

Sharing Our Story

Early Stage 1:

Unit #1: God Loves Me

Students will *identify* special God-given qualities that make them unique, *describe* and *critically reflect* upon ways in which feelings are expressed, *recognise* and *appreciate* that God always loves them and *identify* ways in which they can show their love for their family and friends.

Unit #2: Lent: From Ashes to Easter

Students will *identify* Ash Wednesday as a special day which is the first day of Lent, *recall* the story of the first Palm Sunday, *recognise* special signs and symbols of Lent/Easter and their relevance to the life of Jesus and *develop* an awareness and appreciation of Lent/Easter through participation in activities and celebrations of other classes and/or the whole school.

Stage 1:

Unit #1: Jesus Helps Me to Love

Students will *recognise* Baptism as a ritual of initiation into God's family, where they are called to love, share with, listen to and accept others, *recall* gospel accounts and parables which demonstrate how Jesus encouraged others to grow, *recognise* that Jesus calls them to love one another; and *list* ways of responding to this call and *appreciate* that as part of God's family they are called to seek justice, truth and hope.

Unit #2: Lent: Being Alone

Students will *recall* and *reflect* upon times of being alone, *appreciate* that Jesus prayed to God his Father, *identify* prayer as a means of preparing to celebrate Easter, *recognise* Lent as a particular time for repentance and *participate* in a variety of prayerful experiences.



“ Each Stage works with material that is relevant to the needs of it's learners, using resources that engage and support understanding and connect students with the core learning of Catholic faith ”

Stage 2:

Unit #1: Talking and Listening to God

Students will *identify* the values that should inspire the ways in which we communicate with others, *retell* stories from the Bible which tell of the importance of prayer in the lives of God's people, *grow in appreciation* of the prayers and prayer traditions in the Church that have been passed on from generation to generation and *work in groups* to *identify*, *write* and *pray* prayers of praise, thanks, sorrow and petition, *reflect* on the experience of spending time alone in individual prayer.

Unit #2: Lent: Practices and Promises

Students will *identify* and give examples of three forms of Lenten penance, *research* examples of Old Testament covenants, commandments and laws, *describe* how God established a covenant relationship with the people of Israel through Moses, *explain* the importance of the Ten Commandments and laws in the covenant relationship between God and the people of Israel and *propose* ways in which their relationship with God and others can be renewed this Lent through the fulfilment of promises to undertake Lenten practices.

Stage 3:

Unit #1: Servant Leadership

Students will *compare* and *contrast* different styles of leadership, *identify* and *explain* characteristics of the servant leadership displayed by Moses and Jesus and *apply* the Christian ideals of leadership in their school community.

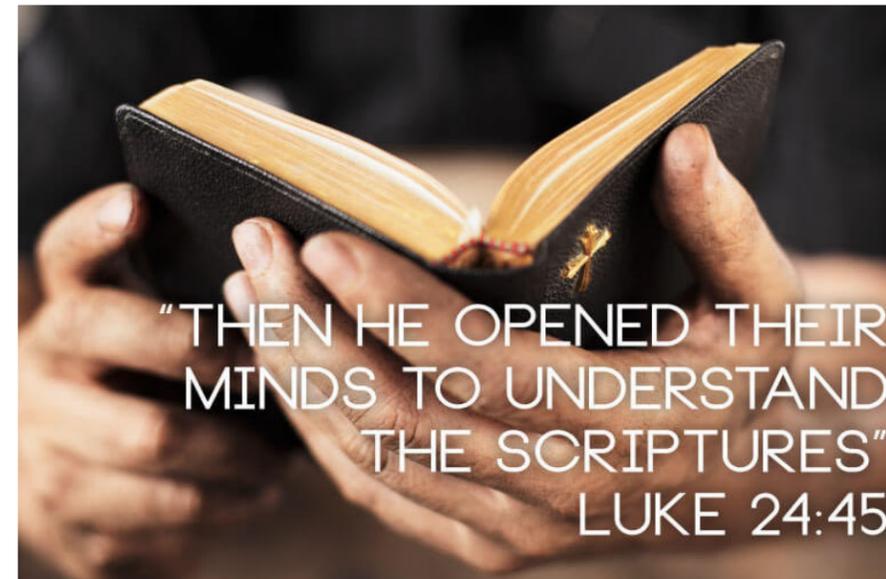
Unit #2: Easter Triduum: Crossroads

Students will *recall* and *explore* 'crossroad' situations in their own lives when they were faced with making decisions, *explain* how Jesus, Pilate, Judas, Peter and the other disciples were confronted with 'crossroad' situations, *link* events of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection with the liturgies celebrated in Holy Week and Easter and *dramatise* Christian responses to real-life dilemmas.



The formation goal allows students and teachers to focus on an area that needs further development within the school and allows for students to achieve and perform at the best of their ability.

St Monica's 2017 Formation Goal



2017 Goal: For all students to have a deeper understanding of Scripture and its application to Catholic life

As part of our whole school Formation Goal for 2017, teachers will be working on the following strategies with their students:

- Interpreting and responding to Scripture passages at three levels (literal, spiritual and application);
- Engaging in reading and writing activities when responding to and interpreting Scripture;
- Apply comprehension strategies to understand Scripture, including questioning and inferring;
- Using a range of protocols to reflect and self-asses their understanding, and;
- Link ideas across other Key Learning Areas.

