

# Teaching Focus areas of Religious Education

## Prep

### Teaching Focus 1:

**What Makes our School Special?:** Students observe what makes their school and class special. They observe ways in which the school community gathers together for prayer and rituals for special celebrations, such as the Opening Liturgy, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week liturgy. They learn about the church as a sacred place and the Bible as a sacred book for believers. They are introduced to classroom prayer and learn the Sign of the Cross.

### Teaching Focus 2:

**How do we celebrate the Easter story?** Students are introduced to the story of Easter and the liturgical season of Easter

### Teaching Focus 3:

**How do we know about God?** What are the stories that we share in our school community? We are a Catholic school so we share stories from the Bible. The stories in the Bible tell us what God is like. Students explore the stories of Creation in Genesis and engage in literacy activities and drama activities.

### Teaching Focus 4:

**How do the stories of Jesus help our community?** Students listen to, read and view stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus' life as a Jew and of his teachings about love, compassion and forgiveness that challenged people about the way they were living. They learn that Christians believe God created people with the freedom to choose between good and bad, right and wrong. They explore examples of times, from familiar texts and their personal experience, when people make these choices.

### Teaching Focus 5:

**How can we know about God? Part B – Joseph and David** What are the stories that we share in our school community? We are a Catholic school so we share stories from the Bible. The stories in the Bible tell us what God is like. Students explore the stories of Joseph and David in the Old Testament and share how these stories of family help us know what God was like then and can be like for me today.

### Teaching Focus 6:

**How do we celebrate the birth of Jesus?** How is the birth of Jesus remembered in the Church? Students explore the infancy narratives through comparing and contrasting the accounts in Matthew and Luke. They continue to learn about the Liturgical year through an exploration of the colours and symbols of the season of Advent.

# Year 1

## Teaching Focus 1a:

**How do Bible stories teach us to live safely in the community?** Students begin to connect how people are called to live happily and safely in community. They explore the idea that we are made in the image and likeness of God. They create class covenants and recognise that we have choices and the freedom to choose right or wrong.

## Teaching Focus 1b:

**Why is Easter the most important event in our church season?** Students continue to explore the mission and ministry of Jesus through the events of Holy Week.

## Teaching Focus 2a:

**Why is the message of Jesus important to me?** Students explore the person of Jesus in the Gospels through identifying his mission and ministry. They investigate Jesus in the first century world - What did Jesus do and say?

## Teaching Focus 2b:

**How can sacraments help to bring us closer to God?** Students explore the Sacraments of Eucharist and Baptism. They learn about living in community – school and parish. Why are sacraments important to the community of believers?

## Teaching Focus 3a:

**How does the church honour Mary?** Students investigate the story of Mary, woman of faith and mother of Jesus through key question such as: How is the story of Mary remembered today? Who was Mary? Where do we hear her story? Students explore devotions to Mary, Hail Mary, prayer beads/rosary beads, images of Mary.

## Teaching Focus 3b:

**Who are the faces of our parish community?** Within a local Parish community there are many different roles. These include priests, parishioners, liturgical ministries and the various Parish groups such as family groups, prayer groups and parish ministries (St Vincent de Paul and youth Groups). Investigate and compare these different roles. Investigate some of the significant occasions where people gather in our Church.

## Teaching Focus 4a:

**How do the stories of our past tell us about God?** Students explore a range of stories in the Old Testament that can tell us about God and Creation. They describe how the Jewish people see God in their world and communicate how believers today can see God in our world today.

## Teaching Focus 4b:

**Advent/Christmas:** How can the Gospel stories help me understand the celebration of Christmas?

# Year 2

## Teaching Focus 1:

**How can we create a world of love and peace?** Students recognise choices that harm loving relationships and investigate ways believers seek to heal relationships through reconciliation. They develop their understanding of prayer in the Christian tradition by exploring prayer of forgiveness (Act of Contrition and Penitential Act).

## Teaching Focus 2:

**Lent/Holy Week and Easter: What does the Easter story teach us about God's relationship with Jesus?** Students investigate the Easter story and identify aspects of God's relationship with Jesus, explaining what it means for us today.

## Teaching Focus 3:

**Life in Jesus time – How does his teaching challenge me today?** Students learn about the teachings and actions of Jesus in New Testament texts and the mission and ministry of Jesus to bring about the Kingdom of God. They explore connections to the way people live in community today. They learn about the life and times of Jesus through the three worlds of the text.

