

St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 10 February

Ash Wednesday is an important day in the Church liturgical calendar. It marks the first day of Lent, the beginning of a period where we take time to pray, almsgiving and make promises to Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, Father Fernando placed a cross made from ashes on our foreheads. This cross reminds us that we need to try to be more like Jesus.

Welcome to 2016

Welcome to 2016. We hope you have had a restful break with your families, and you are ready for the new year.

On Sunday 7 February, we celebrated our Welcoming Mass, where we welcomed all our Kindergarten and new students. We also inducted our new Year 6 leaders and presented them with their leadership badges. It was great to see so many families at mass. Thank you to all the families who attended mass on Sunday. It was fantastic to see so many students.

We have had a very busy start to the year already. We celebrated Ash Wednesday with mass for primary and a liturgy for infants. Father Fernando spoke in his homily about the importance of 'growing' during lent, and taking time to do something extra.

This could be something that you work on with your children at home as a family. Consider the questions:

- What does almsgiving mean to you?
- What can you do for others?
- How can you help in our local community?

Reflect on these and discuss these questions at home. Each student has received a Lenten calendar from Father Fernando. Every day the children can reflect on their day and record any kind deed that they have done for someone else.

This year, our Christ-centred leaders will continue to be rotated throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome into this role for Term 1:

- Joshua Albayeh
- Marcus Trimbounas

- Erica Crame
- Natasha Muttoo
- Patrick Crowle
- Josue Heydari

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 outlined the Sharing our Story Units that will be taught in Term 1 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 year. Please feel free to see me if you have any suggestions or questions about the Religious Education Program at St Monica's.

Peace and love,
Michelle Rosewell
Religious Education Coordinator

Early Stage 1:

Unit #1: God Loves Me

Students will *identify* special God-given qualities that make them unique, *describe and critically reflect* upon ways in which feelings are expressed, *recognise and appreciate* that God always loves them and *identify* ways in which they can show their love for their family and friends.

Unit #2: Lent: From Ashes to Easter

Students will *identify* Ash Wednesday as a special day which is the first day of Lent, *recall* the story of the first Palm Sunday, *recognise* special signs and symbols of Lent/ Easter and their relevance to the life of Jesus and *develop an awareness and appreciation* of Lent/Easter through participation in activities and celebrations of other classes and/or the whole school.

Stage 1:

Unit #1: Jesus Our Friend

Students will *name* the qualities of a good friend, *identify* ways in which they could make others feel special, *recall* Scripture stories which reveal the qualities of Jesus' friendship, *create* a prayer of thanks to Jesus and *appreciate* that when they care for others they are reflecting and responding to the love of Jesus.

Unit #2: Growing Together

Students will *explain* how they are growing and changing, *state* that Lent is a special time to grow and change as we get ready for Easter, *explain* how Jesus helped others to change into better people and *describe* how they can help others during Lent.

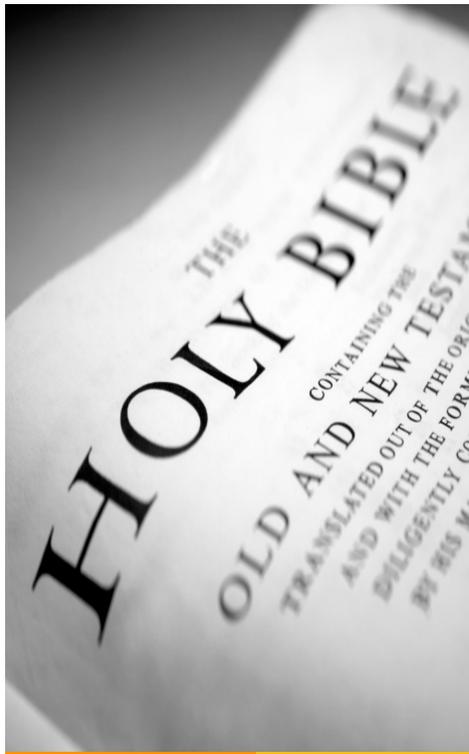
Unit #3: Easter Triduum: The Last Supper

Students will *explain* why they like sharing meals with their families, *sequence* the key events of Holy Week and *dramatise* or represent artistically Jesus celebrating the Last Supper with His disciples.

Stage 2:

Unit #1: Jesus Shares His Gifts

Students will *identify* ways in which people use their gifts to serve others in their family, school, parish and community, *describe* how Jesus used his special gifts to serve others, *explain* why God gives different people different gifts and *affirm* the gifts of others and suggest ways in which they can use their gifts to serve others.



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.

