RATIONAL

Religious Education at St Joseph’s School is concerned with helping children to come to know, worship and love God. ‘The educator who is sensitive to the child's potential for openness, creativity, wonder and understanding, affection and concrete expression will lead him gently and in freedom in his gradual development to maturity as a child of God. Such a teacher will take account of the child's capacities, needs, family environment, religious background and the many other factors which influence his growth in faith. Certainly this is a challenge, but it is one enlivened by the Spirit of God who is with us, guiding us to all truth.’ (Paragraph 5 – Archbishop’s letter, Guidelines for Religious Education)

‘Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in the Catholic school… The fact that in their own individual ways all members of the school community share this Christian vision, makes the school’ ‘Catholic'; principles of the Gospel in this manner become educational norms since the school then has them as it's internal motivation and final goal.’

(The Catholic School – Rome 1977, Section 34)

We offer the Good News in freedom. Our school does not seek to convert or indoctrinate the children but seeks to provide an educational climate in which the Catholic way of life is evident to all.

Our Religious Education program is based on the texts ‘To Know, Worship and Love’

**Knowing**
Knowledge of the content of our faith tradition is the foundation of Religious Education. Therefore, every Unit of Work contains a specific body of knowledge expressed as learning outcomes.

**Worshipping**
Worship is our response in faith to the God who is revealed in our prayer, Church rituals and in our lives. At our school, we offer opportunities and invitations to engage in ritual and prayer.

**Loving**
In loving God and others we live in the way Jesus taught us to live. It is in the relationships we experience with others, our Church and the world that we encounter Jesus.

All three dimensions, Knowing (cognitive), Worshipping (faith) and Loving (life) are evident within the learning and teaching process.

**Four Catholic Foundations**

1. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who love us.
2. We believe in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, only Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who died and rose from the dead to save us.
3. We believe in the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ, where we are led in service and worship by the Pope and Bishops.
4. We believe that Jesus, Our Lord, calls us to repent and believe; that is, to choose faith not doubt, love not hate, good not evil, and eternal life in heaven not hell.

This is our faith. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus, Our Lord.
Religious Education Policy

BELIEF STATEMENTS

• Religious Education is concerned primarily with proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.
• Religious Education encourages the development of all aspects of the human person.
• Religious Education is concerned with developing a sense of community.
• The family is the natural basic unit of society where children receive their first introduction to their faith. For the child to grow in faith the family unit must be nurtured and supported.
• Religious Education is an essential function of the Church.
• Religious Education teachers have a leadership role in the Church.
• Religious Education assists students to approach the search for truth and meaning through the stories and traditions of the Church.
• Religious Education assists students to understand the role of Scripture and tradition within the life of the Church.
• Religious Education encourages students to celebrate the life of the Church, particularly through its Liturgy.
• Religious Education helps children to know and love the person of Jesus.

PRINCIPLES BY WHICH WE ENROL CHILDREN OF OTHER FAITHS

The basic principles by which we enrol children of other faiths can be summed up as follows:

• An openness to welcome children whose religious beliefs and practices may be different, just as we welcome them although their language and culture is different.
• Integration, as opposed to assimilation. While teaching the Catholic faith, we link our teaching with similar practices in other religions so that we can build up attitudes of tolerance and understanding.
• Participation by which children of different faiths are able to contribute to the religious experiences of all others in the class, while sharing in the Catholic teaching.
• Interrelation of symbols by which we see similarities in the use of symbolism in the rituals of different religions and use these occasions not only for religion lessons but also in other Key Learning Areas.

GOALS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Educational Goals of To Know, Worship and Love are set out under the major thematic headings of the Primary Doctrinal Overview (P-6) which is the major appendix of the Teaching Companion. The goals can be found in each classroom teacher’s Religious Education Planner.

AIMS

At St Joseph’s School we aim to:

• Foster an integration of faith and life.
• Teach Religious Education in a way which contributes to knowing, worshipping and loving God.
• Immerse students in the life of the school in such a way that they can experience the welcoming and values of a Christian community.
• Provide opportunities for participation in prayer and worship.
• Develop religious literacy, incorporating an appreciation, understanding and desire to know more of the Catholic tradition, including the symbols and rituals of the community.

Therefore the content of the Religious Education Program within our school:

• Is based on the sources of our faith.
• Is faithful to the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church.
• Reflects the mission/vision statement of our school.
• Takes into account the needs, interests, abilities, cultural and religious backgrounds, and stages of development of our students.
Religious Education Policy

- Is sequential and allows for a deepening of understanding, knowledge and experience.
PRAYER

We see St Joseph’s school as having a special role in the mission of the Church - to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

For us this means that we strive to create and maintain a spirit of prayer which encourages each individual in their relationship with God and lends support to our growth as a believing community.

Prayer is interpreted as formal prayer and informal prayer, with particular emphasis given to Scripture as God’s word.

We have a responsibility not only to teach the students about faith, but also to provide opportunities for them to experience a living faith through participation in prayer and liturgy.

Our task is to help each child to:
- Pray spontaneously, in simple, direct words and actions.
- Learn, over time, the formal prayers of the Church so that they can pray them.
- Meditate and contemplate.
- Pray liturgically.

Students need to become familiar with the story of God’s people through the telling and reading of Scripture, and have opportunities to reflect on the Scriptures in relation to their own lives.

Formal Prayer
At St Joseph’s children are introduced to formal prayer as outlined in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRAYER</th>
<th>LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sign of the Cross</td>
<td>All levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Father</td>
<td>All levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hail Mary</td>
<td>All levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>All levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer of Faithful Response</td>
<td>All levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spontaneous Prayer</td>
<td>All levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act of Sorrow (formal, informal)</td>
<td>Middle/ Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glory Be to The Father</td>
<td>Middle/ Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Responses</td>
<td>Middle/ Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nicene Creed</td>
<td>Senior</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also encourage the teaching of devotional traditions such as:
- Devotion to Mary
- The Rosary
- Stations of the Cross
SACRAMENTS

Baptism is celebrated when requested

Reconciliation is celebrated every alternate year when children are in Year Three or Year Four.
Reconciliation is always celebrated before Eucharist and Confirmation are received for the first time.
Reconciliation is celebrated by Years Three to Six at least once a year.
Reconciliation will be made available to individuals who choose to go at a time organised with the Parish Priest.

