

# St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



The Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – 8 August

*“Never see a need without doing something about it”*

## Embrace Mary MacKillop. Engage the World

After a relaxing winter break, we welcome you back to Term 3. Term 3 is always a busy time in our school, with the feast of our schools Patron Saint, Saint Monica, that will be celebrated in Week 7.

Next week we will celebrate the Feast of our Diocesan Patron Saint, St Mary the Cross MacKillop. During the mass we will reflect on the life and work of Mary MacKillop, her dedication to children's education and her leadership of the Sisters of St Joseph.

Alongside this important feast day, you will find many other important events happening this term on the last page on our RE calendar.

Later this term, Years 4 and 6 students will complete their Religious Literacy Assessment (RLA). This assessment provides us with information on each

individual student that allows us to profile and understand the extent and level of religious literacy with regard to students' learning. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt in the key domains.

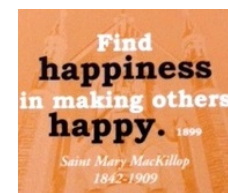
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome into this role of Christ-centred leaders for Term 3:

- Alysha Dunnett
- Sally Essey
- Damian Matijevic

I look forward to working with these Year 6 leaders this term and having their assistance when planning and running school liturgies and masses. Our leaders hold a big responsibility in this role, and are relied upon for updating, designing, creating and changing all of our schools liturgical displays and prayer tables.

A huge thank you to our Term 2 leaders; Patrick Newey, Hayley Herder-Beke, Salama Kimpanya and Jordan Crockett for all their hard work and dedication in this role.

I continue to look forward to seeing the amazing work of our students in the area of Religious Education in their books and displayed around our school. Thank you to all our parents who provide me with ongoing feedback on the RE newsletter, masses and liturgical events. Your feedback is always well-received.



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

## Early Stage 1:

### 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: Reconciliation: Belonging to a Forgiving Community

Students will *describe* how their choices affect their relationships with God and others, *explain* how God is like the shepherd and the woman who lost her coin, *make* links between their experiences of reconciliation and the elements of the sacrament of Reconciliation and *appreciate* that they experience God's forgiveness in the Church's celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Unit #2: Eucharist: Celebrating God's Love

Students will *identify* and *explain* reasons why family and friends celebrate special meals with each other, *identify* and *explain* reasons why Jesus celebrated special meals with others, especially at the Last Supper, *describe* ways in which Jesus is present in the Church's celebration of the Eucharist revealing God's wonderful love and *identify* ways in which they and their families can celebrate Sunday as a holy day, especially through their celebration of the Eucharist.

## Stage 2 (Year 3):

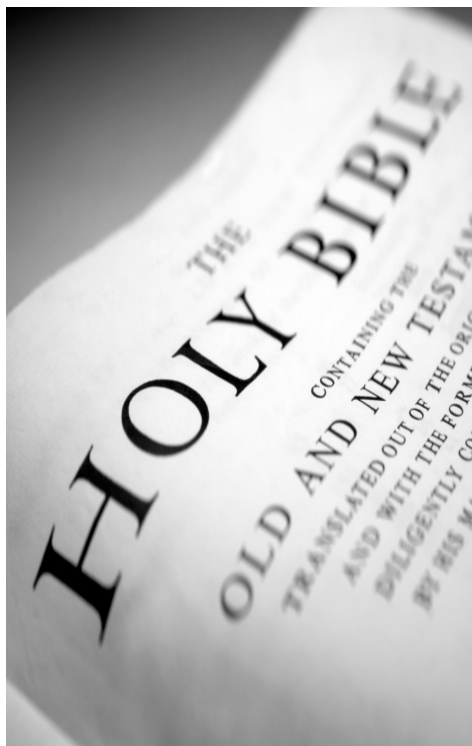
### Unit #1: Caring for God's Wondrous Creation

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.

## Stage 2 (Year 4):

### Unit #1: God's Forgiveness and Healing

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,



# 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.

and gives , peace and courage to those who are ill, suffering or frail through old age.

### Unit #2: The Bible: A Special Book

Students will *categorise* books that vary in purpose, form and audience, *locate* given biblical references and identify major biblical text types, *research* biblical accounts of significant people and key events, *interpret* the message of selected Bible passages for their own lives and *explain* why Christians revere the Bible, especially the Gospels, and how this is shown in the celebration of the liturgy.

## Stage 3:

### Unit #1: Sacraments of Service

Students will *describe* how married couples and priests serve their communities, *analyse* the meaning of key symbols and ritual actions within the celebration of the sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders and *describe* and *reflect on* the nature and responsibilities of the Christian vocation stemming from Baptism.

### Unit #2: Stewards of Creation

Students will *recognise* that the beauty and wonder of creation reflects God, *recall* Aboriginal sacred stories which explain the beginnings of creation, *appreciate* that everything they do is significant and affects God's creation and *plan* a prayer celebration to give thanks for the beauty of God's creation and for the many ways it enriches their lives.

