

St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Tuesday 8 Aug

**“Find happiness in
making others happy”**

“I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Matthew 25:35

We have begun Term 3 with our new Administrator of St Monica's Father Reggie Lavilla. Father Reggie has joined our St Monica's Community from St Matthew's in Windsor. We welcome him into our school community and we look forward to working alongside him.

Last Tuesday we had our first whole school mass for the term to celebrate the feast of Australia's patron saint, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We are at a time in our world where we need to really think about what is going on around us and how we can respond, as Mary MacKillop did by saying 'never see a need without doing something about it'. I think this applies to not only our school community, but the wider community. We see a lot happening around the world on TV, in newspapers and online. We, as Catholics, need to think about how we can respond. It doesn't always necessarily have to be monetary or physical, it can also be through prayer. Prayer can be a powerful response

that each and everyone one of us can do. We can follow in the footsteps of our school's patron saint, Saint Monica, and believe in the power of persistent prayer.

The Parramatta Diocese has commenced a year-long faith journey with the focus 'Walking with refugees and people seeking protection'. At St Monica's, we have always had a focus on refugees, in particular in our local community and with our links to Arrupe Place. Bishop Vincent asks us to work together as a Diocese to develop a culture that will promote fair and compassionate treatment of people seeking refuge and protection in Australia. Our Social Justice Team at St Monica's will continue to raise awareness of refugees and provide opportunities for our community to support refugees in this faith journey. It will be an opportunity for all of us to consider carefully how we can be world citizens and develop a better understanding of issues affecting those trying to seek a better life in our country.

There will be a letter sent home to all families from Bishop Vincent regarding this initiative.

Our Christ-centred leaders for Term 3 are:

- Riwarz Bhattachan
- Rachel French
- Matilda-Rose Hall
- Christian Kandalauft
- Ainsley Mitchell
- Cyzan Panopio

In this issue of the RE newsletter I have outlined the Sharing our Story topics that will be taught in Term 3 in each stage, as well as a focus Scripture reading you can also use at home with your child. You will also find the timetabled liturgies and masses, the sacramental details and other important information relating to Religious Education.

Peace and love,
Michelle Rosewell
Religious Education Coordinator

Early Stage One

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.

Key Scripture Focus: The Feeding of the 5000 Matthew 14: 13-21

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.

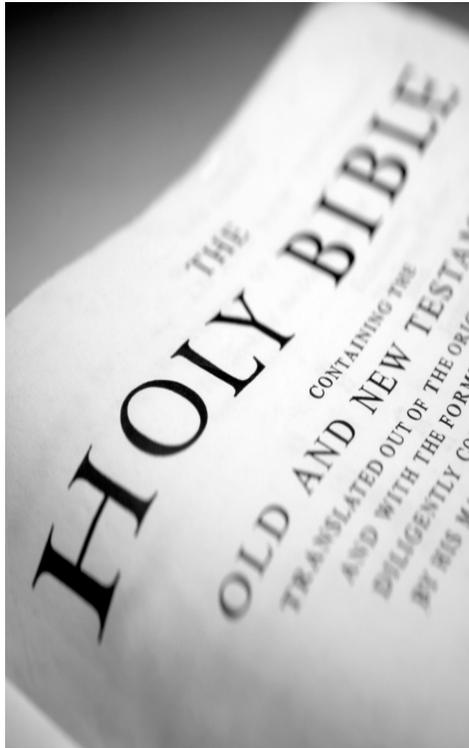
Key Scripture Focus: Forgive Each Other Col 3: 12-13

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.

2017 Formation Goal:

For all students to have a deeper understanding of Sacred Scripture and it's application to Catholic life.



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 – Y3

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.

Key Scripture Focus: The Creation Story Genesis 1:

Stage 2 – Y4

Unit #1: God's Forgiveness & 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, and gives , peace and courage to those who are ill, suffering or frail through old age.

Key Scripture Focus: The Prodigal Son Luke 15: 11-32

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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.

Key Scripture Focus: The Gift of Love 1 Corinthians 13:1-13



2017 Sacramental Program

103rd WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



The Sacrament of Reconciliation will now be held on Friday 1 December.

Registration for this Sacrament will be after Mass on:

- Saturday 19 August @ 5pm Mass
- Sunday 20 August @ 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. Entry is via Daking Street on Tuesday 29 August @ 7:00pm

Sacramental Dates for 2017

- First Eucharist: Weekend 26/27 August
- Reconciliation: Friday 1 December @ 7:00pm

(please note the date has been changed)

Walking with Refugees

In Term 2, Week 10, the Social Justice Team held a fundraiser to raise money for Arrupe Place Winter Appeal 2017. One social justice member gave a reminder in week 9. Every day in Week 10 we went around classrooms collected donations of money from every classroom. We even collected donations on the carlines every afternoon and at the Thursday morning assembly. We raised over \$680. With the money we purchased supermarket vouchers. The SJT will be going down to Arrupe Place next week to donate the vouchers.

On Thursday in Week 10, Term 2, Matthew Potts, who works at Arrupe Place, spoke to Stage 2 and 3 about refugees. At the end of the session he allowed time for the students to ask questions. The questions students asked were very interesting and Matthew was able to answer them all and provide us with a better understanding of some of the experiences refugees and migrants have to go through before they are safe. Everyone found Matthews speech very inspiring.

Gene Kneipp
On behalf of the Social Justice Team

‘Walking with refugees and people seeking asylum’

As we continue our journey on developing a deeper awareness in our community on people seeking refuge in our country, you will see letters, advertising and promoting this year-long pledge that our Diocese is challenging us to commit ourselves and open our hearts to those less fortunate.

Term 3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 3, 2017. 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	Tuesday 8 August Thursday 11 August	Mary MacKillop Mass Fr Reggie visiting S2	Church, 9:15am 10am
Week 5	Tuesday 15 August Tuesday 15 August Wednesday 16 August Saturday 19 August Weekend 19/20 Aug	The Assumption Mass (Primary) The Assumption Liturgy (Infants) Year 4 Reconciliation Rehearsal for Holy Communion Registration for Reconciliation	Church, 9:15am Learning Space, 9:15am Learning Space, 10am Church, 3pm 5pm or 9am Mass
Week 6	Thursday 24 August Saturday 26 August Sunday 27 August	Feast of St Monica Mass Sacrament of Holy Communion Sacrament of Holy Communion	Church, 9:15am 5pm Mass 9am Mass
Week 7	Thursday 31 August	Fathers Day Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 8	Tuesday 5 September Thursday 7 September	ES1 Parish Mass Stage 2 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am Church, 9:15am
Week 9	Tuesday 12 September Thursday 13 September	Stage 1 Parish Mass Stage 3 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am Church, 9:15am

Fathers Day Mass

We would like to invite all significant men in our children's lives to a special celebration at our Fathers Day Mass.

When: Thursday 31 August

Where: St Monica's - Breakfast at school from 8am, followed by mass at 9:15am

After mass there will be activities the dads can participate in with their children until recess time

We hope to see you all there!



St Monica's Day & Grandparents Day

Parents and Grandparents are invited to join us for celebrations for our Feast Day on Thursday 24 August.

The day will be as follows:

- 9:15am Whole School Mass
Followed by open classrooms where parents and grandparents will have the opportunity to participate in some learning activities with the students.
- 11:00am Morning Tea
Parents & Grandparents in the hall
Students in the playground
- 11:45-1:15 Talent Quest
- Celebrations Conclude
- 1:15 – 2:00pm Students return to classroom for lunch
- 2:00 – 3:00pm Classes resume