

Caroline Haslett Primary School – RE

**Topic: Unit 1 -
Persecution; Saints;
Commitment; Martyr; Faith**

Year 6

**Are saints encouraging
role models?**

Knowledge

In Catholic countries almost every day is named for a saint, and in France people often celebrate their saint's day more than their birthdays.

Many saints have been made in modern times: Mother Teresa and Oscar Romero are examples.

Different denominations of the church will place an emphasis on different saints.

Relics of saints have been kept in churches and revered through the centuries. Some churches have grown around such items and have become places of pilgrimage.

Saint Stephen was the first Christian martyr.

Jesus is not a saint, but the Son of God.

Vocabulary

- **Acts** – the fifth book of the New Testament that tells us how the Christian movement came into being.
- **Faith** – strong belief in a religion, based on spiritual conviction
- **Martyr** – those who were persecuted and then killed for their faith
- **Persecution** – harassing, oppressing, or killing people because of their beliefs
- **Reliquaries** – elaborate containers with items said to belong to a saint
- **Saints** – people who have a special relationship with God and in the Catholic church they have to have miracles associated with them

Activities

- Look at art/photographs depicting saints and other religious believers, particularly any which have been killed for their faith.
- Research some of the early Christian martyrs from the book of Acts.
- Find out about how saints have been revered through the years – look at the issues of pilgrimages, relics, shrines and the Catholic custom of praying to the saints.
- Evaluate the impact of saints: would you want to make anyone a saint? Would you want to be thought of as a saint? Are saints role models or warnings? Do you need to change your views about saints as a result of what you have learned?



Skills

- Describe the beliefs of saints and the influence of these beliefs on behaviour
- Describe the differences between saints and Jesus
- Describe some similarities between the saints of Christianity and of other religions
- Describe impact of faith on the lives of believers, particularly in the face of persecution
- Suggest meaning for reliquaries and compare their use to objects used by other faiths