Eucharist is celebrated every alternate year when children are in Year Three or Year Four.

Confirmation is celebrated every alternate year when children are in Year Five or Year Six.

All Sacramental Programs are conducted as part of the classroom Religious Education Program.

Year levels and students not directly involved in the reception of the Sacraments support the Sacramental life of the school by:
• Working on appropriate, complementary units of work from ‘To Know, Worship and Love.’
• Sponsoring students from the Sacramental classes by supporting them, learning from them and praying for them.
• Creating displays for the Church.
• Attending the Mass and participating in the choir.

Records of Baptismal Certificates are cited and recorded in the Sacraments Book in the Office by the class teacher or Principal before Reconciliation. The Principal checks that the Sacrament Book has been completed at the end of each Sacramental Program.

Dates for these Programs are set in consultation with the Parish Priest and Bishop.

Family Gatherings
Family gatherings are held prior to the reception of Eucharist and Confirmation. At these gatherings families are offered opportunities to pray together, to deepen their knowledge of the Sacrament, to strengthen their links with the faith community, to learn about the classroom program and to find out about practicalities associated with the ceremony.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS

School Masses are celebrated at least once each Term.

Class Masses and Prayer Services can be held at any time negotiated with the R.E.C and the Parish Priest.

Feast Days and other special occasions are celebrated according to the liturgical calendar.

• The format of celebrations used to highlight Advent Christmas and Easter are decided each year by the staff.
• The feast day of our patron, St Joseph, is celebrated on March 19th. Each year staff will decide how best to celebrate this occasion.
• Ash Wednesday - A prayer service is planned for the Junior Grades. Senior classes attend the Parish Mass or conduct a prayer service.
• Mass is held every year for the opening of the school year.
Religious Education Policy

- A **Graduation Mass** is held every year for the Year Six Children - usually in the last week of school (evening)

**IMPLEMENTATION**

It is expected that teachers at St Joseph’s will use the structure of the Learning and Teaching Process creatively to plan Units of Work that meet the needs of students within their classes. The structure of the Learning and Teaching Process is outlined in the front of each teacher’s RE Work Program.

**Planning and Recording a Unit of Work**

Teachers at St Joseph’s School plan and develop units of work based on the Religious Education Texts for the Melbourne Archdiocese.

Teachers are expected to keep a written record of the Religious Education curriculum which includes an outline of the curriculum for each term, indicating how this is part of the total curriculum. The recording of the Unit of Work assists the Classroom Teachers, the Religious Education Coordinator and the Principal with the monitoring and evaluation of the school's overall Religious Education curriculum.

See attached Planning Proforma.

**Evaluating a Unit of Work**

Evaluation in Religious Education is a process concerned with making judgements about the worth of an activity or unit in terms of its impact on student learning. In evaluating a Unit of Work, we seek to know how effective the learning and teaching strategies have been in promoting learning.

Evaluation of individual units of work enables teachers at St Joseph’s to reflect on their teaching effectiveness as measured by student learning. As a consequence, current activities can be enhanced and new activities planned to meet the learning needs of students.

When evaluating Units of Work teachers at St Joseph’s reflect on the following questions:

- How well did activities allow students to come to understandings related to the doctrinal focus of the unit?
- How well did activities allow students to come to understandings related to the outcomes which are the focus of the unit?
- What were the highlights of this unit?
- Can you identify practical ways to improve this unit?
## OUTCOMES Doctrinal Overview P-6

### THE REVELATION OF GOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSF Level</th>
<th>God</th>
<th>Creation</th>
<th>Human Person and Family</th>
<th>Jesus Christ</th>
<th>The Holy Spirit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong></td>
<td>God loves us.</td>
<td>God made the world to show His love.</td>
<td>God makes us to be different from one another. Each of us is special.</td>
<td>Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loves us.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit is with us. We can see this in the Fruits of the Spirit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We show this in the Sign of the Cross.</td>
<td>God made us. Angels are God’s messengers. God is our Creator and Father, and we are His children.</td>
<td>Jesus loves us. He shares His love for us through our parents and other people who care for us.</td>
<td>Jesus was born in Bethlehem.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit was given to us at our Baptism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>God loves us and His work is good.</td>
<td>God made human beings to live in families. Families help us to know God better.</td>
<td>Jesus died and rose again.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit helps us to pray.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jesus wants us to share our good things with others.</td>
<td>Jesus gives His life for us.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO US: IN THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

