

St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



Pentecost Sunday – Sunday 8 June

This feast day which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and followers of Jesus, 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 on 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.

Welcome to Term 2

Welcome back to school for Term 2. There were many significant Liturgical celebrations that have taken place during the two-week break. At the end of Term 1, we celebrated the first three parts of Holy Week together in our Holy Week Liturgies. Kindergarten began our Liturgies with Palm Sunday on Monday, followed by Year 1 who celebrated the washing of the feet on Tuesday and Year 2 The Last Supper on Wednesday. Stage 2 concluded our Term 1 Liturgies with the fourth part of Holy Week, Jesus is crucified. On Monday of Week 1, Term 2, Stage 3 presented the celebration of Jesus is Risen in a whole school liturgy. The Liturgical celebrations were a reminder of all that Jesus has sacrificed for us, and finishing the celebrations with Jesus Risen confirms our faith, and the important

values of hope and belief that this significant event in the Church calendar represents.

ANZAC Day was also celebrated during the holiday break on Friday 25 April. It is the day on which we remember Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity. As a school, we commemorated this historic Australian anniversary with an ANZAC Day liturgy on Tuesday morning. The Christ-centred Leaders led a respectful and moving liturgy to mark this important Australian event.



This issue of the RE newsletter outlines 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.

Michelle Rosewell

Acting 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.

Year 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.

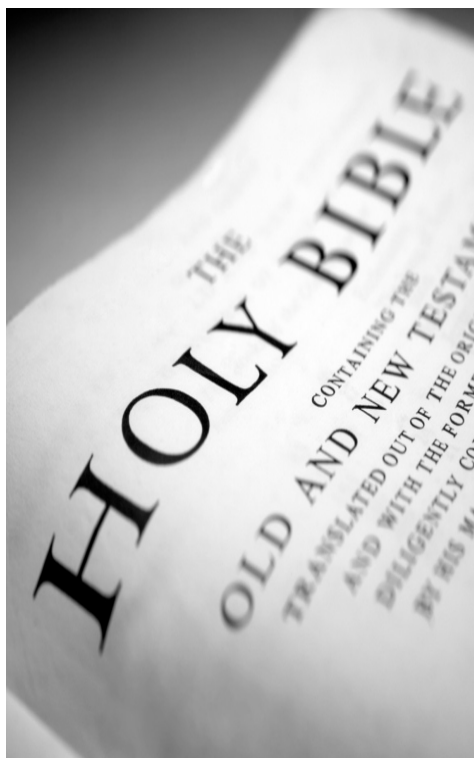
Year 2

Unit #1: Easter: Jesus is with Us

Students will *recall and share* stories about their family's and parish's celebration of Easter, *recount* stories from John's Gospel which describe the disciples' encounters with the Risen Jesus and *name* ways in which Christians encounter the Risen Christ in their lives.

Unit #2: The Pentecost Story

Students will recognise people in the



community who help others, recall the events of the Pentecost story, explain how the disciples were empowered by the Spirit in the Pentecost story, state that Pentecost is the celebration of Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit and grow in awareness and appreciation of the Church as a gathering of people who celebrate and proclaim the message of Jesus.

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

Sharing Our Story

Sharing Our Story is the document used in The Diocese of Parramatta to guide the teaching of Religion 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.

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.

