



## Getting started

1. **How do you celebrate your birthday?** What things do you do for your birthday?
2. **Is it only people who have birthdays?**
3. **What is an anniversary?**  
(The word anniversary has its origins in two Latin words: *annus* which means year, and *versus* which means turning. The Latin word *anniversarius* means returning yearly). So an anniversary is the annual return of a date in the year marking or celebrating something. Can you think of some anniversaries? (e.g. weddings, historical events, or significant moments in our lives).
4. **Have you heard of St Fin Barre's Cathedral in Cork? Where is it? What is it? What do you know about it?**
5. **What is a cathedral? What is the difference between a church and a cathedral?** (A cathedral is the principal church in an area known as a diocese which contains the bishop's seat. The Latin word for that seat is *cathedra*. The principle is that only a bishop makes a cathedral. Cathedrals can be big or small. They are not all big.)
6. **Have you ever been in a cathedral? Where and which one? What other cathedrals are in Cork, Cloyne and Ross?**  
(St Colman, Cloyne, St Fachtna, Rosscarbery). **What other Christian denominations have cathedrals and bishops? Find out what the other cathedrals are near you.**
7. **Have you been in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork? Why did you go there? Was it a special event? What else did you see there? What was it like?**
8. **Who was St Fin Barre?** What different spellings of that word have you seen or heard? What other places and things in Cork have you heard of that are named using one of the spellings of Fin Barre? (the name Fin Barre means "fair-headed").

*The reason we are talking about all these things is because 30th November 2020 - this year - is the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.*

*Now there is a hard word: consecration.*

### **What does that mean?**

Consecration is a celebration or a solemn ceremony when the bishop prays that someone, somewhere or something is made sacred (to be used for a holy purpose). The person, place or thing is used to do God's work.