

## The Rosary

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to praying The Rosary. The word Rosary means "Crown of Roses". Our Lady has revealed to several people that each time they say a Hail Mary they are giving her a beautiful rose and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the Rosary is the rose of all devotions and it is therefore the most important one. The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. With the Rosary in fact we meditate on the mysteries of joy, of sorrow and the glory of Jesus and Mary. It's a simple prayer, humble so much like Mary. It's a prayer we can all say together with Her, the Mother of God. With the Hail Mary we invite Her to pray for us. Our Lady always grants our request. She joins Her prayer to ours. Therefore it becomes ever more useful, because what Mary asks She always receives, Jesus can never say no to whatever His Mother asks for. In every apparition, the heavenly Mother has invited us to say the Rosary in an effort to bring us to true peace. With your prayer made together with Your heavenly Mother, you can obtain the great gift of bringing about a change of hearts and conversion. Each day, through prayer you can encourage and promote peace. It can seem a repetitive prayer but instead it is like two sweethearts who many times say to one another the words: "I love you"...

The Holy Father **John Paul II** with the Apostolic Letter

**ROSARIUM VIRGINIS MARIAE** of 10/16/2002 has added 5 **new mysteries of the Rosary**: [The Mysteries of the Light](#).

The Rosary is divided into five decades. Each decade represents a mystery or event in the life of Jesus. There are four sets of "Mysteries of the Rosary" (*Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious*). These four "Mysteries of the Rosary" therefore contain, a total of twenty mysteries. The Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries are then said on specific days of the week. During private recitation of the Rosary, each decade requires meditation on a specific mystery. If you would like to pray the Rosary at home the following website is very user-friendly

(<http://www.theholyroary.org/>) download an App from the I-Tunes Store or contact me for an easy-to-use format.

**During Week 2 of Term 4 the Rosary will be prayed each day at school. Children are welcome to bring their own Rosary beads from home so they can actively participate. Rosary beads will be provided to those who do not have their own.**

**Ms Kerry Power**, Religious Education Co-ordinator



## Religious Education Newsletter ISSUE 1, TERM 4, 2013

Each year the Catholic Education Office requires each school to develop goals that are relevant to its unique community. The two goals focus on the academic development of the community and the Religious Formation of the community. Our goal for Religious Formation in 2013 is;

*'To provide opportunities for staff and students to reflect*

*upon and develop their knowledge and understanding of*

*Catholic traditions with a focus on liturgy and prayer.'*

This Newsletter outlines the Sharing Our Story Units that will be taught in Term 3, the Liturgies and Masses, Sacramental details and other important information relating to Religious Education.

Peace

*Kerry Power Religious Education Coordinator*

## Sharing Our Story

**Sharing Our Story** is the document used in The Diocese of Parramatta to guide the teaching of Religion 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.

Term 4 begins with a focus on Mission. Our mission as people of God is to care for those who have less than us. In Australia we are truly fortunate to enjoy a lifestyle that provides opportunity and providence to the majority. That is not to say that poverty doesn't exist but that largely we are a First World country. The United Nations recently published a paper that analysed the world's wealth. Some of the statistics reveal that 80% of the world's population live in substandard housing without sewerage, clean water or electricity. 70% cannot read and 50% suffer from malnutrition. The report goes on to say that 1.5 billion people live on \$1.50 a day or less. As Australians we are very generous and yet as a country we only provide \$98 per person per year to aid third-world development, compared to the most generous Denmark giving \$649 per capita last year. As Christians we are called to love God and show this in our love of others. Catholic Mission produces material for schools to share with children that highlight the needs of Third World Nations. Catholic Mission is an organisation that works in many parts of the world to support poverty and develop sustainable practices that bring about change.

The SOS units that start the term use stories from Jesus' ministry about reaching out to and taking care of others. In Kindergarten '**Jesus blesses little children (Mark 10:13-16)**' is a story that recounts Jesus' special relationship with children. In Jesus' time children were often overlooked and this story reflects the love Jesus wanted to share with everyone. The children learn that all people need clean water, food and love to thrive and that some people in the world do not have these basic needs met.

Stage 1 reflect on the story of '**the blind beggar (Luke 18:35-43)**'. In this story Jesus is approached by a blind man who asks Jesus for mercy. Jesus rewards the man's faith by restoring his sight. Students learn about love and how they show love to the people around them. They reflect on their own needs and how other people need similar things. They learn that some things are needed such as water and food but other material things are more wants. They learn about sharing and looking after others rather than thinking about themselves.

Stage 2 focus on a very famous scripture story called the parable of the '**Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)**'. In this story Jesus tells the story of a man who has been beaten and left for dead. Some people pass the man and do not help but a Samaritan man looks after him and cares for him until he is well. Jesus asks the same of us to care for those who have fallen on bad times. Students reflect on the ways they can care for others at school, in their community and the world.

Stage 3 reflect on what a mission is and how they are called to act as God's people locally and globally. A scripture reading for these children is the '**commissioning of the disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)**' when Jesus visits the disciples after the Resurrection and tells them they must go out into the world and share the Good News. Jesus commissions us at Baptism to share the Good News with others in our words and actions. Students watch material that shows the conditions in Mongolia and listen to recounts from children around their age who live in extreme poverty. They learn about the ways they can contribute to World Mission through prayer, advocacy and action.



Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Weeks 2-5 in Term 4, 2013. There is always an open invitation for you to join us in prayer. We hope that you might take the opportunity to attend Mass with your child's class during the Term.

<b>Week 2</b>	Praying the Rosary in class
<b>Sunday 13/10</b>	
<b>Week 3</b>	Year 4 & 5 - Reconciliation Thursday 11:30am
<b>Sunday 20/10</b>	Mission Prayer - Assembly Prayer for World Teachers Day - Assembly
<b>Week 4</b>	All Saints Mass—Friday November 1st
<b>Sunday 27/10</b>	St. Monica's Church 9:15am
<b>Week 5</b>	Classes to attend Parish Mass—ask your child's teacher
<b>Sunday 3/11</b>	

Our conversation with God began before our birth and throughout our lives we move through a variety of different methods of connection with our maker. Sometimes we are like a toddler questioning God's motives, sometimes the surly adolescent who refuses to speak and sometimes the pleading child who asks for favours in return for good behaviour. We can pray in silence in the privacy of our thoughts or we can pray collectively in Church. Sacraments are a formal way to connect with God through our community. In the Catholic Church. There are 7 sacraments that are categorised into Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion), Service (Marriage & Holy Orders) and Healing (Reconciliation/Confession & Anointing of the sick). The Church believes that parents are the first and foremost teachers of faith to their children.

The most powerful message we can receive during this process is the amazing connection between the sacraments and the Mass. As we enter the Church we bless ourselves with water as in Baptism, with the Act of Contrition we admit our sin and ask for God's forgiveness. With The Creed we make a Confirmation of faith. We listen, share and pray the Word of God. In Eucharist we receive the very being of Jesus and accept our responsibility as disciples to share the good news and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

As parents we have a truly unique opportunity to be the first teachers of faith to our children. Ironically, it can sometimes be in the teaching that our own beliefs are strengthened and consolidated. As witnesses to the sacraments we can also renew our conversation with God. I enjoy meeting with the parents who want to begin the sacramental journey with their children, they are enthusiastic and excited. God Bless the new participants in this year's sacramental program. I'm sure you and your families will find the experience illuminating.

