

St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter

The Gifts of the

Holy Spirit



Pentecost – Sunday 15 May

This feast day commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and followers of Jesus and will be held on Sunday 8 June this year. According to the Bible, it was on the 50th day after Easter when the apostles prayed together and the Holy Spirit descended upon them. They received the "gift of tongues" – the ability to speak in other languages – and immediately began to preach about Jesus Christ to Jewish people from all over the world.

‘And they were filled with the Holy Spirit’ Acts 2:4

Welcome to Term 2!

I hope you have had a restful and relaxing break. During the holiday break our nation celebrated ANZAC Day. On Wednesday 27, we also commemorated the ANZACs in a liturgy held in the morning. We reflected on the service of our diggers and prayed for soldiers who are continuing to fight today for our country, and for other countries. It is always an emotional experience to reflect on what our soldiers endured in fighting for the freedom that we are lucky to have in our country today. Thank you to the parents who joined us for this liturgy, and to every student at St Monica's who displayed reverence and solemnity through their prayers and active involvement in the liturgy.

As we continue during this Easter season, we continue to pray the Regina Coeli in class each day at

midday (in replacement of The Angelus). This will continue up until Pentecost (Week 3).

This year, our Christ-centred leaders will continue to be rotated throughout the terms. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome into this role for Term 2:

- Philip Joseph
- Victoria Kassis
- Alanah Khadi
- Eddie Tran
- Jackson Basha
- Abraham Dennis

I look forward to working with all the Year 6 leaders and having their assistance when planning and celebrating school liturgies and masses.

Next Friday we will be showing our thanks to all our mums for everything they do with a Mothers Day Mass. The mass will be held at 9:15am in the Church.

We would love to see all our mothers, grandmothers, aunts and significant women in our children's lives to show them how much we love them!

In this issue of the RE newsletter I have outlined the Sharing our Story Units that will be taught in Term 2 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 term. If you have feedback, suggestions or an article or photo that you think would be perfect for our RE Newsletter, I would love to hear from you.

Peace and love,
Michelle Rosewell
Religious Education Coordinator

Early Stage One

Unit #1: My Family Loves Me

Students will recognise the uniqueness of their family, appreciate the key elements of gathering and sharing in family celebrations, retell the story of the time the boy Jesus was lost by his parents and found teaching in the temple and appreciate that God's love is experienced through the caring people in their lives.

Unit #2: God is Our Creator

Students will grow in awareness of and appreciation for the variety and beauty of God's creation, identify examples that demonstrate that the natural world is always changing, retell the first account of creation in Gen 1:1-31 and list ways in which they can care for creation.

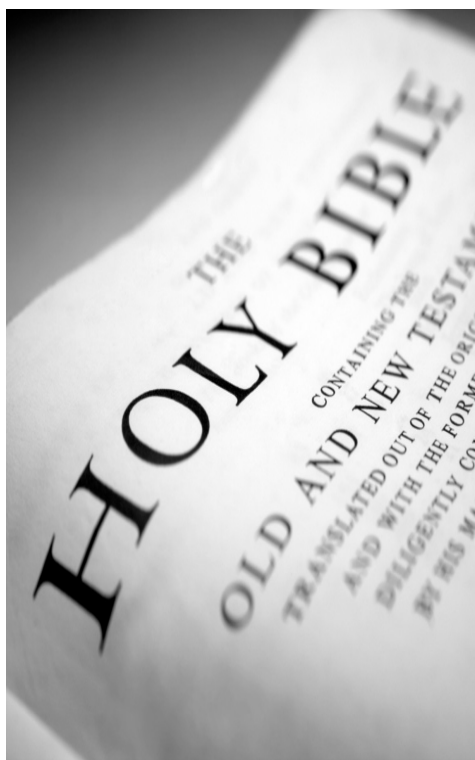
Stage 1

Unit #1: Easter Season: Together

Students will recall and share their family experiences of Easter, recount the events of the first Easter Sunday morning, describe how the Paschal Candle and the Alleluia are used in the Easter Season liturgies to celebrate that Jesus is risen and participate in a variety of Easter prayer experiences.

Unit #2: Stories of Jesus

Students will recall significant events in their own life story, state that the Gospel accounts relate stories about Jesus and explain what these stories teach us, recall stories of Jesus and about Jesus and explain what these stories teach us, recognise ways in which they can respond to the love of Jesus revealed through these stories and appreciate the value of the Bible as the book which tells them stories of Jesus.



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.

Stage 2

Unit #1: The Journey to Emmaus

Students will *recall* and *share* accounts of times when they were sad, confused and/or afraid because they thought they were alone, *name* the different feelings of the disciples throughout the Emmaus story and *explain* how they can be like the risen Jesus in helping others who are sad, confused and/or afraid.

