**LEARNING FOCUS 1:** The People Gather and the Introductory Rite..

**CONTENT | WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT**

Use *Church’s Story 3* page 54.

On Sunday, people of the parish family come together to share the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Young and old, adult and children they gather. Welcomers greet the people as they come into the church and give them the books they need. The musicians get their music ready. The altar servers are preparing and the priest puts on his vestments. The

time comes to begin. Usually someone rings a bell and everyone stands up and sings the Gathering Hymn. The servers come in, followed by the priest.

The priest and people make the Sign of the Cross as the priest says, ‘In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen’. He welcomes the parish family using the words: *‘The Lord be with you.’* Everyone replies, *‘And with your spirit.’* Paul used these words when he was greeting the early Christian communities in his letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 4: 22). He asks Timothy to send his greetings to the Christians Timothy is in contact with and he says:

*‘The Lord be with your spirit. God’s grace be with you all.’*

**Teaching point**

*Rite* means the action of God’s people, ceremony or act.

**SOME KEY QUESTIONS**

* Why does the Catholic Christian community (family) come together on a Sunday?
* Describe some of the ways the community prepares for the Mass?
* What happens during the gathering?
* What do you think the words Paul used to greet the early Christian community mean?

**SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES | ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY**

* Role-play the liturgical elements of the gathering:

Procession, the Sign of the Cross and welcome. Record it some way and include a commentary to describe and explain what is happening.