



# Holy Childhood Association

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## **INTERMEDIATE GUIDE for TEACHERS/CATECHISTS (Lent 2022)**

Dear Teachers/Catechists

Welcome to a new calendar year of mission activity with the Holy Childhood Association (HCA). Special greetings to return educators and a warm welcome to newcomers. It is hoped that you find our information about “*Children Helping Children*” rewarding and useful.

At this time of writing, it is difficult to know how things will be in your province when you actually get this publication. Of most concern to us, of course, are the school and parish situations around the country at this time. We want to assure you that the HCA is still as active as ever, in terms of the educational work that we produce for use by Catholic Schools and Parish groups throughout Canada. The only change from the past in the office and production area in Toronto is that materials can be delivered either through the post or online.

Hard copies of all our materials can be ordered, using the order form, and are available free of charge through the post. In addition, Newsletters, Teachers’ Guides, general educational documents and specific Lenten/Advent support materials are available online through the HCA section of our website [missionsocieties.ca](http://missionsocieties.ca). Naturally, some items that are not normal document size, such as mission banks, stickers, prayer cards, membership cards and the poster can only be sent in the mail.

Our mission of “children helping children” is as relevant as ever. Mission countries continue to be negatively affected by COVID 19. Child poverty still exists in many parts of the world. Availability of education and facilities are still lacking for students in many areas. Children in some areas are exploited for their financial or military value. As members of the HCA, we need to continue our efforts to help these children around the world. Your role in guiding the young people under your care in this mission is significant.

Last year, October 24<sup>th</sup> was World Mission Sunday. The theme of this day was: ***We cannot stop speaking about Christ’s words and deeds*** (Acts 4:20)! These words and deeds should be evident in everything we do in our schools and parishes. Find the World Mission Sunday Youth Guide in the Educational Materials section of the HCA section on the Pontifical Missions website. This is a useful resource to share with your students.

Once again, the Season of Lent approaches. In 2022, **Ash Wednesday is on March 2**, with **Easter following on April 17**. This is almost two weeks later than last year, which gives everyone more of a chance to catch their breath after the return from the Christmas season.

### **Holy Childhood Mission Focus**

In this issue, the missionary country of focus is India. This is a very interesting country to study for many reasons: its large geographical area, a huge population, the diversity of culture, religious complexity and conflict, extreme poverty and the many stereotypes that Canadians have about the country. Also, there are many Indians in Canada today: citizens, migrants and students. You have very likely had children from this background in your schools, and certainly many parishes across the country have parishioners of Indian descent.

Many people emigrated from India to escape the widespread poverty that exists in the country. Many have come seeking educational opportunities available to foreign students, this often being the ticket for permanent residency and employment. Also, some people have come to Canada to experience a very different social climate from their homeland.

Today, India is the largest democratic country in the world. It has developed industrially and technologically. It has become a popular tourist destination for Canadians. However, even though India is developing, its sheer size means that there are still issues of poverty and a lack of resources for children. Many of these children are Christians, among them many millions of Catholics. Because of the huge population in the country, this sometimes get overlooked. This month, our Newsletter features some work being done for some of these groups.

For further information on mission activities, we recommend [www.missionsocieties.ca](http://www.missionsocieties.ca) where you can find World Mission TV for inspirational mission stories and lesson plans featuring projects we support around the world. We also suggest that you visit our partners in Australia at [www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au). In addition, you can find videos and information on India by searching You Tube and Google. There are many excellent resources available that are suitable to use with your students.

### **Suggestions for using the Newsletter**

1. Always begin your lesson with the HCA prayer. Each student should have their own prayer card. (Additional cards are available from the National Office.) They can recite the prayer as a group, or have a student lead the prayer. Remind students of why they are members of the HCA.
2. Using a globe, atlas, the internet or all three, find India. Observe its unique geography, especially its shape as a peninsula and its size. Locate its immediate neighbours: China, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh. Also find its near neighbours Sri Lanka and the Maldives, separated from India by ocean. Find the stretch of mountains known as the Himalayas and the most famous peak, Mt Everest, In Nepal. Find Canada and how far away we are. Read together the information provided in the Newsletter and discuss. Resist just giving it to students to read on their own time.
3. Look at the Lent section of the Newsletter. Assist students as they do the Lenten quiz, for which answers are not provided. They may need your help!
4. Refer to the current projects in India. Use the internet to look up the area and find out as much as possible about the people. Use the project information to stimulate the raising of funds for these projects.
5. Look up and watch various You Tube references to India. There are several.
6. Use the Newsletter as stimulus for research projects, as outlined later in this Guide. There are many possibilities.
7. If you live near or among an Indian/Canadian community, or have Indian/Canadian students in your group, find opportunities to mingle with them and get to know them. They may share information with you about life in India. Invite some of them to come to your group to speak with your children.
8. Be inspired by the work of the HCA organisations during Mission Month last October. Take photos and send us feedback on activities from your group.

