



Religious Education Curriculum Focus Areas – Year 3

During the year the students will engage in the following units of work. Class teachers will advise which units are being covered in the Term Overview, distributed at the start of each term.

How can we live a 'good' life?

What does scripture say about making good decisions? Explore the Decalogue and identify the audience and purpose of the Beatitudes. 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. 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.

How is the life and message of Jesus remembered in the Sacraments of the Church?

The Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation remember key stories in the life of Jesus, e.g. Jesus' baptism, the Last Supper and Pentecost. The students explore the sights, sounds and actions of the Sacraments of Initiation. Through the Sacraments of Initiation people are welcomed and strengthened in the Church community. Members of the Parish and the Diocese support the Sacraments in the local Church community.

How is God's relationship with people revealed in the stories of the Old Testament?

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. Participating in prayers of praise and thanksgiving and psalms.

How do we experience God in the created world?

Developing an understanding of God's presence and action in daily life through an experience of the created world. Identifying the diversity of God's created world and the order and harmony of creation. Exploring the relationships that exist in the created world. Composing prayers of praise.

How is the story of Jesus' birth remembered in the Church?

Exploring where the stories of Jesus' birth are shared in the Gospels – Luke and Matthew. Compare and contrast the two accounts of Jesus' birth. Locate information about the cultural context in which the infancy narratives in Luke and Matthew were written e.g. audience, world behind the text. Look at the features of the infancy narrative as a text type used in the New Testament. Use the information gathered from the world behind the text and the world of the text to explore the concept of Jesus as Messiah in the infancy narratives and the beliefs of the Church today.