Unit #2: Sacraments of Initiation

Students will *identify* ways in which children are initiated into various groups and organisations including the Christian community, *match* rituals and symbols of Christian initiation with the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, *explain* the meaning of Christian initiation with reference to key rituals and symbols and *appreciate* that initiation into the life of the Christian community means loving God and others as Jesus did, nourished by prayer and the sacraments.

Stage 3

Unit #1: Easter: Follow Me

Students will *identify* some of the characteristics of people who believe in and follow Jesus, *explain* what Jesus meant by the invitation, 'Come, follow me' with reference to the Gospel readings of the Easter Season and *identify* ways in which young people today can take up Jesus' invitation to 'Follow me'.

Unit #2: Stories of the Early Church

Students will outline the way of life and faith of Australian Catholics in the early years of European settlement, *recall* key aspects of the life and mission of Caroline Chisholm, *recount* the story and contribution of one significant Australian Catholic, *develop* an awareness and appreciation of the importance of Catholic schools as a major activity of the Australian Catholic Church and *recognise* the richness of the various cultural expressions and rites of Catholicism that make up the Catholic Church in Australia.

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.

During the year, teachers have been working with their students on understanding the sacred scripture. The staff focus in our professional learning meetings is on the implementation of the three levels of comprehension in their classrooms. This approach was modelled in the Term 1 POSMs meeting for all parents who attended. Below are some further details of the three levels of comprehension (also known as three senses) that you might like to use when reading a scripture passage with your child.

Literal (on the line) Comprehension:

- Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Inferential (between the lines) Comprehension:

- What is revealed about God in this passage? (Where is?)
- What is revealed about Jesus in this passage? (Where is?)
- What is revealed about the Holy Spirit in this passage? (Where is?)
- What symbols might need explaining?

Application (beyond the line):

- How can I apply this in my life?
- What areas of my learning and life can I make direct links to: Prayer, Christian Life, Sacraments and Relationships with God.

Try using this strategy at home with your child using the scripture passage: *The Journey to Emmaus, Lk 24:13-35*.

Literal Comprehension:

- Who is in the story?
- When is the story set? (where is Jesus' life does this story take place – eg before He was born, during His life, after He died?)
- Where does the story take place? (country, town, scene, etc)
- What key ideas happen in the story?

Inferential Comprehension:

- Is God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit in the passage?
- What does the symbol of the breaking of the bread represent?
- Why didn't Cleopas realise that the man walking with them was Jesus?
- How does Jesus reveal himself?

Application:

- Can I make links to any part of the mass or Sacraments?
- How can I change my actions to display my belief in Jesus?

2016 Sacramental Program

If your child has received the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* and is in Year 4 or above he/she is eligible to receive the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion on the weekend of 27 and 28 August**.

Registration for this Sacrament will be after Mass on:

- Saturday 4 June @ 5pm Mass
- Sunday 5 June @ 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 14 June @ 7:30pm

Sacramental Dates for 2016

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

Holy Year of Mercy

During this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we will be focusing on a different aspect of the Corporal Works of Mercy each month. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions that we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are these kind acts by which we help our neighbours with their material and physical needs.

The Corporal Works of Mercy include:

- **Feed the hungry (May)**
- Give drink to the thirsty (June)
- Clothe the naked (July)
- Shelter the homeless (August)
- Visit the sick (September)
- Visit the imprisoned (October)
- Bury the dead (November)

Our first focus for the month of May will be **Feed the Hungry**. The Christ-centred leaders will be working with me to promote this Mercy action in and around the school.



Term 2 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 2, 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 2	Friday 6 May	Mothers Day Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 3	Tuesday 10 May Friday 13 May Friday 13 May	Stage 1 Parish Mass Pentecost Liturgy Sacrament of Confirmation	Church, 9:15am Assembly Area, 9:00am Church, 7:00pm
Week 4	Tuesday 17 May Thursday 19 May	Stage 2 Parish Mass Stage 3 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am Church, 9:15am
Week 5	Tuesday 24 May Thursday 26 May	Our Lady Help of Christians Liturgy ES1 Parish Mass	In Class Church, 9:15am
Week 6	Saturday 4 June Sunday 5 June	Registration for 1st Communion Registration for 1st Communion	5pm Mass 9am Mass
Week 7	Tuesday 7 June	Stage 1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 8	Tuesday 14 June Thursday 16 June	Parent Only Meeting Stage 3 Parish Mass	Comms Room, 7:00pm Church, 9:15am
Week 9	Thursday 23 June	Stage 2 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 10	Thursday 30 June	ES1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am

Mothers Day Mass

We would like to invite all significant women in our child's lives to the special celebration of our Mothers Day Mass.

When: Friday 6 May

Where: St Monica's Church, 9:15am

Followed by morning tea to be held in the parish hall.

We hope to see you all there!