Staff will continue their Professional Learning around interpreting Scripture and how to implement successful strategies in the classroom.

There will also be ideas in each RE Newsletter to assist parents in:

- Supporting your child in their class learning
- Having focused family prayer time
- Initiating conversations with your child when they are completing home learning tasks



2017 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Sacrament of Confirmation:

Weekend of 4/5 March – Registration
14 March – Parent Only Meeting at 7pm
Weekend of 18/19 March – Commitment Mass
25 March – Weekly Lessons Commence (excluding weekends in the school holidays)
27 May – Rehearsal at 3pm
Friday 2 June – Sacrament of Confirmation Mass

If your child has received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Communion and is in Year 5 or above he/she is eligible to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. Please bring a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and a donation of \$30 that will cover costs of resourcing to the registration.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Weekend of 26/27 August

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 23 November



Term 1 CHRIST-CENTRED LEADERS

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the new Christ-centred leaders for Term 1. As part of their leadership role, their responsibilities will include setting up prayer spaces, assisting teachers with preparing liturgies and masses, leading whole school prayer and putting together religious focused displays around the school. Welcome to the team:

- Alexis Chang
- Zoe Bird
- Myles Gaddi
- Madeline Lewis
- Garv Sciacca
- Chloe Pearson
- Pinar Helena Unver



Franciscan Shrine of Holy Innocents

As part of our Lenten Units being taught prior to Holy Week this year, Stage 2 and Stage 3 will be participating in a Religious Education PBL Unit, integrating the Lent and Easter units of work. As part of this project, students in Stage 2 and 3 will be visiting the Franciscan Shrine at Kellyville. Located on the grounds of the Conventual Franciscan Friary of Mount Saint Francis, Kellyville, The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents and Garden of the Immaculate to represent and promote a culture of life. On the site of the Shrine there is a chapel with an impressive hand painted domed ceiling, icons of St Francis and St Clare and a landscaped garden that has sculptures of the 14 Stations of the Cross. The chapel also has one of the five sets of 'Mercy' doors that were an integral part of the Year of Mercy in 2016.

The students will take part in a reflection walk of the Stations of the Cross, followed by a Easter Liturgy. The liturgy will be held on the grounds at the Shrine. All students will have reflection time and an opportunity to walk around the grounds and reflect in quiet prayer.

This is also an open invitation for all parents and families in our school community to attend this reflection time and liturgy. If you are interested in attending, please see me for further details of the location and parking.

When: Kellyville Shrine of Holy Innocents
9 Greyfair Place, Kellyville

Time: Departing school at 9:00am and returning at 12:00pm

Religious Education Calendar

Term 1, 2017

St Monica's Parish Mass Times:

Saturdays – 5pm
Sundays – 9am & 6pm
Chinese Mass – 11:30am

Week/Date	Event	Time/Location
Week 6		
Tuesday 28 February	Shrove Tuesday	Pancakes for all students
Wednesday 1 March	Ash Wednesday Liturgy	11:30am – Church (all students)
Weekend 4 & 5 March	Registration for Confirmation	Saturday or Sunday after mass
Week 7	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK	
Wednesday 8 March	Catholic Schools Week Mass	9:15am – Church (all students)
Tuesday 9 March	Stage 2 Parish Mass	9:15am – Church (Stage 2)
Week 8		
Tuesday 14 March	Parent Only Information Night (Confirmation)	7:00pm – Community Room
Friday 17 March	St Patrick's Day Liturgy	10:20am – Playground
Weekend 18 & 19 March	Confirmation Commitment Mass	Saturday or Sunday
Week 9		
Wednesday 22 March	ES1 Parish Mass	9:15am – Church (ES1)
Thursday 23 March	Primary visit the Holy Shrine of Innocents	Stage 2 and Stage 3
Friday 24 March	Annunciation Prayer	In class Religion lessons
Week 10		
Tuesday 28 March	Stage 1 Parish Mass	9:15am – Church (Stage 1)
Thursday 30 March	Stage 3 Parish Mass	9:15am – Church (Stage 3)
Week 11		
	Holy Week Liturgy	Time and Venue TBC

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with Thee;

Blessed art thou among women,

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwell among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord.

Amen.



St Monica's School Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for our friends family and teachers.

Alleluia! Praise the Lord for our houses, our energy to pass the day, our food and beautiful weather.

Support us now and always. May the peace of Christ be with us throughout the day. May St Monica's and her son St Augustine, help us all through the week to be more and more like Jesus.

We pray for those parts of the world that are in trouble.

St Monica, pray for us!



✠ **P1 / 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.

✠ **P2 / SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**
Dates for registration, lesson and masses for the Sacramental program.
CHRIST-CENTRED LEADERS
Editorial from our Christ-centred leaders on current events.