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<tr>
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<th>The Church</th>
<th>Liturgy</th>
<th>Seasons and Celebrations</th>
<th>Mary, Mother of God and the Saints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong></td>
<td>At Baptism, we are welcomed into God’s family, the Church.</td>
<td>The Church has liturgical signs and seasons. The presence of Jesus is reflected in the liturgical symbols of light and water. In liturgy, we gather, listen and respond to God’s word. Sunday is a special day for Christians who gather together to celebrate the Eucharist.</td>
<td>During Lent we prepare for Easter. During Holy Week we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. On Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus rising to new life. At Pentecost we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit. During Advent we prepare for Christmas. At Christmas we remember the birth of Jesus. Annunciation Ascension</td>
<td>Mary was asked to be the mother of Jesus. Mary’s gifts and faith are shown in the Gospel stories. A saint is a person who loves Jesus very deeply and follows him closely.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO US: IN THE SACRAMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Marriage and Holy Orders</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Level 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> The seven sacraments are signs given to the Church by Jesus. They bring us the life and love of God (grace)</td>
<td><strong>Baptism</strong>&lt;br&gt;When we were baptised we were given God’s life.&lt;br&gt;The water of life and the light are key symbols of Baptism.&lt;br&gt;In Baptism, we receive God’s life (grace)** Confirmation**&lt;br&gt;The Holy Spirit comes to us to give us special gifts.</td>
<td><strong>Jesus is present with us when we celebrate the Eucharist (Presence of the Good Shepherd)</strong>&lt;br&gt;In the Eucharist we gather to share a holy meal.&lt;br&gt;God’s family gathers together to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday.&lt;br&gt;At the Last Supper, Jesus taught us to celebrate the Eucharist.&lt;br&gt;Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist.</td>
<td><strong>Penance</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jesus always loves us just as the Good Shepherd loves his sheep.&lt;br&gt;Jesus teaches us how to love and forgive (‘seventy times seven’)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSF Level</th>
<th>Grace and Moral Life</th>
<th>Commandments and Beatitudes</th>
<th>Prayer At all levels: The Scriptures have a central place in personal and community prayer</th>
<th>Death and Everlasting Life</th>
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<td><strong>Level 1</strong></td>
<td>Jesus wants our love of God and others to grow.&lt;br&gt;He wants us to be kind.&lt;br&gt;He wants us to tell the truth.&lt;br&gt;He wants us to be sorry when we have done something wrong.&lt;br&gt;He wants us to say thankyou.&lt;br&gt;God helps us to do good.&lt;br&gt;When we sin, we are not living the way Jesus taught us. We make choices that are not good and hurt others and ourselves.</td>
<td>Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us.&lt;br&gt;God wants us to love him and love others.</td>
<td><strong>Prayer</strong>&lt;br&gt;Prayer is loving, speaking, listening and singing to God.&lt;br&gt;We also pray at Mass, with our families and at school.&lt;br&gt;Jesus promises that when we gather in his name, he is there with us.&lt;br&gt;Jesus wants us to pray often, at any time and at any place.</td>
<td><strong>God wants us to be happy with him in Heaven.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Through the new life we are given at Baptism, we can live forever in Heaven.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is love.</td>
<td>God made the first man and woman.</td>
<td>Human beings are different from animals and plants. We are made in the image and likeness of God. In our families we learn to care for one another.</td>
<td>Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus shows us how to live. Jesus is our friend. He loves us and leads us to the Father.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit prepared Mary for the birth of Jesus. God’s Holy Spirit comes to us at Baptism and Confirmation to give us His life and love. The work of the Holy Spirit can be seen in people who do good things.</td>
</tr>
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### CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO US: IN THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

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<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Jesus is like the light who shows us the way. The light of Jesus shines from the Church. God speaks and acts through the Church</td>
<td>The liturgy is the official worship of the Church. The Church unfolds the mystery of Jesus through special seasons of the liturgical year.</td>
<td>Lent/Holy Week During Lent we follow Jesus on a journey to Easter. Pentecost (see Holy Spirit) Advent / Christmas During Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birthday of Jesus at Christmas. St Patrick’s Day (Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Melbourne).</td>
<td>Because Mary is the mother of Jesus, she is the Mother of God. We honour and celebrate Mary through prayers, feasts and seasons during the Church’s liturgical year. Saints have followed God’s call with love.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Penance (Reconciliation)</td>
<td>Marriage and Holy Orders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> The seven sacraments are signs given to the Church by Jesus. They bring us the life and love of God (grace)</td>
<td><strong>Baptism</strong>&lt;br&gt;- We are baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.&lt;br&gt;- Baptism makes us members of God’s family, the Church.  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Confirmation</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Confirmation gives us the special gifts of the Holy Spirit.</td>
<td><strong>When we celebrate the Eucharist, we gather to worship God at a holy meal.</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Jesus’ body and blood are given to us in Communion.&lt;br&gt;- The sanctuary lamp shows us that Jesus is present in the tabernacle.</td>
<td><strong>The Church has two sacraments of healing:</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Penance and Anointing of the Sick.  &lt;br&gt;- Sin is any wrong that we do on purpose. It turns us away from God.&lt;br&gt;- Our choices and decisions affect ourselves and others.&lt;br&gt;- In the sacrament of Penance, God welcomes and forgives us.  &lt;br&gt;- Anointing&lt;br&gt;- Anointing of the Sick is Jesus’ healing (or strengthening) prayer given through the Church.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td><strong>Sin is any wrong that we do on purpose.</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Jesus is our Saviour. He sends us the Holy Spirit, who gives us God’s life and love. We call this life ‘grace.’&lt;br&gt;- God created us with free will: We can choose to do what is right or what is wrong.</td>
<td><strong>Through the ten Commandments God teaches us how to act so that we will be happy in our lives.</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Honour your father and your mother.&lt;br&gt;- Remember to keep holy the Lord’s day. (As baptised members of God’s family, we should gather together for Sunday Eucharist)</td>
<td><strong>Jesus prayed often to his Father: by himself and publicly.</strong>&lt;br&gt;- In the Our Father, Jesus taught us how to pray.</td>
<td><strong>In Heaven, we live with God forever.</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Jesus rose from the dead in his own body, and defeated death.  &lt;br&gt;- Christians celebrate funerals to pray for the person who has died and to comfort those who are sad.  &lt;br&gt;- For all God’s people, life is changed, not ended in death.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## THE REVELATION OF GOD

