



# What does it feel like to be in collective worship?

Faith in the Nexus - Animation & Discussion on Collective Worship & Church  
Questions for discussion for children, parents, schools & churches

## How to watch and discuss

When you use this animation as a stimulus for discussion, be aware that there are opportunities for people to disclose in a personal way that may require some care and sensitivity. How you introduce the animation will depend on your gauging how well the group knows each other and the extent to which they are likely to trust each other.

Watch the animation first (in class, as a group of parents, in a school INSET session or church group) without any comment. Then watch it again, asking the group to note down the children's words that seem particularly important to them. You may suggest they first make a word cloud on their own, or, if you do the exercise as a group, a mind map may help explore the deeper meanings of the words in a free discussion. Use the following questions to explore these words.

For each group, a pair of Year 5/6 children's quotes from the animation introduces the topic, followed by questions (or a task) relevant to each of the audiences - children, parents & school/church.

Scan or tap to watch  
the animation  
[bit.ly/nexus-003](https://bit.ly/nexus-003)



## 1. What does it feel like to be in collective worship?

*"So, we started a new thing during assembly that when we say our school prayer, we put our hands out and the people next to you put their hand on top and it shows that we are all praying together."*

*"I think the way we've said our Amens have changed because our normal Amen like just the old boring Amen is like, "oh yes just get on with day. I don't really care." But now, since we've said Amen energetically it's like, "Yes I really agree with that" and "that this prayer means something to me and to everyone."*

## Children

- a. What's the difference between worship in assembly and praying on your own?
- b. Which kind of praying do you prefer? Can you say why?

## Parents

- a. Children here like worship in the formal setting of an assembly. Why, do you think?
- b. How could the children's comments about collective worship influence the way you pray together at home?

## School/Church

### Individual teachers/support staff

- a. Assembly worship seems to encourage children to be reflective. To what extent does reflection form a part of learning in class and school culture in general?
- b. How do you ensure that worship in assembly includes everyone?

### School & Church leaders

- c. How does pupil voice influence the style of worship in your school or the celebration of Mass in your parish?

## 2. What does it feel like to be in Church?

*"Church at Mass I prefer because it gives some time to think and in school there's lots of stuff going on and in church it's just nice and peaceful place to go."*

*"My favourite thing of looking in church is when Jesus died on the cross to tell you how he gave us our lives."*

## Children

- a. What does it feel like for you when you go to Mass?
- b. When sitting in church, what do you like to look at and wonder about?

## Parents

- a. To what extent do we as parents give our children opportunities to experience the stillness they appreciate when they're in church?
- b. How often do our children get the chance to just be still and think or reflect?

## School

- a. To what extent do we give our children opportunities in school to experience the stillness they appreciate when they're in church?

### Finally: What Next?

How might you use this animation and discussion to change, improve, adapt, or strengthen what you currently do in class and school, at home and in church?

*Authored by Mr Nick Taunt 2024*

