

St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



October – The Month of the Holy Rosary

Each year October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. This is primarily because the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary takes place each year on October 7. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. In this month of October, let us consider this beautiful prayer of the Rosary as a means that we too can use in order to draw closer to Jesus and Mary by praying this important prayer.

Welcome to Term 4

Welcome to Term 4. As we approach the ending of another year, we draw closer to one of the most important events in the Church calendar, the Solemnity of the Birth of Jesus.

This Term we invite you to join us in our preparation in leading up to this important time in our lives. Christmas is the annual Feast where we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. This liturgical season is a celebration of joy, peace and happiness.

Leading up to this feast day, we celebrate the Christmas season called Advent. Advent prepares us for the coming of our Lord, represented by the colour purple, the advent wreath and the advent candles. The season of Advent is a season

of longing, hope and expectation.

Our Year 6 Leaders will celebrate with us their last mass here at St Monica's on Tuesday 16 December. As we farewell our leaders, we will also be celebrating our End of School Year Mass at this time. We strongly encourage all students and parents to attend this mass, as it is our last official whole school mass, and an excellent opportunity for the students to farewell the Year 6 students.

Our calendar for this Term's liturgical events is on the back page. We encourage you to join us and be part of these important celebrations within our school and parish.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Christ-centred leaders.

- Monica Albeyeh
- Martha Kassis
- Elleni Sentas
- Christiane Farah
- Natalie Domanska

These outstanding leaders have shown commitment in their role this year and have assisted myself, and all the teachers in preparing, organising and running our school liturgies and masses. These students have grown in their faith understanding and have developed their leadership skills. They have constantly shown respect, tolerance, motivation and reverence. Well done girls, we are very proud of you!

Michelle Rosewell

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Early Stage 1

Unit #1: Mission: Living as Jesus showed us

Students will identify their own needs and the needs of other people around the world, recall Jesus Blesses Little Children (Mk 10:13-16) and The Wedding Feast at Cana (Jn 2:1-11) showing Jesus as a kind and loving person **and** name ways in which they can be kind and care for people like Jesus.

Unit #2: A Waiting Time

Students will recognise the value and meaning of waiting, identify that Advent is a time of waiting, recognise that Mary and Joseph waited for the birth of Jesus and list ways in which they could help others in the community this Advent.

Unit #3: Jesus is Born

Students will recall memories and customs associated with the celebration of Christmas, explain that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus and appreciate that Christmas is a time of giving and receiving in our family, school and parish.

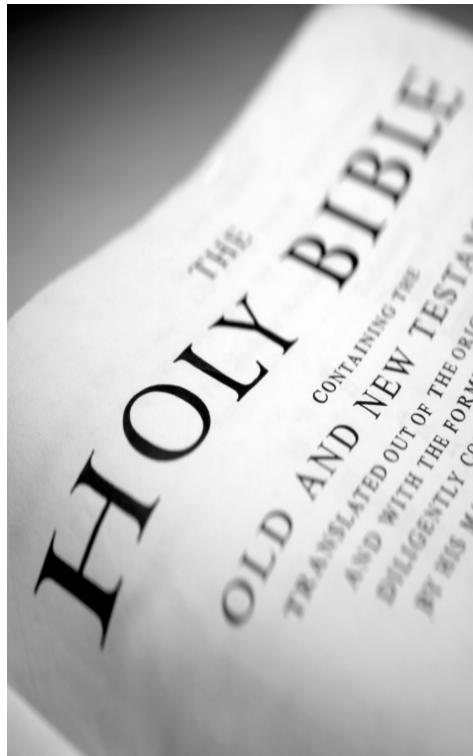
Stage One

Unit #1: Mission: Sharing with Others as Jesus Showed Us

Students will recall ideas and examples of sharing, explain how Jesus shared with and cared for others in the Feeding of the Five Thousand (Mk 6: 30-44) and identify ways they can participate in Jesus' mission through sharing in a loving way with people in need.

Unit #2: Combined Advent & Christmas

Students will recall and share experiences of getting ready for something special including Christmas, recall how God prepared for the birth of his Son, Jesus, list ways in which Mary and Joseph might have prepared for the birth of Jesus and decide how they might get ready as they prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Students will also recall their previous Christmas celebrations at home and at school, recount the story of the First Christmas and develop an understanding that Christmas is a time when together. we thank God for the gift of his son Jesus.



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.

