

# St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



## The Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

“NEVER SEE A NEED WITHOUT DOING  
SOMETHING ABOUT IT”

‘Believe in the whisperings of God to your own heart’ *Mary MacKillop*

Welcome to Term 3! It is shaping up to be quite a busy term.

We firstly celebrate the feast of Australia's patron saint, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We are at a time in our world where we need to really think about what is going on around us and how we can respond, as Mary MacKillop did by saying 'never see a need without doing something about it'. I think this applies to not only our school community, but the wider community. We see a lot happening around the world on TV, in newspapers and online. We, as Catholics, need to think about how we can respond. It doesn't always necessarily have to be monetary or physical, it can also be through prayer. Prayer can be a powerful response that each and everyone one of us can do. We can follow in the footsteps of our school's patron saint, Saint Monica, and believe in the power of persistent prayer.

At St Monica's, we are praying the Peace Prayer of St Francis with our students each day. As a school, we pray for peace for people in our world who are living in terror. We pray for hope for people in our world who are living in starvation. And, we pray for love, so that all people around our world are treated equally, no matter of your race, colour, gender, beliefs or customs. The St Francis prayer is included on page 4. Please take the time to talk to your child about peace and pray this prayer together.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome into this role for Term 2:

- Brendan Pospischil
- Brandan Lukic
- Chanel Azar
- Brooke Emphield
- Mohan Govender
- Daryll Hilario

I look forward to working with all the Year 6 leaders and having their assistance when planning and celebrating school liturgies and masses.

In this issue of the RE newsletter I have outlined the Sharing our Story Units that will be taught in Term 3 in each stage, the liturgies and masses, the sacramental details and other important information relating to Religious Education.

I look forward to continuing our partnership this term. If you have feedback, suggestions or an article or photo that you think would be perfect for our RE Newsletter, I would love to hear from you.

Peace and love,  
**Michelle Rosewell**  
Religious Education Coordinator

## Early Stage One

### Unit #1: A Community that celebrates God's Love

Students will *identify* times when they join with their Church family to celebrate, *locate* and *explain* the use or purpose of key features of the parish church, *describe* some of the key tasks involved in the ministry of the parish priest(s) and *list* some of the major ways in which parishioners serve and support others in the parish.

## Stage 1

### Unit #1: Baptism

Students will *discuss* some of the ways in which children are welcomed into and shown that they belong to families and groups such as sporting teams and youth organisations, *explain* the meaning of Baptism as a special celebration where we are welcomed into God's family, *compare* and *contrast* the story of the Baptism of Jesus with accounts of their own Baptism, *name* key rituals and symbols associated with Baptism and *describe* ways they can help other people feel special and that they belong.

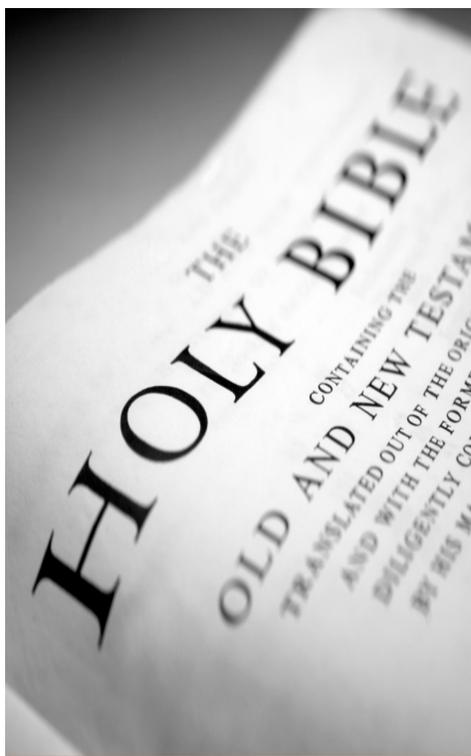
### Unit #2: Senses: A Gift from God

Students will *appreciate* that their senses are a gift from God, *express* using a variety of mediums, thankfulness to God for the many gifts we experience through our senses, *retell* a Scripture story which tells how Jesus healed others and *participate* in a liturgy which involves use of all the senses.

## Stage 2

### Unit #1: Caring for God's Wondrous Creation (Year 3)

Students will *recognise* and *appreciate* the beauty and wonder of God's creation, *grow in awareness* of the need to care and take responsibility for God's creation and *compose* psalms of praise in which they celebrate and give thanks for God's creation.



### Unit #1: God's Forgiveness and Healing (Year 4) - RLA

Students will *appreciate* that sometimes in relationships there is hurt which requires healing and forgiveness, *retell* stories of forgiveness and healing in the New Testament, *explain* and *relate* to their own lives The Parable of the Forgiving Father and *recall* the ways in which the Church helps them to forgive and to be forgiven, and gives , peace and courage to those who are ill, suffering or frail through old age.

### Unit #2: Mary: A Woman of Faith

Students will *recall* the key events in the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, *identify* how Mary listened and responded to God's call throughout her life, *express* an understanding of Mary as a faithful disciple, filled with the Holy Spirit and *research* and *experience* Marian devotions.



## Sharing Our Story

Sharing Our Story is the document used in The Diocese of Parramatta to guide the teaching of Religious Education in our Catholic schools. The units explore Bible scripture, Jesus' mission, sacraments and Church teaching. Each Stage works with material that is relevant to the needs of its learners, using resources that engage and support understanding and connect students with the core learning of Catholic Faith.