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3A</strong></td>
<td>We share God’s life and love (grace)</td>
<td>God created us with a body and a soul.</td>
<td>I have the power to choose.</td>
<td>Jesus loved us so much that he died for our sins.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit gives us grace to guide and strengthen us during life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grace has been given to us by the Holy Spirit.</td>
<td>God created us out of love and calls us to love.</td>
<td>Free will allows me to choose between good and evil for myself.</td>
<td>The Gospels tell us about the life and teachings of Jesus.</td>
<td>The Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Trinity is the name we give to the three Persons in one God.</td>
<td>God has given each person free will and the power to choose.</td>
<td>Children and parents should respect one another.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit works, above all through the Sacraments. All Sacraments give us grace.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3B</strong></td>
<td>Each person of the Trinity is fully God. This is a mystery.</td>
<td>God’s creation is good.</td>
<td>Our immortal soul is a spirit, created directly by God.</td>
<td>The life of Jesus shows God’s great love for us.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We share in God’s life of grace.</td>
<td>The goods of the earth and ‘life’ itself are gifts of God and should be respected.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit inspires us to tell others about God’s goodness.</td>
<td>Jesus is our Lord and Saviour because He gained for us the new life of grace.</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit lives in the Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Angels are spirits who serve God and act as His messengers</td>
<td>God made us different from one another. These differences should encourage love and respect.</td>
<td>Jesus Christ is the first to rise forever from the dead. He promised that we too will rise again.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Religious Education Policy

### CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO US: IN THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Church helps us to know Jesus, and to make him known to others. The Bible comprises the books of the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, we are introduced to the stories of God’s Chosen People, the Hebrew people of the Holy Land. The New Testament reveals the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.</td>
<td>Through the liturgy, we worship God in our actions and words. The Eucharist is the centre of Christian liturgy. <em>Use of Mass Book to focus on different parts of the Mass</em></td>
<td>Lent / Holy Week During Lent and Holy Week, we try to do something in our lives to bring us closer to Jesus. During Lent and Holy Week, we remember that Jesus suffered and died for our sins. He rose again from the dead on Easter Sunday. Pentecost (see Holy Spirit) Advent / Christmas During Advent, we remember the people of the Old Testament times who waited for the Saviour, Jesus Christ Sacred Heart</td>
<td>Mary is the mother of the Church and our mother. Mary said ‘yes’ to God by doing as He asked. Mary was free from sin. Saints say ‘yes’ to God by following in the footsteps of Jesus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Level 3A**

| The Church is the People of God. The Church is a Communion of Saints. Our Parish has its own history and identity. Our Parish is part of the world-wide Church. | The stories and actions of Jesus are remembered and lived out in the liturgy. We use liturgical signs and symbols. *Continue use of Children’s Mass Book. Liturgical gestures.* | Lent / Holy Week During Lent, we come closer to God through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and making sacrifices. Pentecost (see Holy Spirit) Advent / Christmas During Advent we try to become more like Jesus by making changes in the way we live our lives. The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) Christ the King | Mary continues to work through the Church in leading us to Jesus. We pray in various ways to Mary. Saints show us how to live like Jesus did. |
## CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO US: IN THE SACRAMENTS

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<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Definition: Jesus has given his Church seven sacraments so that we can receive his life of grace. Each one has its own special purpose. The sacraments will always help those who use them properly. The seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Holy Orders.</td>
<td>Jesus is present in the priest who leads the community when the people gather, the Scriptures are read and the Eucharist is celebrated at Mass. The bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ when the priest says the words of consecration. We receive Jesus in the Eucharist.</td>
<td>Penance: Jesus gave the Church the power to forgive sins. Many scripture stories showed that Jesus loves and forgave sinners who asked to be forgiven. God wants us to turn back to him after we have sinned. This is called ‘Repentance.’ Forgiveness brings peace. Anointing: Anointing of the Sick is for those who are frail, seriously sick or in danger of death.</td>
<td>Marriage: The sacrament of Marriage gives special blessings to married people. Holy Orders: The Bishop confers Holy Orders by the ‘laying on of hands’ and a prayer of consecration.</td>
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</tbody>
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St Joseph's Primary School, Collingwood
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 3B</th>
<th>Definition:</th>
<th>Baptism</th>
<th>Eucharist</th>
<th>Penance</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As for 3A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in Baptism, we receive the gift of grace from God.</td>
<td>The Eucharist is the great memorial of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.</td>
<td>Jesu gave the Church the power to forgive sins. The normal way that this power is used is through the sacrament of Penance.</td>
<td>Jesus' love for his people is the model for love of all married people.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Baptist is the first and chief sacrament of the forgiveness of sins.</td>
<td>We worship Jesus who is present in the Eucharist. This is called the 'real presence.'</td>
<td>To receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance,</td>
<td>The Christian home is normally the place where children first hear about God's plan of love for them.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In Confirmation, we are given the special strength of the Holy Spirit</td>
<td>The Eucharist is the greatest sacrament of Christian initiation.</td>
<td>Only ordained priests have the power, through the Holy Spirit, to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.</td>
<td>Only ordained priests have the power, through the Holy Spirit, to change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.</td>
<td>1. We must be sorry for our sins and want to avoid them in the future.</td>
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**Anointing**

The sacrament of Anointing gives grace to the sick and dying.

**Sacraments at the Service of Communion:**

- **Baptism and Confirmation**
- **Eucharist**
- **Penance (Reconciliation) and Anointing**
- **Marriage and Holy Orders**
## OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSF Level</th>
<th>Grace and Moral Life</th>
<th>Commandments and Beatitudes</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
<th>Death and Everlasting Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 3A</strong></td>
<td>At Baptism we are freed from sin and given the life of grace.</td>
<td>The Commandments call us to love God and our neighbour.</td>
<td>Through Christ our Lord we pray to the Father.</td>
<td>God brings to heaven those who die in his love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We need God’s grace to help us choose to do what is right.</td>
<td>You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.</td>
<td>Prayer offers us the opportunity to listen and respond to God.</td>
<td>The sacraments strengthen and comfort the dying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sin came into our world when the first man and woman chose to disobey God.</td>
<td>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.</td>
<td>As members of the Church, we are to pray often; every day.</td>
<td>We continue to pray for those who have died.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Level 3B** | The selfish choices of the first people caused sin and much human suffering to come into our world. | Jesus asks us to love one another as he has loved us. (The New Commandment) | All our prayers bring our minds and hearts to God, or ask for good things from Him. | By loving God and our neighbour, we journey towards Heaven. |
| | God is close to us in our times of trouble and in our problems. | You shall not steal. | We grow in relationship with Jesus through prayer. | Jesus will come again at the end of time. |
| | Jesus is our Saviour. He has won for us the life of grace. | You shall not covet your neighbours goods. | | Through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, we have a new life. |

