

Religious Life of the School

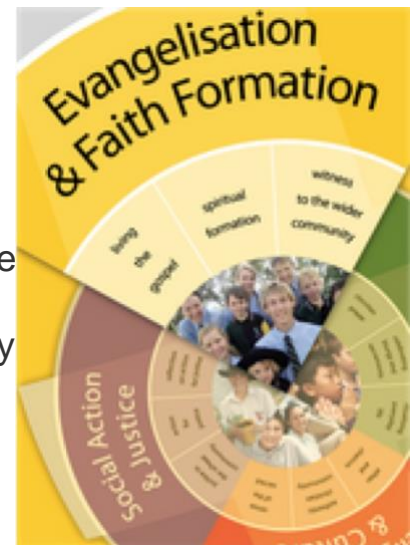
The Religious Life of the school, which is reflective of the second dimension of the Religious Education – ‘teaching people to be religious in a particular way’ (Moran, 1991), provides a lens through which our school community at Star of the Sea can develop and enrich its religious life.

The four interrelated components: Religious Identity and Culture; Evangelisation and Faith Formation; Prayer and Worship and Social Action and Justice provide an important focus for the development of the religious life of our community. They are reflected in the following ways:



Evangelisation and Faith Formation at Star of the Sea

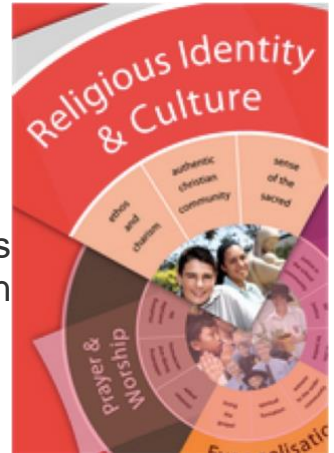
- Strong links with St Joseph’s Catholic Parish is present where there are many opportunities for staff and students to celebrate and participate in Mass at one of the three churches in the parish.
- Whole school masses, liturgies and celebrations throughout the year. When these are small gatherings, there is the opportunity to celebrate these events in the School Chapel.
- Sacramental programs, while parish based, are jointly led by parish and school staff.
- Focus on spiritual growth during Lent and Advent (participating in making Lenten promises, Stations of the Cross, Nativity Play)
- Student spirituality focus - daily classroom prayer, prayer assemblies, retreats and reflection days (Catching Fire Workshops), classroom meditation, camp liturgies.
- Use of the Chapel for prayer opportunities.
- Community Celebrations including Mother’s day, Father’s Day, Grandparent’s Day, and weekly class prayer assemblies.
- Exploring the values and messages contained within the school Charism – Faith, Community, Compassion and Comittment.
- Students involved as altar servers and readers for school celebrations
- Year 6 students attending mass at St Peter the Fisherman Community Church at Burrum Heads and St Patrick’s at Howard.
- Year 5 students attending St Mary of the Cross Mass at St Joseph’s.
- Year 4 students attending healing masses at St Joseph’s.



Religious Identity and Culture

at Star of the Sea

- Focus on the “Star of the Sea” story.
- Focus on Mary’s story - School Feast Day (The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, May - Month of Mary, October – Month of the Rosary).
- School Iconography
- Sacred Spaces including the School Chapel and Mary’s Garden, Mary Focus in Administration, prayer tables in each classroom/learning space.
- Daily Classroom prayer and meditation.
- Sacramental programs run between school and parish
- Opening Mass – Year 6 Leaders Commissioning.
- Catholic Education Week – Whole School Mass.
- Celebrations linked to Mary including Mother’s Day.
- Buddy Classes.
- Mini – Vinnies and Winter Sleepout.



Feast Days linked to Mary

- May 24th – Our Lady, Help of Christians
- August 8th – St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop (Parish Mass - Year 5)
- August 15th – The Assumption of Mary
- September 8th: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (School Feast Day)
- October 7th – Our Lady of the Rosary



Holy Week

- Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Jesus’ Trial & Praying in the Garden, The Way of the Cross: Whole school production and presentation of events in a whole school liturgy on the last day of term.



Prayer and Worship

at Star of the Sea

- Staff Prayer – Wednesdays – 8.15am in the Chapel and at weekly staff meetings.
- Staff participation in the Lenten Program and Prayer
- Induction of Year 6 Leaders
- Anointing Mass
- Parish Healing Mass (Year 4)
- Feast of the Assumption of Mary MacKillop (Year 5)
- Feast of St Peter and Paul (Year 5)
- St Patrick’s Mass at Howard (Year 6)
- ANZAC Day Liturgy (whole school) and Mass at the Church (Year 6 Leaders)
- Class Prayer and Meditative Practices – Daily
- Shrove Tuesday – Classroom Activities/Pancake day
- Ash Wednesday – Whole School Liturgy
- Opening Mass – Year 6 Leaders Commissioning
- End of Year Mass
- Year 6 Graduation Mass at St Joseph’s Church
- Catholic Education Week Liturgy
- Mini-Vinnies – Year 6



Community Focussed Prayer Assemblies

- Mother’s day, Father’s Day, Grandparent’s Day, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, NAIDOC Week, Bastille Day, Reconciliation Week,

Lent/Advent

- Ash Wednesday
- Holy Week - Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Washing of the Disciples Feet, Jesus’ Trial & Praying in the Garden, The Way of the Cross. Class production and presentation of events in a whole school liturgy on the last day of term.
- Christmas - whole school Liturgy.



Feast Days – Celebrated during class prayer, whole school assemblies and through participation at Parish Masses.

- March 17th – St Patrick (Parish Mass – Year 6)
- March 20th – Blessed Virgin Mary (Parish Mass – Year 4)
- May 8th – The Ascension of the Lord
- May 22nd – The Most Holy Trinity
- May 24th – Our Lady, Help of Christians
- May 28th – Pentecost
- June 3rd – Sacred Heart of Jesus
- June 22nd – St Peter the Fisherman (Parish Mass – Year 5)
- August 8th – St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop (Parish Mass - Year 5)
- August 15th – The Assumption of Mary
- October 7th – Our Lady of the Rosary
- November 1st – All Saints Day
- November 2nd – All Souls Day
- November 14th – Anointing Mass



Social Action and Justice

at Star of the Sea

Staff, students and parents are provided with many opportunities throughout the year to be involved with Social Action and Justice Causes within our local, national and global communities.

- Lenten staff prayer
- Care and Concern Meals
- Parent Care and Concern contact



- NAIDOC Week
- ANZAC Day



- Project Compassion fundraising events throughout term
- Lenten Activities – Ways to Pray Resources
- St Vinnies Winter Appeal
- Catholic Missions Appeal – October
- Mission Market stall day for Catholic Mission month
- Christmas Hamper Appeal