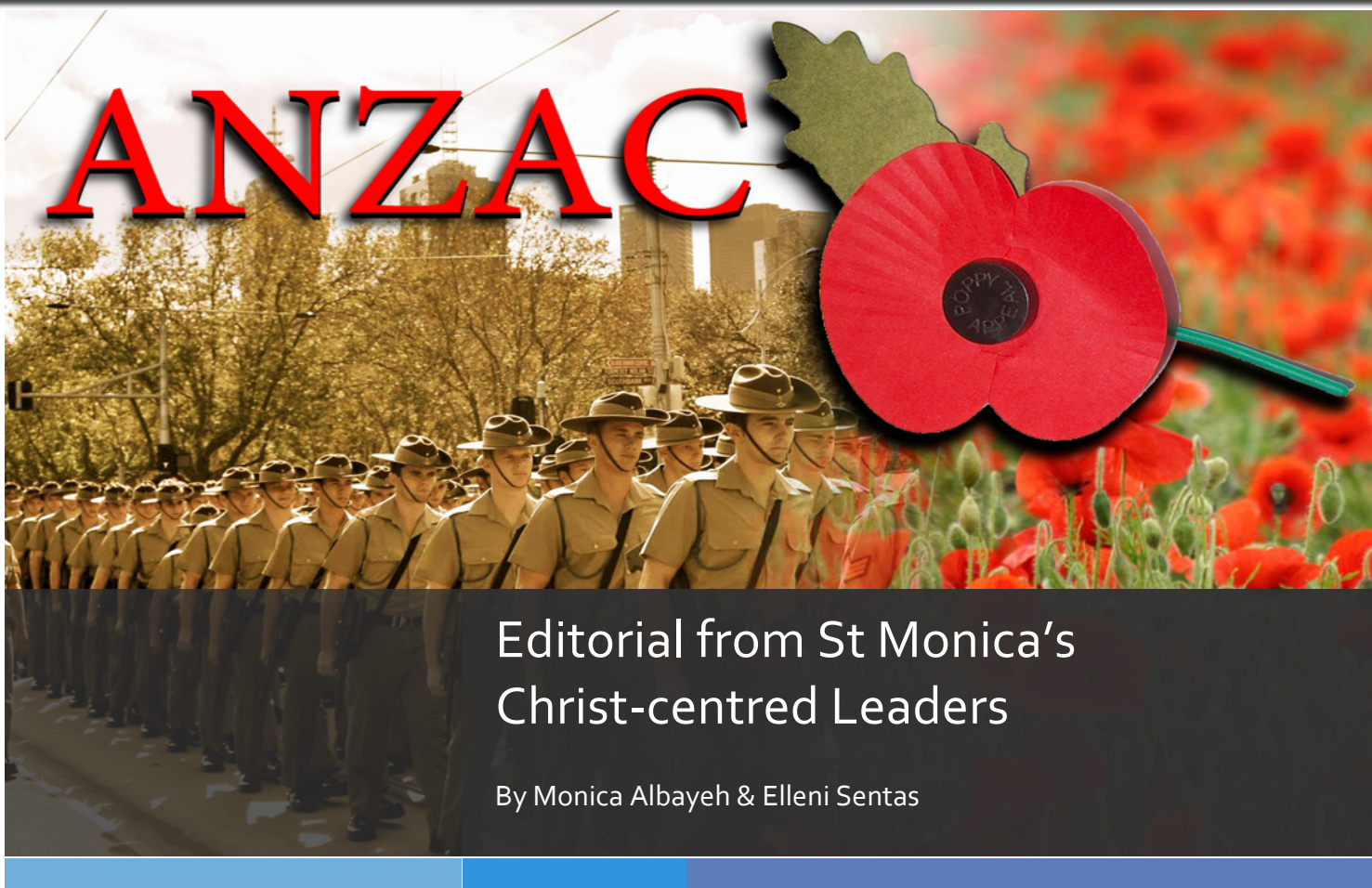
Stage 3

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.



Editorial from St Monica's Christ-centred Leaders

By Monica Albayeh & Elleni Sentas

For our first event in Term 2, Stage 3 organised an ANZAC Day liturgy. ANZAC Day is a time to remember and reflect on the men and women who fought for our freedom against other countries. Together as one, St. Monica's joined in and listened to *The Last Post*, which is the sound of the alarm that the men and women woke up to. As a sign of reverence we stood in silence to remember what the men and women gave up for us.

St Monica's Mother's Day Mass will be held on the 8 May. The Mass will begin at 9:00am in the St. Monica's Parish Church. We would like invite all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts and other close friends/relatives to join us for the mass. Following the mass, there will be a Mothers Day morning tea. It would be great if you could attend.

There will be another important mass in Week 5, on the 31 May where we will be celebrating The Visitation. This event occurs immediately after the

Annunciation. Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, immediately after she has left Nazareth when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announces that she is going to have a baby that will be named Jesus and Elizabeth will have a son named John the Baptist. Stage 3 will attend this mass that will begin at 9:00am. All parents and family members are invited to attend this mass.



Term 2 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 2, 2014. 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.

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| Week 2 | Mothers Day Mass (Thursday 8/5) St Monica's Church – 9:00am |
| Week 3 | Reconciliation – Year 5 (Thursday 15/5) St Monica's Church – 11:30am |
| Week 4 | Our Lady Help of Christians Liturgy (Friday 23/5) Assembly Area – 2:40pm |
| Week 5 | Feast of the Visitation – Stage 3 (Friday 30/5) St Monica's Church – 9:00am |
| Week 6 | Register for Holy Communion (Saturday 31/5 & Sunday 1/6) St Monica's Parish Reconciliation – Year 6 (Thursday 5/6) St Monica's Church – 11:30am |
| Week 7 | Confirmation Mass & Ceremony (Sunday 8/6) St Monica's Church – 9:00am Pentecost Sunday (Sunday 8/6) Mass of St Anthony of Padua (Thursday 13/6) St Monica's Church – 9:00am |
| Week 8 | Reconciliation – Year 4 (Thursday 19/6) St Monica's Church – 9:00am |
| Week 9 | Saints Peter & Paul Apostles Mass (Friday 29/6) |