

Religious Education and Faith AGM Report 2023



Faith

Prayer Life

Our community has a vibrant and varied Prayer Life. We experience prayer across the day and year, in a way that enhances our relationship with God.

Class prayer is the touchstone of all prayer within our school. Students and staff craft prayers together and manage sacred spaces allowing all to engage and contribute.

In 2023 we gathered in prayer for significant religious event: Assumption, Ash Wednesday, All Saints Day as well as the celebration and commemoration of secular days: Harmony Day, Clean Up Australia Day, NAIDOC Week, Mothers/Father's Day, Remembrance Day etc. Fr Michael and Fr Prathap celebrated masses with us on the themes of Sustainability, Community, Good Samaritan, Choice, Peace and many more. We commemorated our Feast Day focusing on Jesus as Shepherd and King this led into our Advent celebration focusing on the 4 main concepts of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love.

Holy Week was a major milestone in our prayer life, and we held a mixture of class based, outdoor reflections on the major events and gathered together for a solemn and moving Stations of the Cross presented by our Yr6 class.

A joyous event to end the year was our traditional Nativity Mass held in the last part of the year. Our reception students swelled hearts during their re-enactment and made the birth of Jesus the centre of our Christmas celebrations.



Sacramental Program



2023 saw many of our students engage with the Sacramental Programme.

We welcomed some children into the church through Baptism. This celebration took place at St Joesph's Church on a Saturday morning following preparation in the preceding weeks here at school.

We had a small number of Yr5 and Yr6 students who prepared for and celebrated their Confirmation and First Communion during Winter. A group of Yr. 4 students commenced their completion of the Initiation Sacraments by preparing for and celebrating their First Reconciliation during Spring. These students now eagerly await the completion of their Initiation Sacraments during Winter 2024.

ReLAT (Religious Literacy Assessment)

All Yr. 4 students who attend a Catholic School in SA are required to participate in an online ReLAT test. The test assesses student knowledge of curriculum not faith. Our Yr4 class achieved higher than the state average in all of the 5 areas assessed.

Connection

Journey to Emmaus

In 2023 the Yr6 students from Christ the King and 4 surrounds Catholic Schools completed the Journey to Emmaus Leadership Program.

The main themes of the days were:

- When does God call to me?
- How am I the Face of Jesus
- How do I support those less fortunate than me?
- What are the leadership skills I can build on?

The programme also allowed students from the 5 schools to mix in a different format to the usual sporting events and make friends and connections ready for high school.



Yr6 Graduation

In an effort to be inclusive with our Yr6 families and community we held our Yr6 Thanksgiving Mass and Graduation in our parish church- St Josep's Brighton. This connection with our parish also has the benefit of allowing us to live stream the Graduation to families and friends both in our community but also to family and friend's interstate and overseas.

Parish

Our school is a member of the St Josep's Parish. The RE leadership team from the three parish schools, Fr Michael and Nirmanthi Rupasinghe (Parish Associate) meet on a regular basis to support and maintain programmes within the Parish and schools.

Our connection to the parish is maintained through regular masses, the sacrament programme, outreach activities, such as christmas cards written by the students to give to elderly parish members. At the beginning of the year staff members were invited to attend a weekend mass, during the mass they were blessed and commissioned by the parishoners as the leaders of our school's faith life.

Fr Michael also took time to meet with the staff and discuss their teaching roles and to provide spiritual guidance.

Matthew Perry maintained our connection by being an active member of the Parish Pastoral Council giving regular updates about the school and offering assistance and guidance in all educational matters.

Justice/Outreach

St Vincent de Paul

Our community is connected to our local chapter through various collections and support drives throughout the year. Once again we held a most successful Giving Tree at Christmas that allow our local chapter to support many families in need in our local area. Our students benefit greatly from learning the intrinsic value of helping other.



Caritas

This year our students and staff were involved in raising donations for Caritas through its annual Project Compassion campaign. We began the Season of Lent with a gold coin donation for Shrove Tuesday with all enjoying a pancake recess. Donations continued and culminated in a very successful coin line in Holy Week.

Professional Development

Professional Learning

The staff continued their ongoing Professional Development in the area of Religious Education. Their work in embedding Year Level Performances Standards supported their exploration of Performance Standards across other curriculum areas. Staff also took on updates for the MITIOG Programme and some attended an Early Career Overnight Retreat.

Time was spent exploring our Sacred Spaces and looking at the expectations of a space and daily prayer. This was supported with the purchase for each class of a Catholic Children's Bible to use during prayer and scripture exploration.

Staff continue to upskill in the areas of Scripture and its influence on the daily lives and learning of our students.