### Ten Commandments

- You shall have no other gods before Me.
- You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- Honour your father and your mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- You shall not covet.
## THE REVELATION OF GOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSF Level</th>
<th>God</th>
<th>Creation</th>
<th>Human Person and Family</th>
<th>Jesus Christ</th>
<th>The Holy Spirit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4A</strong></td>
<td>God the Father is our Creator; God the Son is our Redeemer; God the Holy Spirit is our Sanctifier. The Trinity is the central mystery of our faith, revealed to us by Jesus and the Holy Spirit.</td>
<td>God is guiding His creation towards perfection. We call this Divine Providence. While God may have used a process of evolution in bringing about His creation, every human soul is created directly by God. Only God can create from nothing. We thank God for the wonders of His creation. God asks us to be responsible for the life He has given us. We are responsible for our bodies and should respect them.</td>
<td>We have been made so that, through grace we can become like Jesus. God calls me to discover His plan for my life. The Church tries to proclaim the Gospel to people in their language and culture. Australia’s indigenous people have a unique contribution to make.</td>
<td>We call Jesus `the Christ' which means 'the anointed one of God'. Jesus is true God. He is the second person of the Blessed Trinity. Jesus Christ is true man. He was born of the Virgin Mary. By His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus overcame sin and death. We celebrate His sacrifice in the Eucharist. Jesus Christ rose in the same human body that suffered on the cross. Jesus’ body was changed for a new life, no longer limited by earthly time and space.</td>
<td>Gifts of the Spirit and Fruits of the Spirit (List and treat generally) (The names used for the Gifts of the Spirit in the Confirmation Liturgy are the ones to be used) The Holy Spirit strengthens us in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Holy Spirit gives us the grace to help our faith to grow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4B</strong></td>
<td>God alone is to be worshipped. God is infinite, perfect, powerful and all loving. We are responsible for looking after the world and its resources.</td>
<td>Jesus shows us by his life what justice means: we are called to live and act justly. All proper authority comes from God. The family is a community of life and love.</td>
<td>In Jesus Christ, God became man. We call this mystery the Incarnation. Jesus was like us in all things except that He did not sin. After His resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven to prepare a place for us. Jesus Christ will come again at the end of the time.</td>
<td>Jesus asked God his Father to send the Holy Spirit to be with us always. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father and the Son to give the life of grace to all God’s people. The Holy Spirit builds up and unites the Christian community, especially through Liturgy and Prayer. God speaks to us in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The Word of God in the Scriptures and the Tradition of the Church has been inspired by the Holy Spirit and witnessed by the early Christians.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Religious Education Policy

### CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO US: IN THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSF Level</th>
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<th>Liturgy</th>
<th>Seasons and Celebrations</th>
<th>Mary, Mother of God and the Saints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 4A</td>
<td>The Church is the people of God. The Church is the Body of Christ. Bishops, helped by priests and deacons, have the job of teaching, guiding and sanctifying Christ’s Church. People in the Church have different vocations: single, married, members of Religious Orders or institutes of consecrated life and ordained priests. The lay faithful, in particular, are called to spread God’s justice and goodness in the world around them. Some people are called to follow Jesus in religious life by making vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.</td>
<td>In the liturgy, the Holy Spirit enables the assembly to encounter Christ. Bishops, priests and deacons take the place of Jesus in leading the worship of God our Father.</td>
<td>Lent, Holy Week Lent is the season of forty days when we prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus during Holy Week and Easter. In Lent, the Church calls us to pray more, to make sacrifices and to give to the poor. In Holy Week we remember the suffering, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Pentecost (see Holy Spirit) Advent / Christmas (See Jesus Christ, true God and true man) All Saints All Souls Sacred Heart – Mass for the Poor.</td>
<td>Mary is the Mother of God and our mother. She prays for us in heaven. Mary was honoured by the first Christian communities. Mary continues to be honoured through her feast days. Mary is honoured in Christian communities throughout the world. Saints can help us come closer to God.</td>
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## Religious Education Policy

