

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER



CELEBRATING LENT IN WORSHIP

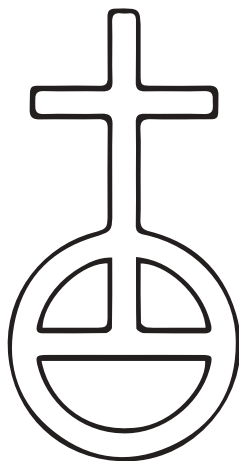
CROSS EXPLANATIONS

Prepare and display the following crosses in your worship space during Lent and introduce the uses of the different styles of each one during the five Sundays of Lent.

You could simply cut them out of coloured card or maybe you have someone in your congregation who is handy with wood who could make a sturdier version for display.

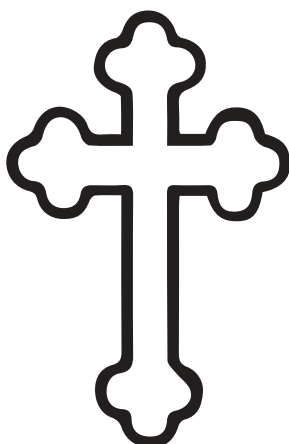
Ask: Where can you see crosses around you?

Point out the different crosses at the front of the church and the ones displayed around the church. Let them know that they will learn about a different cross on each of the Sundays of Lent.



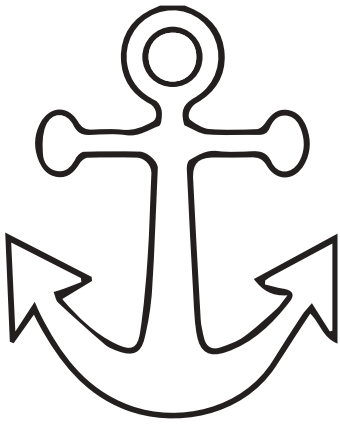
CROSS OF TRIUMPH

Also called the Cross and the Orb. The Orb, or circle represents the earth. The cross represents the triumph of Christ over the sin of the world. It also represents the spread of the Gospel throughout the world on Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem like a triumphant King.



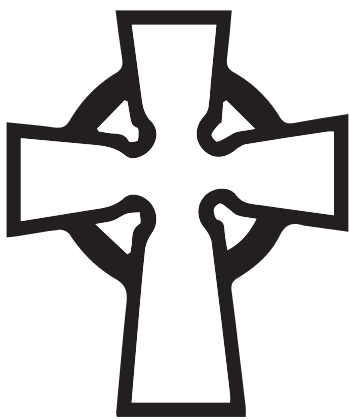
BUDEDDED CROSS

Characterised by a cluster of three balls at the end of each arm, symbolising the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit — the Budded Cross symbolises the young Christian, and is often used as a processional cross (attached to a pole so that it can be carried). Invite the congregation to look for Budded Crosses in the church. Maybe on the windows or altar?



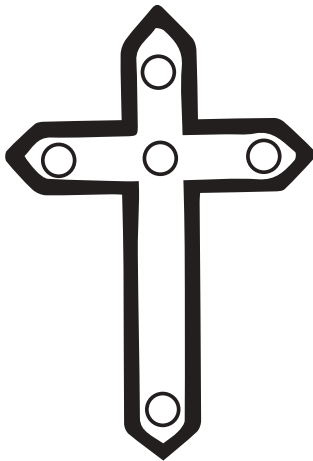
ANCHOR CROSS

Thought to be one of the earliest Christian symbols, along with the fish. The anchor was used as a way for Christians to identify other Christians during times of persecution when they had to hold worship services in secret. It symbolises the hope Christians have in Jesus' life, death and resurrection.



CELTIC CROSS

Named after people who lived a long time ago in the country we know as Ireland. The first Christian missionaries engraved this cross into stone slabs previously used for non-Christian worship. The circle with the cross symbolises eternal life, in other words, the belief in life after death through Jesus' death and resurrection. The most common use of this cross is in cemeteries on headstones.



PASSION CROSS

Also called the Cross of Suffering. The five circles represent the five wounds of Christ, on his hands, his feet and his side. The holes in the cross also bring into sharp focus the suffering of Jesus for us.