Stage Two

Unit #1: Mission: Reaching Out with Jesus

Students will explain how a person's relationship with Jesus influences how they treat others, identify some of the features and challenges of mission as Jesus' disciples through a study of The mission of the twelve (Lk 9: 1-2,6) and give examples of Christian missionary actions and programs that reach out to others in need.

Unit #2: Combined Advent & Christmas

Students will explore the concept of promise and promise making, recall God's earliest promises to his people in the Old Testament and identify Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises spoken through the prophets. Students will also identify Jesus as the fulfillment of God's covenant promises in salvation history, compare and contrast the different responses of those involved in the fulfillment of God's promise to send a savior and explain how Christian faith is grounded in the belief that Jesus as Emmanuel, God is with us, is active in our world today through the Holy Spirit and propose how their celebration of Christmas can be a response to God's

covenant promises by sharing the peace and joy of Christ and showing goodwill to all.

Stage Three

Unit #1: Mission: Witness and Proclaiming Jesus throughout the World

Students will analyse the message and meaning of the Mission of Jesus in Luke 4:16-22, identify stories and examples of people who witness and proclaim the Good News of Jesus either locally or globally and identify practical ways in which they can share with others in Jesus' mission to the poor and oppressed.

Unit #2: Combined Advent & Christmas

Students will identify actions of influential people that are worthy of imitation and the attitudes, values or beliefs that inspire them, analyse how Mary responded to God's call in faith and love and reflect upon and respond to the challenges of the Advent readings. Students will also identify how the seasons affect our activities and life style, research, present and recall information about the solemnities and feasts of the Season of Christmas and its place within the Church's liturgical year and participate in group activities, research sharing and celebration relevant to one of the feasts of this season.



World Mission Month

Editorial from St Monica's Christ-centred Leaders

By Christiane Farah & Monica Albayeh

This year World Mission Day was held on Sunday 19 October 2014. World Mission Day is celebrated every year in Catholic countries to help spread the word and love of God, to make our world a better place. Parishioners and schools are invited to help and support the Jamaican Catholic Church, which is helping people turn away from sin and darkness to realise the power and message of Jesus Christ.

What is mission? Mission is when you put others that are in need before yourself, while following the path of Jesus. Pope Francis had a quote for this year's *World Mission Month*, he said 'that it is a celebration of joy, because Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, was sent to evangelise the world'.

There are many types of ways to show mission

in the world. Catherine McAuley and Mother Teresa set an example to all and made it clear about what mission truly is. God loves us all equally no matter what, and expects us to help others who are not as fortunate as we are. As missionaries we can show the love of God in many ways to different people and teach others about God.

Next week, the Mercy Group will be selling books for a gold coin donation. All funds raised will be donated to the Sisters of Mercy, so they can continue their work locally and globally.

Book Sale – Week 4

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings
(before school)

Please bring a gold coin donation if you would like to purchase a book from the book stall.

Term 4 Calendar of Liturgical Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 4, 2014. 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 3	Parish Mass Stage 3 (Friday 24/10) St Monica's Church – 9:15am
Week 4	Parish Mass Stage 2 (Wednesday 29/10) St Monica's Church – 9:15am All Saints Day Whole School Mass (Friday 31/10) St Monica's Parish – 9:15am
Week 5	Parish Mass ES1 and Stage 1 (Thursday 6/11) St Monica's Church – 9:15am
Week 6	Parish Mass Stage 2 (Wednesday 13/11) St Monica's Church – 9:15am
Week 7	Parish Mass Stage 3 (Friday 21/11) St Monica's Church – 9:15am First Reconciliation Ceremony (Friday 21/11) St Monica's Church – 7pm
Week 8	First Sunday of Advent (Sunday 30/11)
Week 9	Advent Liturgy (Monday 1/12) St Monica's School – Time TBA
Week 10	St Monica's Christmas Celebration (Tuesday 9/12) St Monica's School – Time TBA
Week 11	Year 6 Graduation & Closing Schools Mass (Tuesday 16/12) St Monica's Church – 6pm



Installation of Altar Servers

During our All Saints Mass on Friday 31 October, a number of students from Stage 3 will be installed as altar servers in our St Monica's Parish. We invite all parents and family members to join us in this celebration.

Congratulations to:

Abbi Lewis, Mattheas Noonan, Hayley Herder-Beke, Kyah Day, Jasmine Bird, Martha Kassis, Peter Boujandy, Damian Matijevic and Patrick Newey

Important Diary Date:: Our closing schools mass will be held on Tuesday 16 December at 6pm. Please put this date in your diary as this is our last whole school celebration for 2014.