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<td><strong>Level 4B</strong></td>
<td>The members of the Church are the baptised who proclaim her faith and accept her authority. We believe in one, holy and apostolic Church. Jesus is the Head of the Church. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ on earth. Other Christians share in one baptism and one faith in Jesus. We pray and work for unity with them. All members of the Church (lay and ordained) are called to use their own gifts and talents in building up the Church. Through Sacred Tradition the Church interprets the Sacred Scriptures.</td>
<td>In the liturgy, the Holy Spirit helps us to recall the saving work of the Father and the Son. In this way, the Holy Spirit is the living memory of the Church. <strong>Practical study of the structure of the Mass</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lent, Holy Week (see also Prayer, Self Denial)</strong> The most important days of Holy Week are Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. <strong>Pentecost (see Holy Spirit)</strong> <strong>Advent/Christmas (see Jesus Christ, Incarnation, Mary)</strong> Assumption Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>Mary is the model disciple for all believers. The Church recalls and celebrates Mary’s faithfulness to God in the Magnificat. Mary was conceived free from original sin. Mary was assumed body and soul into Heaven. Mary had no other children except Jesus. Saints can pray and intercede for us.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO US: IN THE SACRAMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSF Level</th>
<th>Definitions of Sacraments</th>
<th>Sacraments of Initiation:</th>
<th>Sacraments of Healing: (Penance and Anointing)</th>
<th>Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Marriage and Holy Orders</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4A</strong></td>
<td><strong>Definition:</strong> A sacrament is a visible action of the Church where God is at work bringing grace. Jesus instituted seven sacraments. Each one has its own purpose. The sacraments will always help those who use them properly. The Seven Sacraments, Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders.</td>
<td><strong>Baptism</strong>&lt;br&gt;All the baptised receive a special mission from God.&lt;br&gt;In Baptism, we receive the theological virtues (faith, hope and charity) and are helped to live the moral virtues (prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Confirmation</strong>&lt;br&gt;By our Communion the Holy Spirit strengthens us to live a holy life, to love and respect one another, proclaim the Gospel, and serve others as Jesus did.</td>
<td><strong>Communion with the body and blood of Christ:</strong>&lt;br&gt;1. Increases our union with Christ and one another.&lt;br&gt;2. Forgive venial sins and preserves from grave sins&lt;br&gt;3. Strengthens the whole Church.&lt;br&gt;We adore Jesus, really present in the Eucharist</td>
<td><strong>Penance</strong>&lt;br&gt;God always wants us to turn back to him after we have sinned.&lt;br&gt;A mortal sin destroys God’s life in a person. God’s mercy is shown to those who repent; usually in the sacrament of Penance.&lt;br&gt;The sacrament of Penance gives us the grace to overcome sins.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Anointing</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anointing the Sick unites the sick to Christ for their own good and that of the whole Church</td>
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### CHRIST GIVES HIMSELF TO US: IN THE SACRAMENTS

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<td><strong>Definition:</strong> A sacrament is a visible action of the Church where God is at work bringing grace. Jesus instituted seven sacraments. Each one has its own purpose. The sacraments will always help those who use them properly. The Seven Sacraments, Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders.</td>
<td>Baptism&lt;br&gt;Through Baptism we share in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In Baptism we receive the permanent seal of the Holy Spirit.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Confirmation</strong> Confirmation gives us the special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action. We are helped in this task by the gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe in God’s presence.&lt;br&gt;In Confirmation the seal of the Spirit perfects the grace of Baptism.</td>
<td>In the Eucharist, Jesus offers to all the gift of redemption.&lt;br&gt;The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life.&lt;br&gt;We call the celebration of the Eucharist the Mass. It is the thanksgiving sacrifice of Jesus, offered for the living and the dead.&lt;br&gt;Penance&lt;br&gt;Penance involves conversion, repentance, confession, reconciliation and forgiveness.&lt;br&gt;Penance brings the forgiving love of our Father and the grace of the Holy Spirit.&lt;br&gt;Jesus’ teachings reveal to us the immense love and joy at our turning away from sin.&lt;br&gt;People can always return to God during their lifetime through the sacrament of Penance.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Anointing</strong> Anointing of the Sick brings strength, peace and the courage to endure suffering in a Christian manner.&lt;br&gt;Sometimes the Anointing of the Sick restores the person to health if this is for the good of their soul.&lt;br&gt;The sacrament of Anointing can only be given by a priest.</td>
<td>Marriage&lt;br&gt;Marriage was instituted by God. The sacrament of Marriage is exclusive and for life.&lt;br&gt;The sacrament of Marriage is the union in love of a woman and a man. It signifies the union of Christ and the Church.&lt;br&gt;The couple give each other the sacrament of Marriage. The priest is there as the Church’s witness.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Holy Orders</strong> Through the ordained priesthood, Christ builds up and leads his Church.&lt;br&gt;Priests receive their responsibility for looking after a parish or some other special work from the bishop.&lt;br&gt;Through the ministerial priesthood, bishops and priests share in the one priesthood of Christ.</td>
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## OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

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<td><strong>Level 4A</strong></td>
<td>The Christian life is marked by three virtues which lead us to God – faith, hope and love – and by the four virtues which help us to lead a happy life – prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude. In Baptism we receive the virtues of faith, hope and love. The virtue of faith is a gift of God. In order to believe in God, we need the help of the Holy Spirit. The virtue of hope enables me to face the future, trusting in God and wanting to be with him forever. The virtue of love enables me to love God and to love my neighbour as myself.</td>
<td>Jesus gave us a New Commandment: “love one another as I have loved you.” The Commandments teach us to live as God intended. They teach us how to live good lives. You shall not kill. (Respect for life.) Ten Commandments and Precepts of the Church. (Stated in information box.)</td>
<td>The Holy Spirit helps us to pray. We pray to Jesus among us in the Eucharist.</td>
<td>Those who die in God’s grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Faith is necessary for us to be saved. Purgatory prepares those not ready for Heaven; it is a state of purification and hope. God’s mercy is shown to those in Purgatory, for whom we should pray and offer the Eucharist. Only those who have rejected God completely are deprived of Him forever in hell. We don’t know how many people make this choice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level 4B</strong></td>
<td>The effects of original sin weaken us and draw us away from God. God has given each person free will and the power to choose. God has given us a conscience to form our judgements. When properly formed, conscience guides our actions in freedom towards Him.</td>
<td>The Beatitudes express Christ’s plan for our happiness in this world and the next. You shall not commit adultery. (Respect for purity and modesty in thought, word and deed.) You shall not covet your neighbour’s spouse. (Respect for the dignity of others) You shall not have strange gods before me. Ten Commandments and Precepts of the Church. (Stated in information box.)</td>
<td>The Lord’s Prayer shows us how to pray to the Father. There are various kinds of prayer: blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise. Self-denial is an important part of Christian prayer.</td>
<td>At death, my soul is separated from my body. Jesus will come again at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the resurrection of the body at the end of time. I only die once because in this world, I only have one life.</td>
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THE ROLE OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

At the Parish level, responsibility for the school’s Religious Education Program rests with the Parish Priest. The responsibility within the school’s structure for the planning, co-ordination and evaluation of the Religious Education program rests with the Principal who works with the Parish Priest in the exercise of his canonical responsibilities. To facilitate the development and implementation of this program, the Principal appoints a Religious Education Co-Coordinator to work in close co-operation with Parish Priest, Principal, Staff and Parish. The development, implementation and evaluation of school and class Religious Education programs can take place effectively under the guidance of this leadership team.