## Stage 3

### Unit #1: Faith Communities in my Local Area

Students will *identify* and research selected Christian churches in the local area, *recall* key facts about the beliefs and communal life of the Anglican and Uniting Churches, *describe* similarities and differences between the worship and ministries of the Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Churches and *list* some of the ways in which Christians seek the unity Jesus prayed for.

### Unit #2: Living the Message of Jesus

Students will *recognise* that we are responsible for the decisions we make and their consequences, *identify* and *evaluate* the ways in which people influence our decision making, *interpret* and *apply* Scripture stories which challenge us to live Christian lives and *appreciate* the different ways in which Christians can lead and serve others. The richness of the various cultural expressions and rites of Catholicism that make up the Catholic Church in Australia.

## 2016 Formation Goal:

For all students to have a deeper understanding of Sacred Scripture (with a focus on the Gospel of Luke) and its application to Catholic life.



A SPOTLIGHT ON...

Mr Tyszkiewicz

On Monday 18th July, the staff at St Monica's attended a reflection day at the Shrine of Holy Innocents in Kellyville. The focus of our reflection day was on the Year of Mercy and we spent time in reflecting on how we are advocates for Mercy and what we do in our practice as educators to promote this. This was an excellent opportunity to escape from our everyday busy lives and really sit and reflect on our practice and pedagogy as educators and our personal ethos that are present in our communication and relationships that we have with the staff, students and community of St Monica's.

Throughout our reflection, some keywords that continuously stood out in our reflections and conversations included humanity, love, selflessness, tolerance, understanding, happiness and charity. Things that at times can be easily forgotten but when given the time to reflect, we recognise how we are doing this and where.

As adults, a time to reflect is hard to come by. Our lives are forever busy with work, sport, children, family and schooling. That is but few. But it is important that we sit down and think about our lives and whether we really promote Mercy in our thoughts and actions. The students we teach, your children, will one day be in ours and your shoes. Take time to reflect. Think about how we practice Mercy and what we can do to further promote and nurture this in our lives with our students and children.



## 2016 Sacramental Program

The **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** will be held on the weekend of 27 and 28 August.

If your child has received the *Sacrament of Baptism* and is in Year 3 or above he/she is eligible to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November @ 7pm**

**Registration** after Mass will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August @ 5pm Mass and Sunday 21<sup>th</sup> August @ 9am Mass. Bring a copy of Baptismal Certificate and a donation of \$30

**Parent Only Meeting** in School Community Room on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September @ 7:00pm.

### Sacramental Dates for 2016

- Communion: Weekend 27/28 August
- Reconciliation: Friday 18 November @ 7:00pm

## Holy Year of Mercy

During this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we have been focusing on a different aspect of the Corporal Works of Mercy each month. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions that we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need. In June, we focused on *give drink to the thirsty*. As a school response to the action, we collected soup, noodles and biscuits to donate to the refugee support centre at Aruppe House, OLMC.



Thank you to all the families who donated.

The Corporal Works of Mercy include:

- Feed the hungry (May)
- Give drink to the thirsty (June)
- Clothe the naked (July)
- **Shelter the homeless (August)**
- Visit the sick (September)
- Visit the imprisoned (October)
- Bury the dead (November)

Our response to our July Mercy Work *Clothe the Naked* will be a 'blue' muffin day for a donation. This will be held on Friday 26 August. All monies will be donated to Aruppe Place at OLMC. In August our focus on *Shelter the Homeless* will involve the students in each class making posters to convince people why we should shelter the homeless. These will be on display in the Mercy hallway.

# Term 3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 3, 2016. There is always an open invitation for you to join us in prayer. We hope that you might take up the opportunity to attend Mass with your child's class during the Term.

Week	Date	Event	Who's Involved
<b>Week 3</b>	Friday 5 August	Mass of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, 9:15am	Whole School
<b>Week 4</b>	Wednesday 10 August	Stage 3 Parish Mass, 9:15am	Stage 3
<b>Week 5</b>	Monday 15 August	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Primary – Mass, 9:15am Infants – Liturgy (in Y1, 9:15am)	Whole School
	Thursday 18 August	Year 4 Reconciliation	Year 4
	Saturday 20 August	Rehearsal for Holy Communion, 3:00pm	Holy Communion Participants
	Saturday 20 August & Sunday 21 August	Registration for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, 5:00pm mass and 9:00am mass	
<b>Week 6</b>	Monday 22 August	RLA Online Test Commences	Years 4 & 6
	Thursday 25 August	ES1 Parish Mass, 9:15am	ES1
	Friday 26 August	Mass of St Monica, 9:15am	Whole School
	Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 August	Sacrament of First Holy Communion	Holy Communion Participants
<b>Week 7</b>	Thursday 1 September	Stage 3 Parish Mass, 9:15am	Stage 3
	Friday 2 September	Fathers Day Liturgy, 9:00am in hall	Whole School
<b>Week 8</b>	Wednesday 7 September	Stage 2 Parish Mass, 9:15am	Stage 2
	Thursday 8 September	Stage 1 Parish Mass, 9:15am	Stage 1
<b>Week 9</b>	Thursday 15 September	ES1 Parish Mass, 9:15am	ES1

## *St Francis Peace Prayer*

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.