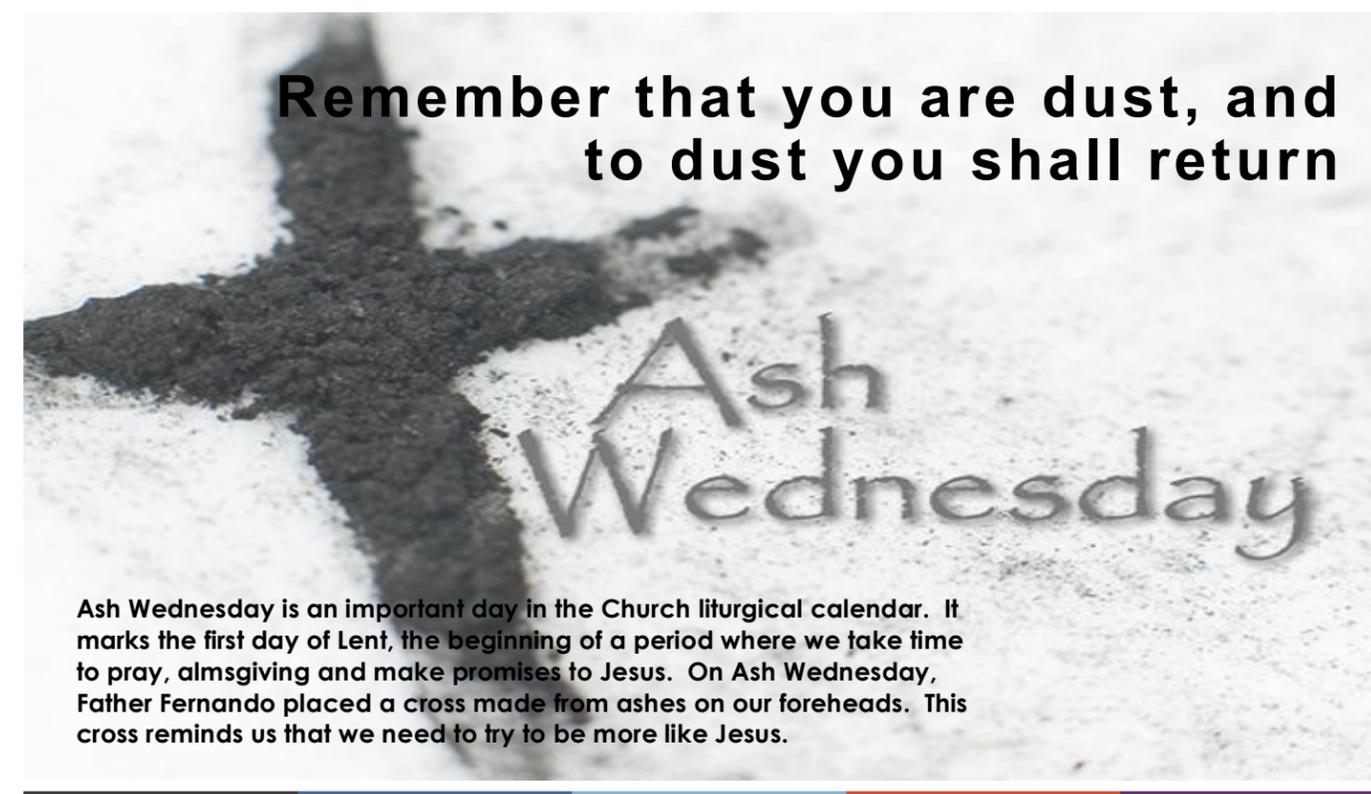
✠ **P3 / 2017 FORMATION GOAL**
An outline of our school formation goal for 2017, as well as information on our school focus this year around the theme '**Salt and Light**'.

✠ **P4 / TERM 1 CALENDAR**
You will find the Term 1 Calendar that includes all dates for class masses, whole school masses and liturgies that are being held at St Monica's.

St Monica's

Religious Education Newsletter

ISSUE 1 / TERM 1 / 2017



Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return

Ash Wednesday is an important day in the Church liturgical calendar. It marks the first day of Lent, the beginning of a period where we take time to pray, almsgiving and make promises to Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, Father Fernando placed a cross made from ashes on our foreheads. This cross reminds us that we need to try to be more like Jesus.

A new school year always brings renewed energy and motivation for our students returning to school. Our Opening Schools Mass was celebrated on Sunday 5 February. It was a great start to our school year, where Father Fernando addressed us in the homily about the symbols of 'salt and light'. St Monica's will be using these symbols as part of our focus theme this year, which will be *Discipleship*. Throughout the year, we will discuss the importance of Servant Leadership and being a disciple of Jesus. We will ponder

the following questions throughout the year:

- What does it mean for believers to be the salt and light?
- How can we be the salt of the earth and the light of the world?
- What can we do to be disciples of Jesus?

As we prepare ourselves in this coming month for the Season of Lent to commence, consider how we can be disciples of Jesus,

particularly in this most important time of his life. What does almsgiving mean to you? What can you do for others? How can you help in our local community? Please reflect on these questions and discuss them at home with your children.

I look forward to continuing our faith partnership together throughout 2017.

“ You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world...”

Michelle Rosewell
Religious Education Coordinator