THE CONCLUDING RITES
D3

YOU WILL NEED
- Basket, Bible, book stand, candle
- Cloth underlay - colour of the season
- White felt cut into four quadrants (RE Online)
- Cards, printed and laminated:
    - Concluding Rites
    - Blessing
- 3D figures
    - 10 people
    - 1 Priest - white material to represent the Alb, with colour of the season to represent the chasuble and the stole

PREPARATION - Invite the children to enter the storytelling space, have them seated in a semicircle, ready to listen to the story. Ensure that all materials are prepared in a gold box and that a Bible is in close proximity, elevated off the floor on a book stand.

TELLING THE STORY - Story is a key part of our faith tradition. Young children, with their capacity for intuitive learning, are particularly able to find meaning through story.

Lay seasonal cloth down. Place the quadrants on top of the underlay to form a circle as in illustration above. Place the peg figures around the circle facing inwards to represent the community gathered. Trace your finger around the circle as you say:
At Mass we gather together as a community of believers. We listen and respond to Sacred Scripture, the Word of God. We celebrate and give thanks to God for his gift of Jesus. We are called to go out to the world and live a Christian life.

Point to each quadrant as you say:
We can look at the Mass as being made up of four parts: The Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rites.

Hold 'Introductory Rites' as you say:
The first part, called the Introductory Rites, gathers us together into the community that is the body of Christ.

Place 'Introductory Rites' in quadrant 1. Show 'Liturgy of the Word' as you say:
The second part is called the Liturgy of the Word.

Place 'Liturgy of the Word' in quadrant 2. Hold up the Bible as you say:
During the Liturgy of the Word we listen to the Scriptures, the Word of God.

Place the open Bible in quadrant 2. Show 'Liturgy of the Eucharist' as you say:
The third part is called the Liturgy of the Eucharist. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist we remember what Jesus said and did during the Last Supper. We give thanks to God and we receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

Place 'Liturgy of the Eucharist' in quadrant 3. Hold 'Concluding Rites' as you say:
The Concluding Rites bring the Mass to an end.

Place 'Concluding Rites' in quadrant 4. Hold 'Blessing' in one hand and make the sign of blessing that the priest makes with the right hand as you say:
The priest blesses us in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Place 'Blessing' in quadrant 4 below 'Concluding Rites'. Turn the figures out toward the students as you say:
The priest sends us out to take Christ into our world. The priest says, "Go forth, the Mass is ended." And we say, "Thanks be to God."

WONDERING - Following the story, "I wonder" statements engage children with the story and invite reflection. Wondering together teaches the art of dialogue, of listening to others, accepting and learning from others' ideas and contributions.

Sit back, pause for a moment, look up at students, and then wonder about the story together.

I wonder…

- which part of the Mass you like best
- in which part/s of the Mass you feel close to Jesus
- how we can take Christ into our world
- why the Mass is so important for Catholics

Carefully pack the story materials back into your basket. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away should they choose to engage with the story during exploring.

EXPLORING - Provide an opportunity for individual/small group exploration in order to respond to the story. This provides students with time to focus on and explore the story or aspects of it, which have significance for them. For this reason, students choose from a variety of material and types of work. This is an opportunity for students to respond to what they have heard in whatever way they choose, it should be seen as an prayerful opportunity for dialogue between the student and God.

PRAYER - Conclude the session with prayer. Children come closer to God through the experience of prayer. Teachers help students to pray by praying with them, providing a variety of prayer experiences. These may include laying of hands over students' works, spontaneous prayer, prayer related to the Scripture, prayers found in KWL, informal or formal prayers, or a hymn.

Carefully pack story materials back into your basket. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away and where to find them.