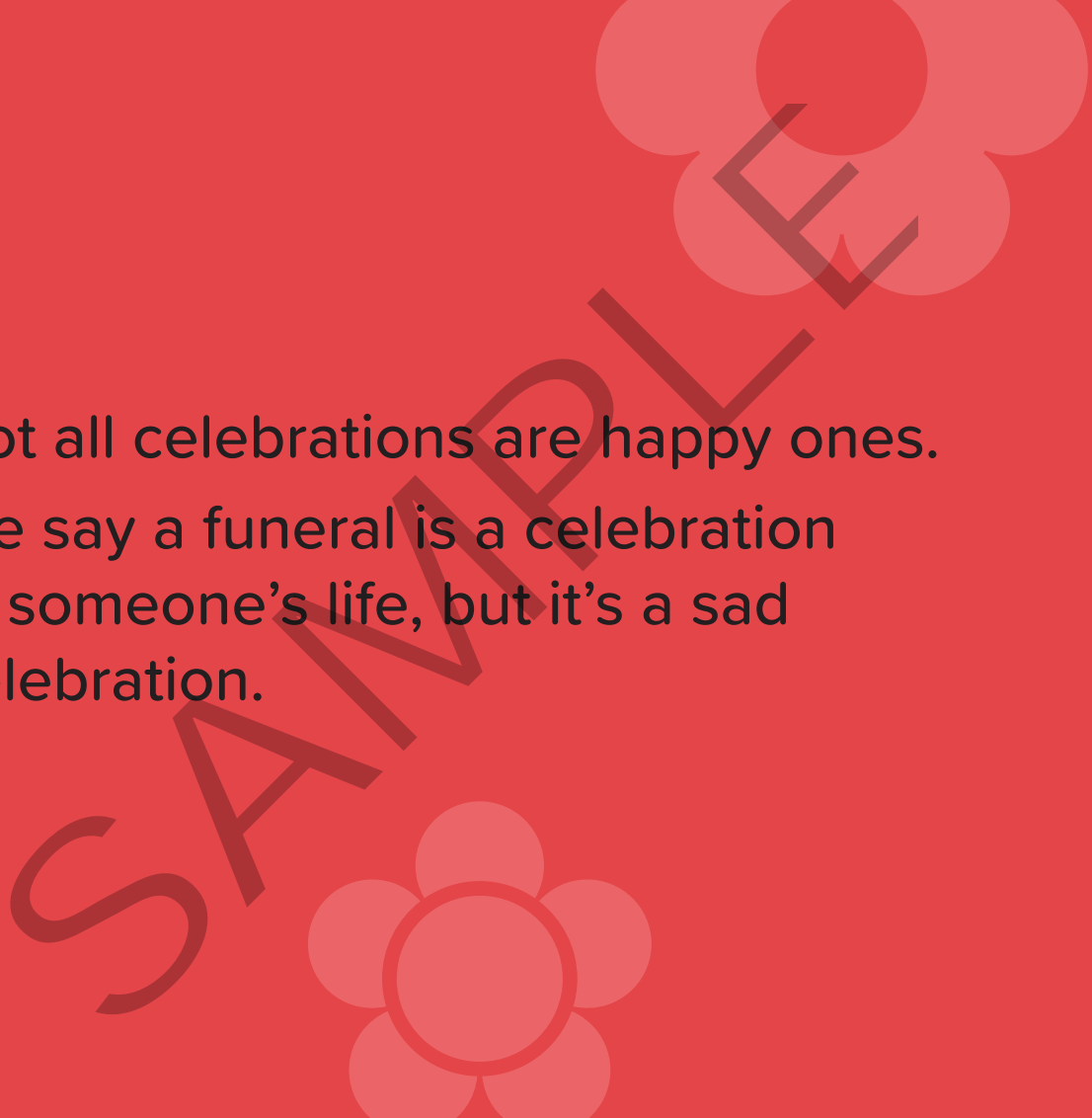


Not all celebrations are happy ones.  
We say a funeral is a celebration  
of someone's life, but it's a sad  
celebration.





# Notes for Teachers

## Overview

The sacramental experience begins in our lived experience. "God comes to us disguised as our life," writes Richard Rohr.

Each of the sacraments is a ritualised celebration of God's presence and action at significant times in our lives, whether these be single experiences (Baptism) or repeated experiences that occur again and again (Reconciliation, Eucharist).

Sacraments are not 'holy magic'; they are rituals and ceremonies that make visible what's invisible, helping us to see and experience the reality of God-with-us.

## Learning outcomes

- 1 Recognise the use of various symbols used for realities we cannot see.
- 2 Understand that the word 'celebration' has many different meanings, not only that of a party celebration.
- 3 Link aspects of the children's lived experience with Church rituals (welcoming a new baby – Baptism; marriage).

## Children's experience

- Explore the word 'celebration' (celebrate, celebrating) to ensure the children know what it means.
- List the sorts of celebrations they have experienced and are familiar with.
- Talk about the different signs, symbols and actions used in celebrations – candles, water, oil, handshakes, rings, crowns, football mascots, etc.
- Explore the sorts of things we do at celebrations – singing, dancing, gift-giving and eating and drinking special foods and drinks.
- Talk with the children about family celebrations and Church family celebrations and what each is celebrating.
- Ask children, "What are these celebrations helping us to see?"
- Work with the children to write and use prayers that celebrate specific occasions.