

Let's Look ...

CHATTING

Granny's Gift

Show the wrapped gift to the children and prompt them to identify possible reasons for someone to give a gift using these or similar questions:

- Have you ever been given a gift? By whom? What was it? Why did you get it – was there a special occasion?
- Have you ever given a gift to someone? What gift did you give? Why did you give the gift? When might we offer a gift to someone?

Tell the children that the wrapped gift is from a child to their granny. Ask the children to guess what they think might be inside. After they have made some guesses, choose a child to unwrap the gift, and to show that there is nothing inside. Then

ask the children if it is possible that it may be the kind of gift which we just can't see or hold. Explore with the children the kinds of gifts which can't be seen or touched:

- What kinds of gifts could we give to people that can't be bought in a shop, and that can't be wrapped? What gifts can't be seen at all?
- Have you ever given someone a gift that can't be seen? What was it? Why did you give it?

Conclude by explaining that when we offer a gift to someone, it doesn't have to be wrapped, or even visible. It could be a hug, a kiss, a kind act or a kind word. All of these gifts are gifts of love.

Teacher Tip:

In advance, wrap an empty box.

Teacher Tip:

In this discussion, use the term 'gift' rather than 'present' to link with the presentation of gifts during the celebration of Mass. It will also help to weave in the term 'offer a gift' into the discussion, where you can.

PRAYER

Our Father (with actions)

Sign of the Cross

T: There are many gifts that we can offer to people. We can offer our smiles, our kindness, our help and our prayers. God has given us many gifts too. Let's offer our thanks to God for all the wonderful gifts we have been given. For each of these prayers, the response is, 'Thanks be to God'.

C: Thanks be to God.

T: For the gift of our bodies, head to toe (*place hands on head, bend to tip toes*), thanks be to God.

C: Thanks be to God.

T: For the gift of every beat of my heart (*place hands on heart one over the other, move the hand underneath slowly up and down like the beat of the heart*), thanks be to God.

C: Thanks be to God.

T: For the gift of breathing (*place hands under the chin and follow the breath with the hands as it flows out of the mouth*), thanks be to God.

C: Thanks be to God.

T: For the gift of love in everybody (*make a wide open-arm gesture outward towards others*), thanks be to God.

C: Thanks be to God.

T: Let's finish by saying together the prayer that Jesus taught us. We know this prayer already so this time let's add some actions to the first part. You can repeat the words and the actions after me:

Our Father, who art in heaven (*arms crossed over chest*)

Hallowed be thy name (*arms extended, level with chest*)

Thy Kingdom come (*arms extended high above head*)

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (*head bowed, hands together in front*)

Amen.

Sign of the Cross

Teacher Tip:

Pray this part of the *Our Father* with these actions every day this week.