

LEARNING FOCUS 4: The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during Mass.

CONTENT

The Church names two Sacraments as *Sacraments of Healing*; the Sacrament of Reconciliation and of the Anointing of the Sick. They are not healing in the sense of making a person physically better, but spiritual healing, or helping them feel closer to God and better in themselves. Read *Church's Story 3* pages 70-71 and consider the actions, words and symbols.

In some parishes there may be an Anointing of the Sick at a special Mass for people of the parish who have need of the Sacrament. Family and friends, as well as members of the parish family, will be there supporting those who are sick and praying for them. If it is possible, ask your local priest to come and talk to the children about the Sacrament and bring the holy oil with him. Use the key questions below and prepare some of your own which explore the meaning and purpose of the Sacrament.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q In what way does the Anointing of the Sick heal a person?
- Q What is important about a person being anointed at a gathering of the parish family?
- Q Why do you think the hands and forehead of the person are anointed?
- Q What words of comfort and hope did you notice in the prayers?

Activity

Create a get-well card for a person who is sick using appropriate symbols. Inside it give reasons why the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may help them and bring them comfort.