Among the roles that the Religious Education Co-Coordinator may be asked to carry out are the following:

- Assisting the Principal to foster an atmosphere which supports the development in faith of teachers and children.
- Assisting teachers to determine their own needs for professional development and organising activities to meet those needs.
- Assisting teachers to become familiar with the purpose and content of the Religious Education Texts.
- Encouraging a whole-school team approach in planning and implementing the R.E. program.
- Supporting school participation in prayer life.
- Assisting teachers in the planning and implementation of sacramental programs.
- Implementing, supervising and maintaining the integrity of the R.E. program by encouraging individual teacher expertise.
- Organising for regular evaluation of class and school programs. Collecting and monitoring individual teacher’s R.E. Work Programs.
- Organising and conducting staff meetings for Religious Education.
- Making available for teachers suitable texts and resources to implement the program and advising the Principal of needs in relation to this.
- Assisting teachers in the planning and preparation of appropriate liturgies and other prayer services and celebrations.
- In consultation with Principal and Staff, providing opportunities for parents to be involved in and informed about the R.E program.
- Ensuring that the needs of beginning teachers and teachers returning to service are met.
- Collating and updating school R.E resource list.
- Collating and updating the school Sacramental Record Book.
- Advising staff of important dates and events in the liturgical year.
STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We see Catholic teacher education as characterised by goals which may be summarised as enabling teachers to:

- Impart a distinctive character and a Christian vision of the world to the children in our school.
- Acquire or extend interests, skills, knowledge, and understanding which will be helpful in their development as teachers, including their understanding of the religious dimension of experience.
- Develop an understanding of the psychological and social factors influencing child development and human learning, and to acquire the ability to develop and implement R.E curricula appropriate to the needs of individual pupils.
- Develop a sensitivity to the combined effects on the child of home, community and school and the bearing they have on their development.
- Acquire the ability to articulate their philosophy of Religion and to justify their decisions about what is taught, with clarity and with respect for alternative points of view.
- Develop the ability to evaluate the worth of the arrangements our school makes to promote the education in faith of the children and adults in the community of the school.

Staff professional development is recognised as a continuous process. Staff are encouraged to undertake in-service programs and further study in Religious Education.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in Religious Education is a process whereby information about a student's growth, knowledge and achievements are gathered. Assessment of students’ knowledge, skills and understandings occurs throughout all phases of the learning and teaching process. Assessment has as its focus not only what the students have learnt, but also how they have gone about their learning.

At St Joseph's School we utilise a variety assessment strategies which include the following:

- Student self-assessment.
- Written and spoken reports.
- Retelling of scripture and other stories.
- Research or assignment work.
- Creating posters, videos, art works etc.
- Constructing time lines.
- Mapping activities.
- Listening activities.

One specific purpose is to report to parents. It signals clearly to students, parents and others those aspects of the school's curriculum we most value. Teachers explore appropriate means of communicating assessment information, especially in providing feedback to the students themselves and in reporting student progress to parents.

REPORTING

Our school reports identify Religious Education as an integral part of a child’s learning and development at school. Our reports inform parents of the units of work and outcomes which are addressed through classroom Religious Education programs and inform parents of their child’s growth in relation to these learning outcomes.

Formal written reports are completed twice yearly. Parent / Teacher interviews are conducted in June.
EVALUATION

The evaluation of our Religious Education program and policy will consist of the following components:

- Further professional development for staff that examines current practice in the light of most recent theories of religious teaching.
- A critical examination of the current policy, its relationship to other policies and in the light of information gained from the components in the unit evaluation process.
- This will be done according to the cyclical process outlined in our School Development Plan.

RESOURCES

At St Joseph’s School we utilise a variety of resources to enrich our Religious Education program.

Our school program is based on ‘To Know, Worship and Love’, the Religious Education texts of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

A wide variety of texts, audiovisual and other resources are utilised by classroom teachers in the planning of Units of Work.

Some of these include:

- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Items from the natural world
- Locations within the school environment.
- Our Parish Church
- The local community
- Religious art and artefacts.
- Computer technology
- Religious journals
- Children’s literature
- Audiovisual materials
Goals of Religious Education – To Know, Worship and Love.

- **God**
  It is intended that students will appreciate that, through Jesus Christ, the One God has been revealed to us as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - a communion of loving Persons. Students will discover that we are made in the image of a revealing and loving God; that we are unique, and that we have an inherent capacity for life in community and for a loving relationship with God and others.

- **Creation**
  It is intended that students will grow in appreciation of the beauty, unity and interdependence of God's creation, and grow in awareness of their responsibilities to respect, care for and sustain creation.

- **Human Person and the Family**
  It is intended that students will understand that, made in the image of God, they are unique persons, with innate dignity, rights and responsibilities. Like all other persons, they are invited to find their greatest happiness in a freeing relationship with God. They will understand that the family is the natural basic unit of society where they are first called to become creative, spontaneous and spiritual beings.

- **Jesus Christ**
  It is intended that students will recognize that God became human in Jesus Christ. His life, death and Resurrection reveal God's saving plan of love, mercy and faithfulness. In recognizing and accepting Christ's reconciling work of Redemption, students will grow in their capacity for love of Jesus Christ who they come to know, worship and love in their lives.

- **The Holy Spirit**
  It is intended that students will appreciate that God the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church and in all creation, especially in their own lives and experiences. They will appreciate their need for the wisdom, strength and healing of the Holy Spirit, and they will learn that the Spirit's gifts are meant to bear fruit in their lives.

