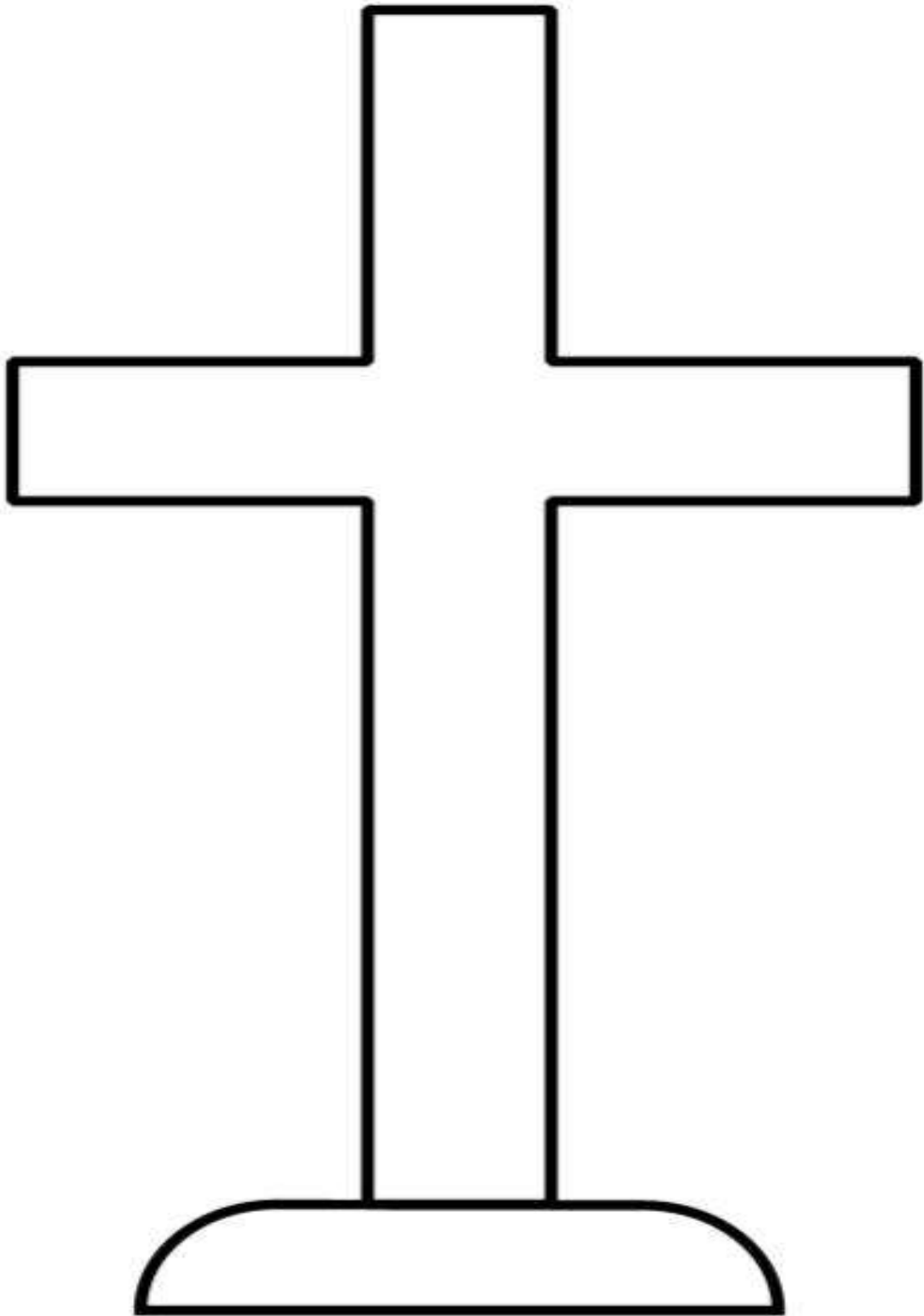
PCM 4

Painted Cross



PCM 5

Blank Cross



PCM 6

Fish Sign (ICTHUS)



PCM 7

The Baptism Window

