

St MONICA'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Term 1 2019

At St Monica's Everyone is welcome and everyone belongs

Current Religious Education topics in class:

Topic for Early Stage One at this moment: **God loves me**

Kindergarten have made a book about how God loves me with illustrations and writing from the students. It is based on the book called "God loves me more than that". They have also written prayers of thanks which will be in their Religion Books. Parents are welcome to come into the classroom to read the book with their children and talk to them about it.

Topic for Stage 1 at this moment: **Jesus helps me to love**

Year One and Two have been working together exploring the scripture passage about the Good Samaritan. They have sequenced the story and have reflected on how Jesus is a loving man and that he wants us to show love and help to everyone no matter who they are.

Topic for Stage 2 at this moment: **Talking and Listening to God**

Stage 2, have begun unpacking scripture on a spiritual level. Their focus scripture is, 'Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place.' (Mark 1:35)

This scripture passage explores a time that Jesus left his companions in search of a solitary place to pray. Upon being found by them, he exclaimed that it was time to visit nearby villages and share forgiveness. Focusing on the spiritual sense, the students entered the shoes of Christ and wrote the prayer he may have been saying when alone. Some of their insightful prayers include:

Dear Lord, Please give me the strength to travel all the way to Galilee and give me the power to drive away demons in that village and the energy to pass the day. Amen

Dear Father, Please forgive the sinners and lead me through my journey because I have stumbled on my path and do not know which road to take. Please give me strength to complete my mission of removing sin from the land.

Dear God, Strengthen me on my mission to save the betrayers as they do not know what they are doing. Hear my words to restore equilibrium.

Currently the topic for Stage 3 is: **Servant Leadership**

Students have found passages in the Bible showing Servant Leadership not only from Jesus but other characters in the Old and New Testament. As leaders of the school they have a responsibility to articulate the positive leadership qualities they have learnt and apply them daily in their interaction with students and teachers.

Upcoming events to celebrate:

Wednesday 6th March Week 6:
ASH Wednesday will be celebrated with the parish with Mass at 9.15am. Stage 2 and 3 will attend this Mass.



Thursday March 21st Week 8: World Harmony Day at St Monica's. The Jarara Indigenous Education Unit is coming to share an Aboriginal perspective and art activity with Stage 2 and 3 on Tuesday 19th March.



FAITH IN ACTION TEAM: Last Thursday, February 20, Miss Shaw, Miss Boidin and myself were able to take 27 students from our school to the LIFT concert to see Fr Rob Galea along with 780 other students from the Parramatta Diocese. He is a singer and speaker about our faith and the day was organised for students who are part of FIAT. It was an amazing experience and the students have talked how they would like to do more in the school to share their faith. Students nominated themselves to be part of the new FIAT team and have started planning a prayer group.



Samira Hekeik was one of the students who started the day off with prayer.

Fr Rob Galea teaching us all the actions to one of his songs.

The students from our new FIAT team able to have this wonderful experience.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN MAKING THEIR SACRAMENTS THIS YEAR:

Confirmation

Registration	St Monica's Church	16/17 March	Saturday 5pm or Sunday 9am
Parents who do not attend the Compulsory Parent Meeting will have a home visit from Father Lam before commencement of the 1st Lesson.			
Compulsory Parents Lesson (no children)	St Monica's Community Room	26 March	Tuesday 7.00pm
Lesson 1/7 & Commitment Mass	tba/ St Monica's Church	30/31 March	Lesson - Saturday 4pm or Sunday 8 am Mass - Saturday 5pm or Sunday 9am
Lesson 2/7	tba	6/7 April	Sat 4pm or Sun 8am
School Holidays Saturday 13th April to Sunday 28th April 2019			
Lesson 3/7	tba	4/5 May	Sat 4pm or Sun 8am
Lesson 4/7	tba	11/12 May	Sat 4pm or Sun 8am
Lesson 5/7	tba	18/19 May	Sat 4pm or Sun 8am
Lesson 6/7	tba	25/26 May	Sat 4pm or Sun 8am
Lesson 7/7 Reconciliation & Rehearsal	tba	1st June	Sat 2.30 pm
Confirmation	St Monica's Church	Friday 7th June	Friday 6:30 pm for 7.00 pm start

Communion and Reconciliation dates in the following newsletters

Here is PART ONE of Catherine Shaw's experiences of World Youth Day:

During the school holidays I embarked on a pilgrimage through Mexico and Panama with other youth from across our diocese to be part of World Youth Day. This is an event that occurs every three years and is a worldwide encounter with the Pope and an opportunity to experience first hand the universality of the Church. This experience allowed me to both deepen my faith and grow closer to Christ through prayer, daily sacraments and songs of worship while also being surrounded by thousands of other young people who also share in the faith.

PART 1 - MEXICO

15/2/2019 I departed Sydney and had to stop over in Houston before arriving in Mexico City late at night.



16/2/2019 We all travelled to Puebla where we met our school volunteer tour guides and joined together for mass at The Church of Santa Maria Tonantzintla.



On this same day, we climbed to the top of Cholula Pyramid and at its peak was The Church of Our Lady of Remedies.



17/2/2019 Today we visited The Church of Santo Domingo. Saint Dominic was the founder of the Dominican Order and was gifted with the prayer of the rosary from Our Lady. This is why hidden inside this beautiful church is The Chapel of the Rosary.



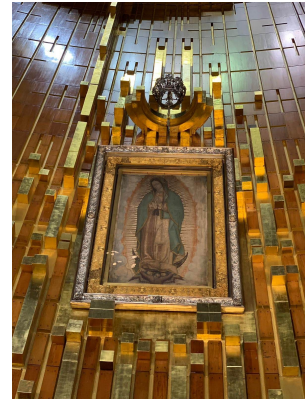
Following this we had a missionary visit to the Crit. This is an organisation that works alongside families of children with disabilities and assists with rehabilitation and the teaching of everyday life skills. We finished the day with a Mexican fiesta at the Seminary in Puebla.





18/2/2019 Today we explored the Pyramid of the Sun and Moon, and I even managed to climb to the top with Bishop Vincent.

19/2/2019 We visited the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This was definitely a major highlight of the trip. Our Lady appeared to St Juan Diego up on the hillside where this Basilica is situated and it was during this encounter that a miracle occurred.



20/2/2019 The following day we travelled to Panama, where World Youth Day would officially begin. The theme this year for World Youth Day "I am the Servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." This is a bible verse that we hear everyday at school when we pray the Angelus together. Mother Mary was the first to be brave and say yes to the Lord when asked to bring Jesus into the world. Just like Mary, we are all called to be servants of the Lord and offer up our hearts to the Lord. During my time in Mexico I was able to do this when taking part in the outreach experience at the Crit. I was able to offer up my time to be with the young children and their families and bring joy through games that we played.



Reflection:

How can you be a servant of the Lord?

How can you help to serve others?

Will you be brave like Mary and 'dare to say yes'?

Our next newsletter will have Part 2 of Miss Shaw's exciting adventures and our plans for our Holy Week Celebrations.

Angela Wedesweiler Acting Religious Education Co-ordinator