## Teaching Focus 4:

**How can I be a steward for God's creation?** Students recognise the sacredness of God and all creation and that people are called to be co-creators and stewards of God's creation. They develop their understanding about loving relationships with God, others and creation.

## Teaching Focus 5:

**How can the story of Abraham and Sarah help us understand 'Covenant'?** Students learn about God's loving relationship with the Jewish people as described in Old Testament texts. The Jewish people describe this concept as 'covenant'. Students explore the story of Abraham and Sarah story to develop this concept.

## Teaching Focus 6:

**Advent/Christmas** Students pose questions about the birth of Jesus and life at that time. They use scripture sources to find answers, comparing gospel versions.

# Year 3

## Teaching Focus 1a:

**How can Jesus challenge our world?** Students explore the Decalogue and identify the audience and purpose of the Beatitudes. They make connections between the messages of the Decalogue and Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes, and how the scriptures can be used as a guide for making decisions. They identify how is this message of Jesus, to respect people and take responsibility for our actions, reflected in the work of the Church and school e.g. social justice projects like Caritas and St Vincent de Paul.

## Teaching Focus 1b:

**Who was St Patrick:** Students investigate the words and images used in the spiritual writings of St Patrick, St Mary MacKillop and St Theresa of Calcutta to help understand God's relationship with people as individuals and as community.

## Teaching Focus 2:

**How can we celebrate the story of Easter?** What does scripture say about the Easter story? Students learn about what was life like at the time of Jesus. They use information about the passion narratives to discuss ideas about the life and teaching of Jesus.

## Teaching Focus 3:

**What can Sacraments mean for me?** The Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation remember key stories in the life of Jesus. Students explore the sights, sounds and actions of the Sacraments of Initiation. They learn that through the Sacraments of Initiation people are welcomed and strengthened in the Church community. They learn that members of the parish and the Diocese support Sacraments in the local Church community.

## Teaching Focus 4a:

**How can we know what God is like?** How do people make sense of and communicate their understanding of God? God is imaged many ways in the stories of the Old Testament, such as God as potter, mother, Creator. We hear these ideas of God also in the psalms. In the Torah the special relationship between the Jewish people and God is seen through the stories of people such as Moses and Jacob. Students create Prayers of praise and thanksgiving using the, **you, who, do, through** prayer structure.

## Teaching Focus 4b:

**What can we see in our world today that helps us understand what God is like?** Students develop their understanding of God's presence and action in daily life through an experience of the created world. They identify the diversity of God's created world and the order and harmony of creation. Students explore the relationships that exist in the created world.

## Teaching Focus 5:

**Who do you say Jesus is?** Students explore where the stories of Jesus' birth are shared in the Gospels. They compare and contrast the two accounts. They locate information about the cultural contexts of the infancy narratives. Students express an understanding of the Christian belief that Jesus is the Messiah.

## Teaching Focus 6:

**Advent/Christmas:** How do people remember Jesus in the Christmas season?

# Year 4

## Teaching Focus 1:

**How do we share our story across space and time?** Students explore books of the Old Testament that contain a variety of text types including historical narratives and sacred myths. They develop an understanding of text types in order to better understand God's word. Students explore the world in front of the text and the concept of stewardship in the world today.

## Teaching Focus 2:

**Lent/Holy Week mini unit:** How does our community remember the stories of Jesus during the season of Easter?

## Teaching Focus 3:

**How do the stories of the New Testament help us to understand who Jesus is today?**

Students investigate parables using the framework of the three worlds of the text. Students apply their knowledge of first century Judaism, the world behind the text, to the parable of the Good Samaritan to demonstrate an understanding of scripture. Students apply their knowledge to the community today.

## Teaching Focus 4:

**How can the Trinity help us understand community?** Students explore the idea of community and relationship through the Christian belief of the Trinity and investigate connections to the concept in the scriptures.

## Teaching Focus 5:

**How did Catholics in Australia's past create community? (in conjunction with HASS)**

Students explore the challenges of creating community and living in community through an investigation of the first Catholics who settled in Australia (c.1788 CE - c.1850 CE).

## Teaching Focus 6:

**What does it mean to be community?** Students investigate the significance of community for Christians and ideas about living in community through the exploration of Decalogue and the wisdom of St Paul. What rules do communities need and what rules do Christians use?

