

The logo is a square divided into four quadrants by a black cross. The top-left quadrant is a solid blue square. The top-right quadrant is a solid orange square. The bottom-left quadrant contains a blue cross with a yellow center. The bottom-right quadrant is a solid blue square containing the Latin phrase *In te Deus corda nostra* in a white, cursive script.

St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



World Mission Month – October

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in”

Matthew 25:35

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Matthew 25:35

'Love your neighbour as yourself' Mt 22:39

We look forward to a busy Term 4, full of significant celebrations, as we draw closer to the end of the school year.

One of the highlighted events we will celebrate this term, is **World Mission Month**. WMM, a globally recognised event was started by Catholic Mission, a worldwide organisation that provides food, water, clothing and shelter to people living in poverty, including remote areas in Australia.

The 2015 schools appeal with the theme ***'I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'***, will focus on the work of Sister Rose Rasoavolona in providing physical water and spiritual support to the children of Madagascar—a country where access to clean water and proper sanitation is scarce, and sadly results in thousands of children dying from preventable diseases each and every year.

As part of our Social Justice and Outreach programs, we will be raising awareness of these children living in

poverty, as well as raise funds to send directly to Madagascar to support this important mission.

Alongside WMM, Australia will recognise the poverty in our own country, as well as world-wide during **Anti-poverty Week**. The aim of Anti-poverty Week is to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia, and encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. This includes actions by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

This term, Social Justice will be in the forefront of our minds, especially as Christmas moves closer. It is a time when we will provide much-needed support (both monetary and in our actions). We know our community is always supportive of these outreach programs and I look forward to raising some much needed funds and awareness within our school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome into the role of Christ-centred leaders for Term 4:

- Alisha Merchant
- Abbi Lewis
- Debra Chirchir

A huge thank you to our Term 3 leaders; Alysha Dunnett, Sally Essey and Damian Matijevic for their hard work and dedication in this role.

I continue to look forward to seeing the amazing work of our students focussing on our whole school formation goal on prayer.



Peace and love,
Michelle Rosewell
Religious
Education
Coordinator

Early Stage 1:

Unit #1: 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 1:

Unit #1: Mission: Loving God and Others like Jesus

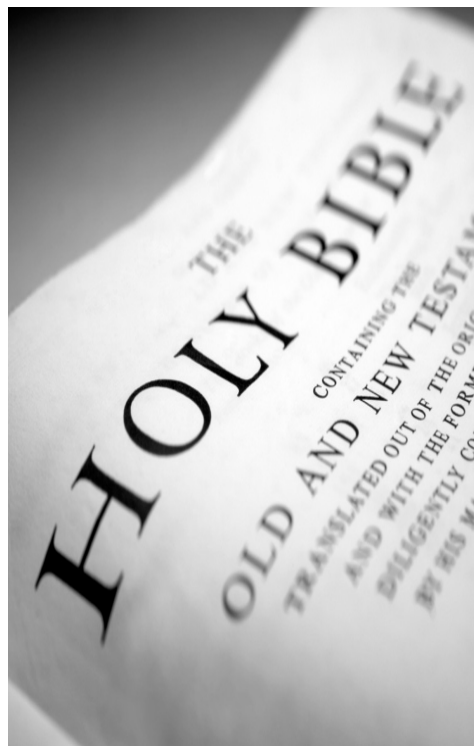
Students will *recall* examples of loving actions, *recount* 'Jesus and the Blind Beggar' (Lk 18:35-43) and 'Jesus and Zacchaeus' (Lk 19: 1-10) and *identify* ways they can contribute to the mission of Jesus by loving God and people in their class, school, family, local community and people throughout the world.

Unit #2: Waiting for Jesus

Students will *recall* and *reflect* upon their experiences of waiting and be able to relate this to the readings and spirit of Advent, *identify* people from the Bible who waited for the coming of Jesus and *consider* ways in which they could respond to the needs of others during Advent.

Unit #3: Christmas: Wait is Over

Students will *identify* ways in which their families receive and spread God's love, peace and joy as they celebrate the birthday of Jesus each Christmas, *retell* biblical accounts of how Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men prepared for and responded to the birth of Jesus, *recall* that the Church's special waiting time of Advent finishes with Christmas day and *identify* ways in which they can share God's love, peace and joy.



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 our Catholic Faith.

Stage 2:

Unit #1: Mission: Serving Others with Jesus

Students will *recognise* examples of service within their own communities and throughout the world, *explain* the meaning of mission as service which was modelled and taught by 'Jesus in Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (Jn 13:1-15) and 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan' (Lk 10: 25-37) and *describe* ways they can be of service to others throughout the world.

Unit #2: Advent: Prepare

Students will *explore* their own and others' ideas and experiences related to challenge, preparation and commitment and relate to the celebration of the season of Advent, *explain* the significance of John the Baptist as a prophet who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus and *consider* the value of committing themselves to some Advent challenges that prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

Unit #3: Christmas: A Time to Gather

Students will *recognise* that people experience Christmas in different ways, *develop* an understanding of the various customs, family gatherings and liturgies associated with the Christmas season, *plan* and *implement* some personal action which will foster the Christmas spirit of peace and goodwill.

recognise in the lives of others a commitment to the mission of Jesus and *name* ways they can continue the mission of Jesus. The Driving Question the students will be working on is: *How can we analyse and recognise the commitment others have to the mission of Jesus, and enable his work to continue?*