Unit #2: Lent: Reaching Out

Students will *explain* how the celebration of Lent provides opportunities for personal growth in faith and challenges us to reach out to others, *recall* stories in which Jesus reached out to others in loving service and *formulate* a plan of action aimed at reaching out to others.

Unit #3: Journeying With Jesus

Students will *identify* the key events of Holy Week, *recount* times when Jesus reached out to others during his last journey in Holy Week and *compare* and *contrast* the response of various people to the suffering Jesus.

Stage 3:

Unit #1: Parables of Jesus

Students will *identify* examples and features of stories, including parables, which contain a message and/or moral, *explain* Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God with reference to his parables, *apply* the parables to their own lives and *work in groups cooperatively* to consider appropriate responses to Jesus' challenge to live and work for justice and peace.

Unit #2: Lent: A Time for Reconciliation

Students will *explain* how the celebration of the season of Lent challenges and invites us to be reconciled with God and others, *relate* Jesus' message in the

parable of the Prodigal Son to their own lives and *prepare for and participate* in the celebration of the sacrament of Penance or a prayer service with the theme of reconciliation.

Unit #3: Easter Triduum: Way of the Cross

Students will *recall* and *share* times in their own lives when they experienced hurt and disappointment, *recount* the events of the Passion of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels and celebrated on Good Friday, *relate* Jesus' feelings as presented in the Gospel accounts of the Passion to times when they and others may have experienced hurt and disappointment and *participate* in a class celebration of the Way of the Cross that relates students' life experience to the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.



St Monica's School Prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank you for our friends, family and teachers

Alleluia Praise the Lord for our houses, our energy to pass the day, our food and beautiful weather.

Support us now and always. May the peace of Christ be with us throughout the day.

May St Monica and her son St Augustine help us all through the week to be more and more like Jesus.

We pray for all *parts of the world that are in trouble*
St Monica, Pray for us.
Amen

Catholic Schools Week:

'I belong. You belong. We belong'
Catholic schools week will be held from
6 – 12 March. More details to follow!

Holy Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has declared 2016 the official Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. This sacred feast commenced at the beginning of Advent (8 December, 2015) and will conclude on the Feast of Christ the King (20 November, 2016).

During this Holy Year of Mercy, we will have a period for remission of our sins with a focus on the forgiveness and Mercy of God.

During this year, being a school founded by the Mercy Sisters, we will focus with our students and staff on the Mercy of God and Mary, the mother of Mercy. The students and staff will develop a deeper understanding in during their learning of the Gospel of Luke, in particular about the Mercy and actions of Jesus.

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



2016 Sacramental Program

If your child has received the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* and the *Sacrament of Communion* and is in Year 5 or above he/she is eligible to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 13 May @7:30pm**

Registration for this Sacrament will be after Mass on:

- Saturday 20 February @ 5pm Mass
- Sunday 21 February @ 9am Mass.

Please bring a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and a donation of \$30 that will cover costs of resourcing.

There will be a **Parent Only Meeting** in our School Community Room on Daking Street on Tuesday 1 March @ 7:00pm

Sacramental Dates for 2016

- Confirmation: Friday 13 May @ 7:00pm
- Communion: Weekend 27/28 August
- Reconciliation: Friday 18 November @ 7:00pm

Project Compassion 2016

Project Compassion 2016 focuses on **Learning More, Creating Change**. It throws a spotlight on global food issues and how Caritas Australia is empowering the world's poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life. Last week each family was sent home a project compassion box, where you are able to donate and collect money to donate towards the project compassion appeal. There will also be project compassion boxes in each learning space.

Please have a look at the website: caritas.org.au for more information.

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.

Term 1 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 1, 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	Location
Week 4	Thursday 18 February	Stage 1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
	Friday 19 February	Religion Books Sent Home	
	Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 Feb	Confirmation Registration	Church, 5:00pm or 9:00am
Week 6	Tuesday 1 March	Parent Information Night	Community Room, 7:00pm
	Thursday 3 March	ES1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 7	Catholic Schools Week		
	Thursday 10 March	Stage 2 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 8	Tuesday 15 March	Stage 3 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
	Thursday 17 March	St Patrick's Day Liturgy	10:15am, Venue TBA
Week 9	HOLY WEEK		
	Thursday 24 March	Holy Week Liturgies	Venue & Time TBA
Week 10	Wednesday 30 March	Stage 1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
	Thursday 31 March	ES1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 11	Monday 4 April	Annunciation Liturgy	10:15am, Venue TBA
	Thursday 7 April	Stage 2 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am



Corporal Works of Mercy:

Each few weeks will have a different focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Our first focus this term will be on:

To feed the hungry