

St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter

**NO YOUNG
PERSON
SHOULD HAVE TO FACE
CANCER ALONE**



National Bandanna Day

National Bandanna Day is CanTeen's largest fundraiser. This organisation raises money to support young people living with cancer. Every year, another 23,000 young people have to deal with the challenge of cancer. On Friday 28 October, we are going to be supporting this organisation by raising funds for National Bandanna Day. On this day, you will have the opportunity to purchase a bandanna for \$4 or you can wear your own bandanna and make a donation to this charity.

'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace' St Francis of Assisi

Welcome to Term 4!

October is a busy month. October is the month of the Holy Rosary, in memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, whose feast day is on 7 October. During October, take time with your family to dedicate a prayer to Our Lady. Prayer is a helpful way to stay in touch with God and develop a relationship with him. During October, as a school we will be praying the Hail Mary each morning in October. Dedicating the entire month of October to prayers to Our Lady, we recognise the important role she played in the life of Jesus. We are thankful for her graciousness and devote our prayers to her as a sign of respect, acknowledgement and reverence.

We also celebrate and acknowledge that October is World Mission Month. The 2016 theme for this year's Catholic

World Mission Appeal is inspired by the prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi: 'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace'. During World Mission Month, students across ES1 – Stage 3 will be learning about Jesus' mission, and how we can be like Jesus and continue his mission. As a school, we will continue to support our Mercy initiatives and continue our prayers to support Catholic Mission, in particular the people in our world who are disadvantaged. For more information about World Mission Appeal, or to make a donation, please have a look at the website: www.catholicmission.org.au

Week 2 is Anti-Poverty Week. We began our week with a liturgy to recognise people in our world living in poverty. There are so many people in our world living without life's basic necessities including food, water, shelter, clean clothing and access to education. The purpose of Anti-Poverty Week is to develop an understanding of the causes

and consequences of poverty, both in Australia and around the world, and to encourage discussion and actions to address these problems. It is important that our students are aware of these issues and begin thinking of ways they can make a difference.

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

- Andy Haddad
- Jack Talty
- Hunter Malatag
- Sara-Rose Wilson
- Lachlan Roberts
- Nishika Jain

As we near the end of the year, I would like to thank you in advance for all your support and contribution to developing the faith of the children at St Monica's. I look forward to continuing this partnership with you in 2017.

Peace and love,
Michelle Rosewell
Religious Education Coordinator

Early Stage One

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.

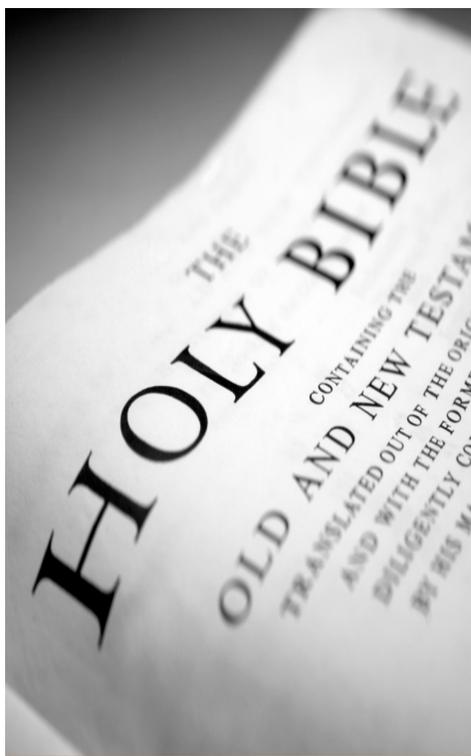
Stage 1

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 Unit

Students will recall experiences of getting ready for something special including Christmas, recall ways in which Mary and Joseph might have prepared for the birth of Jesus, grow in understanding of the story of the first Christmas and explore connections between their experience of Christmas gifts and the Christmas story.



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: 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 Unit

Students will explore the concept of promise and promise making, recall God's earliest promises to his people in the Old Testament, recognise Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promise active in our world today through the Holy Spirit, propose how their celebration of Christmas can be one of sharing the peace and joy of Christ and showing goodwill to all.

Stage 3

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 Unit

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, reflect upon and respond to the challenges of the Advent readings and explain the importance to Christians of Christmas as the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

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.

