

# Aid to the Church in Need: Notes for Teachers

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## Literacy and Lebanon: Resource for Years 6-9








This resource can be used as an assembly, during a lesson or as a chaplaincy or parish group activity.

**Time:** Lesson or chaplaincy group activity: 50 minutes  
Assembly: 25 minutes (without the infographic)

### Aim:

For pupils to recognise and give thanks for the gift of literacy and to understand that millions of people do not have access to education. To show the work of Aid to the Church in Need in Lebanon supporting whole communities through its school projects. We hope that pupils will be inspired to pray and fundraise for the people of Lebanon after this activity.

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-  Starter presentation
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-  Infographic
-  Video: ACN UK National Director, Dr Caroline Hull
-  RED References

### Starter Presentation 5 minutes

Explain before showing the presentation that you would like the pupils to read the slides and respond. The decision part of the activity should be in silence – (you may want to ask some to share the reason why they chose 'A' or 'B') but you will not speak and they should not either.

*Lesson:* To answer 'A' or 'B' pupil can move to a designated side of the room to express their answer non-verbally

*Assembly:* An alternative like left hand up for 'A', right hand up for 'B'.

The answer at the end is World Literacy Day (8th of September).

## Literacy in Lebanon Resources:

RECD Link:	Statement:
7.1	Equality and justice
7.3	The corporal works of mercy are ways Catholics can help marginalised people
R7.3.1	Consider how they respond to those they encounter on the margins
8.1	Ethical issues arising from what love of neighbour requires in a contemporary context
R8.3.3	Reflect on the ways they pray and the titles they use in addressing their prayers to God
8.4	Does good always come from suffering?
R8.4.1	Consider how they can alleviate the suffering of others
U8.4.13	Describe how and explain why Christians should actively respond to alleviate the suffering of others
9.1	Ethical issues connected with the communal dimension of the moral life, e.g., freedom of religion/limits of freedom
9.2	Pupils will know the Church teaches Marian prayers, for example the Hail Mary
9.3	Issues arising from tensions between citizenship of this world vs. citizenship of God's Kingdom e.g., unjust laws
U9.5.16	Recognise examples of Catholic prayers

## Discussion Presentation (15-30 minutes depending on amount of time given for discussion)

### Slide 1:

Welcome to September.

Show slides 1-3 relatively swiftly.

Script: Welcome back to school. Do you have any new term resolutions? Are they going well?

**Slide 2:**

Script: Churches in England and Wales believe that education is so important, they have a whole Sunday dedicated to it. It's called Education Sunday. This year it is/was on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September - just after the new academic year starts in England and Wales, but a little later for Scotland. The theme for 2023 is 'The Armour of Light' taken from Ephesians 1:17-18 ([Education Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk))

*May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him.*

*May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit..." Jerusalem Bible*

**Slide 3:**

Title: International Literacy Day.

Script: International Literacy Day is also at the beginning of September. Since 1967, International Literacy Day (ILD) celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society. [International Literacy Day | UNESCO](https://www.unesco.org/en/literacy-day)

**Slide 4:**

The answer is that literacy is a "basic human right".

**Slide 5:**

It is thought that around 750 million people cannot read or write.

**Slide 6:**

Why does literacy matter to...? The images in the circles refer to:

A country

You, the individual

The community

The world

**Slide 7:**

Optional time of reflection/silence/prayer giving thanks for the gift of literacy, or this could be left until the end.

**Slide 8:**

Discussion – questions on slide.

**Slide 9:**

A map to show where Lebanon is.

**Slide 10:**

Video

Explain that ACN is a Catholic charity which works to help millions of people in need across the world. ACN cares for, spiritual, and material well-being in collaboration with the local churches. This way, ACN has direct communication with those we fundraise for and helps Christians, many of whom do not have access to any other help or services. Once funds are given all members of the community benefits – including people of all faiths and none. ACN is dedicated to prayer as well as fundraising as prayer has the power to change things.

After the video you can explain to them that Fr Raymond is a real person.

**Slide 11:**

These discussion questions are intended to enable your pupils to think about the situation in Lebanon. Hospitals are also mentioned because without healthcare a country cannot survive

**Slide 12:**

Fr Raymond with one of the pupils. It also shows the Lebanon Infographic so you can see that this is next.

**Slide 13:**

Demonstrates the faith of Fr Raymond and his pupils. The power of prayer is very much at the centre of the lives of those helped by ACN. This will give your pupils the opportunity to think about their relationship with God.

**Slide 14:**

Ask pupils to consider how they might help the children in Lebanon. ACN has 100s projects in Lebanon and donations from schools enable the charity to help the people in need.

**Slide 15:**

ACN logo.

**Infographic (5- 15 minutes)**

*Lesson:* Pupils read the infographic in pairs and pick out the three examples of ACN's work in Lebanon which they find most important. Discuss and plan ways they could help.

*Assembly:* Pick out some of the information and readers.

After using this resource you may want to:

Organise a Literacy Day in honour of Lebanon

Promote ACN's Advent Campaign (Lebanon is one of the countries being helped this Advent).

**Further Information:**

Prayers for Education Sunday: [Prayers-for-Teachers-and-Learners-2023.pdf \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/Prayers-for-Teachers-and-Learners-2023.pdf)

**Lebanon: A humanitarian disaster... in slow motion**

In recent years, corruption, political stagnation and economic collapse have created a perfect storm — culminating in the devastating explosion in Beirut's port (4th August 2020). Lebanon was further affected by the earthquake.

**Lebanon Today: Facts & Figures**

According to the World Bank, Lebanon's current inflation rates are the highest in the world, surpassing even those of Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

The Lebanese pound has lost 90% of its value since 2019. Consumer goods prices have quadrupled in recent years.

70% of Lebanon's citizens now live below the poverty line; among refugees this rises to 90%.

Christians once made up around two-thirds of Lebanon's population; now Christians account for only around 35%. Most Lebanese applying to emigrate are Christians.

***"We are witnessing a humanitarian disaster in slow motion."***

Maronite Archbishop Hanna Rahmé of Baalbek – Deir El Ahmar.