

St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 14 February

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 Regie will place a cross made from ashes on our foreheads. This cross reminds us that we need to try to be more like Jesus.

'Return to me with whole heart' Joel 2:12

Welcome to 2018. We hope you have had a restful break with your families, and you are ready for the new year.

On Thursday 8 February, we celebrated our Welcoming Mass, where we welcomed all our Kindergarten and new students. We also inducted our new Year 6 leaders and presented them with their leadership badges. It was great to see so many families at mass. Thank you to all the families who attended mass. There was great school spirit within our community to start off a new school year.

We have had a very busy start to the year already. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday with mass for primary and a liturgy for infants. This will be a time to focus on what we can do for others and reach out to people in need. We will have a strong emphasis on Project Compassion this year and raising money to provide educational

opportunities for under privileged students around the world.

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 1:

Raymond Khadi
Ezekiel Logo
Merna El-Merhabi
Jonah Assaf
Jericho Crame
Ana Maria
Gene Kneipp
Laetitia Hossack

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

Our Formation goal for 2018 is: **to develop a deeper understanding of Scripture and its application to Catholic life.** As a whole school we are continuing our learning on this goal from 2017, and developing a

deeper understanding on using the Three Senses when teaching Religion, with a particular focus on the Spiritual Sense.

In this issue of the RE newsletter I have outlined the Sharing our Story topics that will be taught in Term 1 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.

I look forward to continuing our partnership this year. 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: 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 Our Friend

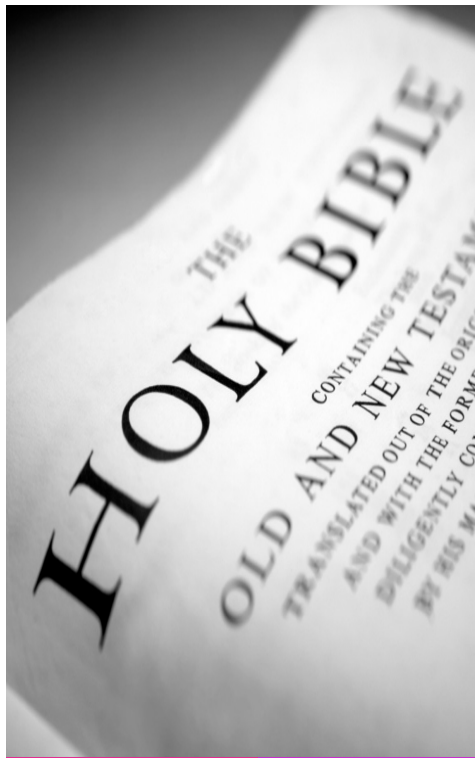
Students will *name* the qualities of a good friend, *identify* ways in which they could make others feel special, *recall* Scripture stories which reveal the qualities of Jesus' friendship, *create* a prayer of thanks to Jesus and *appreciate* that when they care for others they are reflecting and responding to the love of Jesus.

Unit #2: Growing Together

Students will *explain* how they are growing and changing, *state* that Lent is a special time to grow and change as we get ready for Easter, *explain* how Jesus helped others to change into better people and *describe* how they can help others during Lent.

Unit 3: Easter Triduum: The Last Supper

Students will *explain* why they like sharing meals with their families, *sequence* the key events of Holy Week and *dramatise* or *represent artistically* Jesus celebrating the Last Supper with His disciples.



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: Jesus Shares His Gifts

Students will *identify* ways in which people use their gifts to serve others in their family, school, parish and community, *describe* how Jesus used his special gifts to serve others, *explain* why God gives different people different gifts and *affirm* the gifts of others and suggest ways in which they can use their gifts to serve others.

Unit #2: Lent: Reaching Out

Students will *explain* how the celebration of Lent provides opportunities for personal growth in faith and challenges us to reach out to others, *recall* stories in which Jesus reached out to others in loving service and *formulate* a plan of action aimed at reaching out to others.

Unit #3: Journeying With Jesus

Students will *identify* the key events of Holy Week, *recount* times when Jesus reached out to others during his last journey in Holy Week and *compare* and *contrast* the response of various people to the suffering Jesus.

Stage 2

Unit #1: Parables of Jesus

Students will *identify* examples and features of stories, including parables, which contain a message and/or moral,

explain Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God with reference to his parables, *apply* the parables to their own lives and *work in groups cooperatively* to consider appropriate responses to Jesus' challenge to live and work for justice and peace.

Unit #2: Lent: A Time for Reconciliation

Students will *explain* how the celebration of the season of Lent challenges and invites us to be reconciled with God and others, *relate* Jesus' message in the parable of the Prodigal Son to their own lives and *prepare for and participate* in the celebration of the sacrament of Penance or a prayer service with the theme of reconciliation.

Unit #3: Easter Triduum: Way of the Cross

Students will *recall* and *share* times in their own lives when they experienced hurt and disappointment, *recount* the events of the Passion of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels and celebrated on Good Friday, *relate* Jesus' feelings as presented in the Gospel accounts of the Passion to times when they and others may have experienced hurt and disappointment and *participate* in a class celebration of the Way of the Cross that relates students' life experience to the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

2018 Formation Goal:

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

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion 2018 focuses on **For A Just Future**. It throws a spotlight on global justice issues and how Caritas Australia is highlighting how we can work together with vulnerable people, helping them to develop their strengths and create change in their communities.