- **The Church**
  It is intended that students will understand that they are members of the Church. They will grow in an appreciation of the history, culture and development of the Catholic Church, within the context of Australian culture and other cultures. They will develop this appreciation in their experience of the Church's institutions and ministries.

- **Scripture**
  It is intended that students will become familiar with the scriptural story of salvation history, appreciating it in its faith, cultural, historical and literary contexts. They will recognize that the Scriptures are divinely inspired texts, nurturing them in their Christian lives and appreciate that, together, Scripture and Tradition are the sources of the Word of God, interpreted and proclaimed by the Church. The celebration of word, sacrament, liturgy, the official teachings of the Church, and personal response in service and witness, are all integral and essential parts of this Tradition in the handing on of faith.

- **Social Justice**
  It is intended that students, through reflection on a changing world, will grow in an understanding of the Church's mission of truth, peace and justice. Within a culturally diverse society, they will grow in their commitment to living a Christian life in word, action and service, in solidarity with the poor, the suffering and the marginalized.
Religious Education Policy

- **Mary, Mother of God, and the Saints**
  It is intended that students will recognize that the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her response to God's call, is the supreme model of faithful discipleship. Helped by the example and prayer of Mary and all the saints, students will learn to bear witness through lives of virtue and self-giving.

- **Liturgy/Seasons and Celebrations**
  It is intended that students will understand and appreciate the place of worship in their personal lives and in the life of the community. Through such worship, they will come to a greater appreciation of prayer. This will be achieved and nourished as they become aware of word, sacrament and witness. Through this experience of worship and prayer linked to the cycle of sacred time, students will discover that such worship reflects the essence of our lives, and is a unique expression of our communion with God.

- **Sacraments**
  It is intended that students will appreciate how they can experience God, receive grace and forgiveness, and grow in faith through the seven sacraments celebrated in the context of their daily lives. Through participation in the sacraments, they will also appreciate how the Church celebrates and gives meaning to life and work, and how they can respond to the challenge which is a call to service.

- **Grace and the Moral Life**
  It is intended that students will understand that all people need God's gift of grace. They will appreciate that, through the grace of God, they can live good and happy lives and finally receive eternal happiness.

- **Prayer**
  It is intended that students open themselves to God through personal prayer. From this developing relationship with God in prayer, they will also grow in a sense of their own worth, their capacity for creativity and wonder, and in a responsiveness to the whole of life and to the needs of others.

- **Commandments and Beatitudes**
  It is intended that students will grow in understanding that Christian morality emphasizes the love of God and neighbour, as expressed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. In growing to moral maturity and by following the commandments and beatitudes, students will recognize and respond to both the personal and social challenges of living a Christian life.

- **Death and Everlasting Life**
  It is intended that students will grow in their understanding of the presence of God in our hearts and in our world, renewing and reconciling all things. They will appreciate that God's Kingdom is here now, but will reach its fulfilment at the end of time, when all will be transformed and renewed in Christ.
Planning a Unit of Work

Levels 1 and 2
The suggested process for Levels 1 and 2 is as follows:

- **Tell the Story**
  The teacher tells the story from the student text or in his/her own words. Particular attention is given to the illustrations if students are not yet at reading age.

- **Listen and Reflect**
  At this stage, the teacher becomes a co-wonderer with the students. The teacher explores the story and the dimensions of our human lives through a number of open-ended 'I wonder …' reflections. These are intended to help the students explore the theme, evoke wonder and stimulate their religious imaginations. Generally there are no wrong responses to the 'I wonder …' reflections. The teacher gives the students freedom to express themselves while valuing each contribution. The students enter into the story, uncover its meanings and discover its impact on their own lives.

- **Proclaim God's Word**
  The story is read again, but this time the class Bible is used. There are Scripture references at the back of the Student Text which can also be used. It is important that the Scripture be read with reverence and respect. Proclamation of the Word is part of our Church's ancient liturgical tradition. A candle may be lit, or the Bible carried in procession. The students listen to the Word of God. The re-telling of the story may be accompanied by the use of the 3D models and concrete materials.

- **Response**
  The students are invited to respond in shared or silent prayer, after which they partake in the suggested activities. The activities will allow them to remain immersed in the story. Many of the activities encourage the use of concrete materials directly related to the Scripture or liturgy of the unit. In the development of the concrete materials, the individual teacher's own creativity is to be encouraged. Concrete materials are an essential part of this learning and teaching process.

Levels 3 and 4
The suggested process for Levels 3 and 4 is as follows:

- **Orientation Phase**
  Teachers establish students’ prior knowledge about the Unit of Work to be undertaken.

- **Development Phase**
  Students and teachers work towards new and deeper understandings of the presence of God in their lives. They will come to hear and respond to the Word of God and explore the relationship between life and the Christian story.

- **Synthesis Phase**
  Opportunities are provided to reflect upon the learning experience and to respond both personally and communally.

The following elements are integral to the Learning and Teaching Process:

- Catechetical methodology
- Family and community involvement
- Prayer and liturgy
- Assessment and reporting
- Unit evaluation
- Scripture
- Professional Learning
Suggested Steps for Developing a Unit of Work

• Consider the Unit in Context, Doctrinal Focus, Foundational Catechetical Goals and Learning Outcomes.
• Become familiar with the story contained in the Student text and the focus behind the 'I wonder...' section.
• Reflect on the related Scripture references.
• Engage in and respond to the Religious Educator's Personal Reflection. Name and reflect on the experiences and knowledge which you bring and which the student brings to the unit.
• Consider appropriate "hands-on" materials for the implementation of the unit.
• Consider the Home Activity suggestions.
• Plan from the Suggested Unit Activities being mindful of the catechetical methodology.
• Plan Assessment Strategies and ways of recording students' progress.
• Seek out appropriate Key Resources (use the web-site resources section).
• Read the Teaching Evaluation of the Unit and decide how you will evaluate this unit.