## **Religious Education Applications**

1. Throughout Lent, say the Mission Prayer daily. Add it to the prayers already said each day within your classroom, school or community. Make use of your prayer table, which usually consists of a candle, a children's version of the Bible, a Rosary and appropriate pictures, photos or other relevant books. Use the colour purple on your table. Purple is a symbol of penance. The Scriptures tell us that a purple garment was placed on Jesus during his passion as an act of mockery.
2. Say the ***Lenten Prayer*** with your students.
3. Ask the students for their understanding of "giving up" things for Lent. What is relevant for them to "give up?" Discuss the positive way of "giving up". What positive things can they do throughout Lent in preparation for Easter?
4. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Encourage participation in the distribution of Ashes either at school or in your parish. Discuss why ashes are used on this day.
5. Discuss how the celebration of Lent and Easter can occur in 2022 given the possibility of unique conditions/restrictions due to COVID 19.
6. Read and discuss the Pope's Lenten message with your children.
7. Download the Lenten Word Searches and Crossword from the web site.
8. Download the Lenten Calendar, found in the Educational Resources section of the website, <http://www.missionsocieties.ca/holy-childhood-association-hca/education-materials>. Follow the calendar daily, or weekly, as appropriate.
9. As Lent is a time for reconciliation, review what students know about the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Encourage students to participate in this sacrament either within the Parish Community or within the school, if it is offered. (Depending on your location and Parish customs, children may or may not have received First Reconciliation. If some have not, your parish priest may be willing to conduct a non-sacramental rite for those individuals).
10. Be sure that your students are familiar with the special days and events of **Holy Week**. Prepare them as appropriate to their age before this special time arrives. Go over the readings and discuss the events that culminate with the Resurrection. Students need to be aware of these in order to attend and participate actively at these unique celebrations.

## **LENTEN ACTIVITIES** (repeated from past issues)

### **Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary Scripture Search**

- During the season of Lent, we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus.
- This is a good time to introduce/review the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary – "scenes" that help us to meditate (reflect) on the Passion of Jesus.
- For directions on how to pray the Rosary, download ***The Missionary Rosary*** brochure from HCA Educational Materials on our website.
- Describe the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and list them on the board:

#### **1. The Agony in the Garden**

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before he dies.

#### **2. The Scourging at the Pillar**

Jesus is lashed with whips.

#### **3. The Crowning With Thorns**

Jesus is mocked and crowned with thorns.

#### **4. The Carrying of the Cross**

Jesus carries the cross that will be used to crucify him.

#### **5. The Crucifixion**

Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies.

- Next, provide the young people with Bibles and arrange them into 4 groups: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- Have each group search through specific chapters of their Gospel to locate the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary:

<b>Sorrowful Mystery</b>	<b>Matthew 26-27</b>	<b>Mark 14-15</b>	<b>Luke 22-23</b>	<b>John 18-19</b>
<b>The Agony in the Garden</b>	Mt 26:36	Mk: 14:32	Lk 22:39	Jn 18:1
<b>The Scourging at the Pillar</b>	Mt 27:26	Mk 15:15	Lk 23:16	Jn 19:1
<b>The Crowning with Thorns</b>	Mt 27:29	Mk 15:17	Lk 23:11 (a crown of thorns is not specifically mentioned)	Jn 19:1
<b>The Carrying of the Cross</b>	Mt 27:31	Mk 15:20	Lk 23:26	Jn 19:17
<b>The Crucifixion</b>	Mt 27:33	Mk 15:22	Lk 23:33	Jn 19:18

(Answers provided for teacher/catechist use)

- Allow sufficient time for them to locate the Scripture passages and then have each group report to the large group, reading their passages aloud.

### **PALM CROSSES**

Children can make Palm Crosses from palms collected on Palm Sunday. There are many instructions on YouTube as to how to make them, so have a quick look.

### **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

India offers many opportunities for research projects for Intermediate students:

- India has had a complicated and turbulent history. There are many possibilities for historical research from ancient periods, colonial times and more recent situations. Since independence in 1947, India has been involved in several significant wars, border disputes and religious conflicts.
- It could be very possible to invite Indian Canadians into your group to talk about Indian culture, religious diversity and past events.
- Students could research economic development since Independence in 1947.
- Attend an Indian restaurant or make Indian dishes at school. Indian food has become very popular
- Students can do a project on India's unique geography, flora and fauna.
- Be a tourist agent and present a unique holiday tour!