The Driving Question the students will be working on is: ***How can we, as Stewards of God's creation, ensure our planet is cared for through our significant actions and responsibilities?***



## 2015 Sacramental Dates

**Communion:** Weekend  
22/23 August @ 5pm & 9am  
**Reconciliation:** Friday 20  
November @ 7pm





# Prayer at St Monica's

## The Assumption

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary has been commemorated since the early sixth century by the Catholic Church. The church embraced this event as a holy day of obligation to honour the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Assumption was when the Virgin Mary was taken up in to heaven body and soul. The reason why this occurred was because Our Lady's body was too sacred to be left on earth, so Mary ascended into Heaven. This holy feast day is celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August and is a holy day of obligation.

One tradition that many countries follow during the Assumption is the bringing of flowers and herbs to church for a blessing. In some cultures it is popular to wear blue to the mass in honour of Our Lady. Blue represents truth and clarity, which is also the colour of the sky and symbolises Heaven. It is also a tradition for the song 'Ave Maria' to be sung on this special day. In the words of Pope Francis on the feast day of the assumption " Mary mother of God, pray for us sinners, and guide us on the way that leads to Heaven".

**Editorial By Sally Essey**

## 2015 Sacramental Program

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be held this term, on Saturday 22 August at 5:00pm and Sunday 23 August at 9:00am. The students who are receiving this sacrament will continue the remainder of their lessons for the following three weeks.

If your child would like to make the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* and is in Year 3 or above he/she is eligible to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation on the weekend of Friday 20 November**

**Registration for Reconciliation** will be held after Mass on:

- Saturday 29 August @ 5pm Parish Mass
- Sunday 30 August @ 9am Parish Mass.

Please bring Copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and a Donation of \$30.

**Parent Only Meeting** in School Community Room, Daking Street on Tuesday 8 September @ 7:30pm

# Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Mary MacKillop was born in 1842 in Melbourne. She was working as a governess when she met Father Julian Woods. Mary worked in unison with Father Julian Woods to achieve the dream they shared of establishing Catholic education in South Australia. Mary opened a school in an unused stable to meet the growing needs of her local community in 1866. The school laid the foundations of Catholic education in Australia and later became St Joseph's School. Students who went to this school learnt basic life skills as well as religion. The school educated those who were able to pay fees and those who weren't because Mary MacKillop believed that everyone should have a right to access Catholic education no matter how much money they had.

At the age of 24, Mary truly dedicated her life to God and became the first Sister and Mother Superior of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Official recognition of the Sisters took many years, but in 1867 a decree from Rome constituted the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart as an approved regular congregation, based in Sydney. The work of these Sisters continued to develop and flourish and has reached out to thousands of communities in Australia and around the world.

The Mary MacKillop International Mission Inc began a ministry in Timor Leste in 1993. This ministry is carried out by people who recognise what Mary MacKillop shared with the world. She upheld people's dignity and educated the poor, while relying on God to provide for her.

**Editorial By Alysha Dunnett**



Mary MacKillop artwork by Nishika Jain and Brooke Emphield  
Focus: "Find happiness by making others happy"



Mary MacKillop artwork by Jackson Basha and Josue Heydari  
Focus: "We must teach more by example than by word"

# Term 3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 3, 2015. 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 6 August	Stage 2 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
	Friday 7 August	Mary MacKillop Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 5	Friday 14 August	The Assumption Liturgy	In classrooms
Week 6	Thursday 19 August	Stage 1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
	<i>Saturday 22 August</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Church, 5:00pm</i>
	<i>Sunday 23 August</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>Church, 9:00am</i>
Week 7	Thursday 27 August	St Monica's Day Mass	Church, 9:15am
	Friday 28 August	Stage 2 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 8	Thursday 3 September	Stage 1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
	Friday 4 September	Fathers Day Liturgy	Hall, 9:00am
Week 9	Friday 11 September	Stage 3 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am

## Religious Literacy Assessment (RLA)

The Religious Literacy Assessment project, managed within the Evangelisation and Religious Education Service Area provides, at a diocesan level, a sustained and systemic approach to the documentation and reporting of students' learning in the key learning area of Religious Education (RE), specifically religious literacy. Celebrating and sharing the good news about students' learning in RE is an important component of this initiative and enables the story to be told on a continuing basis.

Being religiously literate requires children within a Catholic school to be able to communicate with and be at home in Catholic society and religion in general. Thus, assessment of religious literacy focuses on students' knowledge and understanding of the key concepts that are being addressed by the RE program and the student's ability to communicate within their religious tradition.

The Religious Literacy Assessment is placed in Year 4, at the end of Stage 2, Year 6, at the end of Stage 3 and in Year 8 at the end of Stage 4. Its intention is to influence learning and accountability and drive a culture of reflection on learning and pedagogy in the domain of RE.

The RLA will take place at St Monica's between the 17 August and 4 September. Year 4 will be working on two components to their RLA, a practical 'hands-on' project in response to their scripture they have been studying, as well as an online component in Week 8. Year 6 will complete the online component only during Week 7.

If you have any questions or would like any further information about the RLA, please see myself or one of the class teachers.