Unit #2: Eucharist: Nourishes us for the Journey

Students will *describe* and *reflect* upon our physical needs, such as food, shelter and protection and our deeper needs such as care, love, acceptance and affection, *explain* how Jesus nourished the needs of people, both physically and spiritually, *explore* how Jesus' actions at the Last Supper symbolised his gift of himself and his life, *examine* the implications of Jesus' presence in the assembly, priest, Word and sacred bread and wine in the celebration of the Eucharist and *explain* how the Eucharist nourishes and sustains Christians who reach out in service to others. Integrated with **Advent – The Jesse Tree**

Students will *use* the symbol of a tree, *to identify* and *reflect* on how God's love has been shown in their primary school years through parents, teachers, friends and members of the school/parish community, *research* and *creatively construct* symbols of the Jesse Tree, *sequence* a timeline of Jesse tree people throughout the Scriptures and *propose* ways they can respond to the Advent message.



Prayer at St Monica's



A Spotlight On...

Mrs Ungsuprasert

On Tuesday 6 October the Staff from St Monica's visited St Mary's Cathedral. There we met Hans, our personal Tour Guide who was very enthusiastic in his explanation of the main features of the Cathedral. We were given a very interesting overview of the scripture stories as depicted in the stain glass windows and were informed of its historical significance with our Australian ancestors. St Mary's Cathedral stands in the centre of Sydney as a Christian statement of grace and beauty. Generations of artists have bequeathed to it their magnificent gifts in stone and glass, designing a unique space of solace and prayer within this vibrant city. This Cathedral represents the spiritual origins of the Catholic Church in Australia. It is one of Sydney's most treasured historic buildings and one of the finest examples of English-style gothic churches in the world. William Wilkinson Wardell, the 19th century architect, dreamed of a gothic structure shaped from the local yellow-block sandstone on which this city is built. The building was finally completed 100 years after the architect's death. The Cathedral is dedicated to Mary Help of Christians. After a visit to the crypt we were able to attend a mass within the majestic Cathedral. The day was uplifting and provided a positive beginning to a very busy term.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

World Mission Month & Anti-Poverty Week

Next week, we will recognise and highlight the issues of poverty in our nation and around the world. We encourage all students and parents to join us for these events:

Monday 12 October – Anti-Poverty Week Prayer at morning assembly

Friday 16 October – coin donation & awareness of people in need in our local and global communities

All donations will be sent to Catholic Mission

2015 Sacramental Program

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held this term, on Friday 20 November at 7:00pm. The students who are receiving this sacrament will begin their lessons on the weekend of 10 and 11 October, and continue for six weeks. Jenny Coorey has emailed all families of students receiving this sacrament the details (time, day and venue) for your lessons. If you have any questions please email Jenny on: stmonicasacraments@gmail.com or myself: mrosewell@parra.catholic.edu.au.

October – World Mission Month

World Mission Day is celebrated every year in every country wherever there are Catholics committed to building a better world for all of God's people, a world where everyone has all they need to live a dignified and fulfilling life. It is the day on which we reflect on the urgency to proclaim the Gospel in our times. Missionary activity is a response to the love with which God loves us. God's love is the spiritual energy that can make harmony; justice and communion grow among persons, races and peoples for which everyone is searching. It is God, who is Love, who leads the Church towards those farthest away and calls us to be renewed from the original source, Jesus Christ, from whose pierced heart flows the love of God. The God of love is the source of care, tenderness, compassion, hospitality and interest in other people's problems, for spreading Christ's charity around the world. Catholic Mission around the world has the responsibility of promoting a dignified and fruitful celebration of World Mission Day. **This year World Mission Day is Sunday 18 October 2015.**

As well as acknowledging World Mission Month, we will be recognising **Anti-Poverty Week** (11 – 17 Oct, Week 2). Anti-poverty week is a week where all Australian's are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity that highlights the issues of poverty and hardship in Australia. During this week all classes will learn about people that are in poverty in our local area and nation, and think about our actions and prayers that will strengthen our understanding on the causes and consequences of poverty.

Term 4 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 4, 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 1	Tuesday 6 October October	Staff Formation Day World Mission Month	St Mary's Cathedral
Week 2	Monday 12 October Friday 16 October	Anti-Poverty Week Prayer Anti-Poverty Week Coin Fundraiser	Assembly, 8:50am
Week 3	Wednesday 21 October Friday 23 October	Stage 2 Parish Mass Stage 3 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am Church, 9:15am
Week 4	Wednesday 28 October Friday 30 October	ES1 Parish Mass All Saints Day Mass (whole school)	Church, 9:15am Church, 9:15am
Week 5	Thursday 5 November	Stage 1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 6	Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Day Liturgy	Assembly area, 10:15am
Week 7	Friday 20 November	Reconciliation Mass	Church, 7:00pm
Week 8	Wednesday 25 November Thursday 26 November Friday 27 November Sunday 28 November	ES1 Parish Mass Stage 2 Parish Mass Stage 3 Parish Mass First Sunday of Advent	Church, 9:15am Church, 9:15am Church, 9:15am
Week 9	Thursday 3 December Sunday 6 December	Stage 1 Parish Mass Second Sunday of Advent	Church, 9:15am
Week 10	Tuesday 8 December Sunday 13 December	Christmas Celebration Third Sunday of Advent	Undercroft area, 7:00pm
Week 11	Tuesday 15 December Sunday 20 December	Year 6 Graduation & End of Year Mass Fourth Sunday of Advent	Church, 6:30pm