## Teaching Focus 7:

**How can relationships be healed in our community?** Students examine how free choices result in actions that effect individuals and their community. They identify how messages and actions of Jesus are lived in the church community today. Students broaden their understanding of Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and Penance. They examine prayers of blessings, petition and intercession and appreciate their significance for Christian communities.

## Teaching Focus 8:

**Advent/Christmas:** How do the gospels tell of Jesus' birth?

# Year 5

## Teaching Focus 1:

**What does it mean to share faith in communities of believers?** Faith is shared and strengthened in communities of believers, past and present. Students broaden their appreciation of the significance of personal and communal prayer and worship, including Eucharist and Sabbath rituals and prayers.

## Teaching Focus 2:

**Lent/Holy week/Easter:** How do believers share and strengthen faith in the Easter season?

## Teaching Focus 3:

**How can confirmation help us understand the action of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers?** The action of the Holy Spirit is described in scripture using a variety of titles. The Sacrament of Confirmation remembers the actions of the Holy Spirit – word, symbols and actions. Students learn about the Gifts and fruits of the Spirit and the action of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

## Teaching Focus 4:

**How can Jesus' message challenge me today?** Students describe how believers live according to Jesus' new commandment of charity (love) and make and act upon informed moral choices. They explore formation of conscience with the Decalogue and Beatitudes as guiding scripture and develop and explain a personal choice or action that demonstrates how Jesus' teaching can apply to the world today.

## Teaching Focus 5:

**How did pioneering Catholics share and strengthen their faith in the early Australian community? (in conjunction with HASS)**

## Teaching Focus 6:

**How can the story of Mary help understand faith today?** Students learn about Mary, mother of Jesus and Mary mother of the Church as understood in scripture and investigate gospel writers shaped their texts for particular communities. They learn about Marian prayers, including the rosary and the Litany of Mary of Nazareth. They develop their understanding of the story of Mary in scripture and Mary's role in the Church community.

## Teaching Focus 6a:

**Advent/Christmas:** Students learn about the contexts of the Gospel writers (e.g. purpose of the writer, time of writing, intended audience, point of view) shaped their Gospels. The context of the Gospel writer is important in determining the nature of the truth revealed in the text (e.g. historical truth, factual truth, religious truth).

# Year 6

## Teaching Focus 1:

**How do we make sense of the Jesus of faith?** Jesus' relationship with God the Father and with humanity is described in scripture using a variety of titles and images. Students explore the historical Jesus and the Jesus of faith through investigating titles of Jesus that reflect Jesus as fulfilment of God's promises in the Old Testament, including Messiah, Son of Man, and Saviour.

## Teaching Focus 2:

**Lent/Holy week/Easter:** Students participate in preparations for, and presentation of, Holy Week liturgical celebration which are used to inspire believers to prayer and a deeper understanding of the mystery of God. They participate through action, word and reverent silence.

## Teaching Focus 3:

**How can we as a church community live faith today?** Jesus' law is a law of grace, of love, and of freedom. Students explain the significance of Jesus' New Law for the way believers live their faith today and in the Australian Church, past, present and future. Students examine the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy which are foundational to the Church's teaching about concern for the common good.

## Teaching Focus 4:

**How can prophets challenge us to live faith?** Students investigate the messages of Old Testament prophets and how their message of faith was influenced by their time and place. Students reflect on who might be prophets in the world today and how as leaders they can be a voice of challenge to the school community.

## Teaching Focus 5:

**How do believers live their faith across the year?** Students review their understanding of what faith is by exploring faith that is lived across the year in Christianity and Judaism. The celebration of Eucharist and parts of the Mass, including the Lord's Prayer, support the faith life of Christians. The commemoration of the High Holy days in Judaism shares and strengthens the faith of believers. Students gain an understanding of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, Communion of Saints and the place of spiritual exercises in the daily life of believers.

## Teaching Focus 6:

**What does it mean to live faith?** What is faith? Christians believe faith is a virtue freely gifted by God. Students explore the idea of faith through the lens of scripture.

## Teaching Focus 7:

**Advent/Christmas:** Students participate in preparations for, and presentation of Advent, which is another celebration in the liturgical calendar. They participate through action, word and reverent silence.