MISSION MASS

On the 14th of October, four Year 6 students with Mrs Mason and Mrs Haddad, went to St Patrick's Cathedral to attend the annual Mission Mass. Over 10 Primary and High Schools, attended the mass at the Cathedral. When we got there, there were multiple stalls set up around the church courtyard, each run by a school that had a mission team and what that mission team does. We learnt things about people who did things at their schools for mission. Some schools had fundraisers and some travelled to other countries to assist people in need. It was all very impressive and certainly gave us some ideas on how to promote mission at our school. We learnt about how Catholic Mission assisted civilians of Cambodia in Southeast Asia. We also learnt about some history of the country including the "Reign of Terror" where Khmer Rouge took over the Capital City. They killed thousands of teachers, children and destroyed many buildings. One of the first buildings that was destroyed was the Cambodian Cathedral.

By Andy Haddad, Jackson Basha, Natasha Mutton and Erica Crame

WORLD MISSION MONTH & ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

World Mission Month (WMM) and Anti-Poverty Week are celebrated every year, wherever there are people wanting to make our world a better place for all of God's children. WMM and Anti-Poverty Week take place in October. Anti-poverty week aims to encourage everyone to help reduce poverty and hardship during the week because these issues have a critical affect on more than a million Australians. More than a billion people are desperately poor all around the world. WMM is designed to promote harmony, justice and peace among all people, races and faiths.

By Nishika Jain & Hunter Malatag

2016 Sacramental Program

The **Sacrament of First Reconciliation** will be held **on Friday 18 November at 7:00pm**. This is our last Sacrament for the year at St Monica's. 2017 Sacramental dates and details will be published in the Religious Education Newsletter on a regular basis. Please stay tuned next year for more information!



Holy Year of Mercy

During this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we have been 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. In July, we focused on *clothe the naked*. As a school response to the action, we collected monetary donations and wore blue to support Mercy. In total, we raised \$226.90. This money has been donated to the refugee support centre at Aruppe House, Parramatta. Thank you to all the families who donated.

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 response to our October Mercy Work *Visit the Imprisoned*, we watched a video and discussed people in our world living without life's essentials including water, food, housing and access to education. Each student has decorated a hand with key words about acceptance that have included *justice, welcoming, belonging, freedom, peace, inviting and gathering*. These are displayed in the Mercy Hallway. For our final Mercy Work *Bury the Dead*, each student in the school will be writing a mercy prayer for someone they have lost, or someone they know who has lost someone. Like all of our student's mercy work, these will also be displayed in the Mercy Hallway. It would be great when you have a chance to come and take a look. It is amazing!

Term 4 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 4, 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	Who's Involved
Week 3	Sunday 23 October	World Mission Day	
	Thursday 27 October	Stage 2 Parish Mass (9:15am, Church)	Stage 2
Week 4	Tuesday 1 November	All Saints Day Mass (9:15am, Church)	Stage 2 and Stage 3
	Wednesday 2 November	Stage 1 Parish Mass (9:15am, Church)	Stage 1
	Thursday 3 November	ES1 Parish Mass (9:15am, Church)	ES1
Week 5	Thursday 10 November	Way of Mercy Mass (9:15am, Church)	Whole School
	Friday 11 November	Remembrance Day Liturgy (9:00am, Assembly Area)	Whole School
Week 6	Wednesday 16 November	Stage 3 Parish Mass (9:15, Church)	Stage 3
	Friday 18 November	Sacrament of First Reconciliation (7:00pm, Church)	
Week 7	Tuesday 22 November	Stage 2 Parish Mass (9:15am, Church)	Stage 2
	Wednesday 23 November	Stage 1 Parish Mass (9:15am, Church)	Stage 1
	Thursday 24 November	ES1 Parish Mass (9:15am, Church)	ES1
	Sunday 27 November	First Sunday in Advent	
Week 8	Thursday 1 December	December: Social Justice Month Commencing Liturgy (9:00am, Assembly Area)	Whole School
	Sunday 4 December	Second Sunday in Advent	
Week 9	Wednesday 7 December	St Monica's Christmas Concert (7:00pm, under croft)	Whole School
	Thursday 8 December	Farewell Teacher's Mass (11:30am, Church)	Whole School
	Sunday 11 December	Third Sunday in Advent	
Week 10	Thursday 15 December	End of Year/Y6 Graduation Mass (6:00pm, Church)	Whole School
	Sunday 18 December	Fourth Sunday in Advent	

* * SOCIAL JUSTICE REMINDER * *

Thank you to the families that have already donated a gift under our Mission Tree. There are still plenty of gift tags available. If your family is able to donate a small gift to a child in need for Christmas, please take a tag from under the mission tree, and return to school with the gift. All gifts will be donated to the refugee centre at Aruppe Place, Parramatta.

'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much' Helen Keller