This week each family will be sent home a project compassion box, where you are able to donate towards the project compassion appeal. There will also be project compassion boxes in each learning space. Our whole school goal is to accumulate our donations to \$350. This will provide one year's tutoring for a young refugee who has missed school due to the conflict in Syria. The more money we raise – the more people we can help and make a real difference in children's education.

We will be keeping a money tracker on display in the Mercy Foyer where we can add each classes donations to the tracker each week. So have a think about what you can do at home to help out and earn some extra pocket money, or maybe donate your ice block money one day a week to Project Compassion. Please have a look at the website: caritas.org.au for more information.

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

I would like to congratulate the following students who are the new members of our 2018 Social Justice Team:

Jayden Albayeh
Alexander Azar
Jordan Basha
Ana Maria Costea
Laura Emphield
Galia Evangelista
Ezekiel Logo
Gabrielle Nassif
Joshua North
Neave Sciacca

I look forward to working with this team to promote Social Justice initiatives around our school this year.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

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** that will be held on **Friday 18 May**.

Registration for this Sacrament will be after Mass on:

- Saturday 17 May @ 5pm Mass
- Sunday 18 May @ 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 27 February @ 7:00pm

Sacramental Dates for 2018

- Confirmation: Friday 18 May @ 7:00pm
- Communion: Saturday 25 August @ 11:00am
- Reconciliation: Friday 9 November @ 7:00pm

St Monica's School Prayer

Dear Lord,

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 and her son St Augustine help us all through the week to be more and more like Jesus.

We pray for all parts of the world that are in trouble
St Monica, Pray for us.
Amen



Term 1 Calendar of Upcoming Events

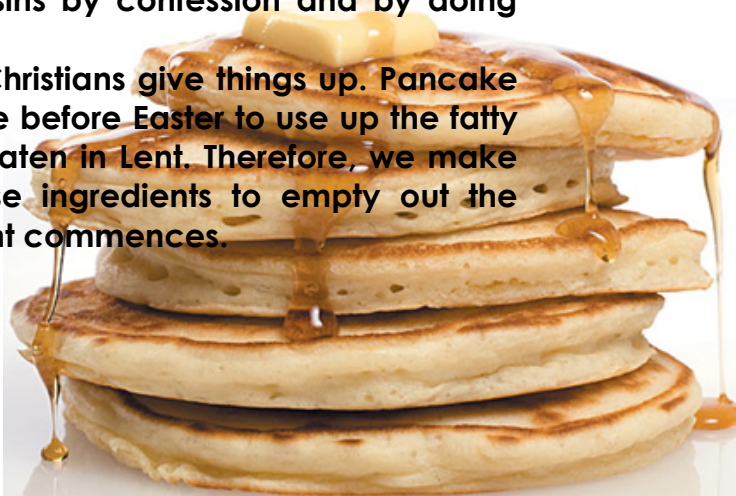
Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 1, 2018. There is always an open invitation for you to join us in prayer. We hope that you might take up the opportunity to attend Mass with your child's class during the Term.

Week	Date	Event	Location
Week 3	Tuesday 13 February	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes	In class
	Wednesday 14 February	Ash Wednesday Mass	Church, 9:15am (primary)
	Wednesday 14 February	Ash Wednesday Liturgy	In class, 10am (infants)
	Saturday 17 February	Registration for Confirmation	5pm Mass
	Sunday 18 February	Registration for Confirmation	9am Mass
Week 4	Wednesday 21 February	Stage 3 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
	Thursday 22 February	Stage 2 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 5	Thursday 1 March	Stage 1 Parish Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 6	Catholic Schools Week		
	Thursday 8 March	CSW Whole School Mass	Church, 9:15am
Week 7	Friday 23 March	Annunciation Liturgy	In class
Week 9	Holy Week		
	Thursday 29 March	Holy Week Liturgy	Time & Location TBA
Week 10	Tuesday 3 April	Resurrection Liturgy	Time & Location TBA

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is the name of the day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The word 'shrove' is the past tense of the English verb 'shrive' which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by confession and by doing penance.

Lent is a time when Christians give things up. Pancake day is the last chance before Easter to use up the fatty foods that can't be eaten in Lent. Therefore, we make pancakes using these ingredients to empty out the cupboards before Lent commences.



TRY ONE OF THESE RECIPES...

Sweet Potato Pancake
Topped with Smoked Salmon, Spanish Onion & Capers

Spinach and Ricotta Pancake
Topped with Prawns, Philadelphia Cheese and Chives

Ricotta and Parmesan Cheese Pancake
Topped with Cherry Tomato, Spanish Onion, Oregano and drizzled with Balsamic

Chocolate Pancake
With white Chocolate gelato and fresh Strawberries

Basic Pancake
With whipped Cream, fresh Strawberries and your choice of topping (Chocolate, Strawberry, Caramel)