



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At St Mary's, Religious Education promotes the message of Jesus and develops children's understandings of living the gospel values within the family, school, parish and the wider community. It permeates all aspects of the curriculum and school activities.

PROGRAMME



The Religious Education programme incorporates the Religious Education Frameworks (developed by the Catholic Education Office), which are supported by the *To Know, Worship and Love* texts (produced by the Archdiocese of Melbourne). The programme aims to help children grow in relationship with God and supports the family as the primary educators in faith, building on the experiences of each child and integrating the dimensions of Religious Knowledge and Understanding; - Religious Reasoning and; - Responding and Personal & Communal Engagement.

SACRAMENTS

St Mary's celebrates the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) in Year 3, the Sacrament of Eucharist in Year 4 and the Sacrament of Confirmation in Year 6. Each Sacrament is planned and organised by the class teachers, the Religious Education Coordinator, the Principal and the Parish Priest. An important aspect of the school's Religious Education programme is the support from the school community for the children receiving the Sacraments.

Parent meetings for each of the Sacraments aim to develop adult faith and provide parents and children with an opportunity to discuss the Sacrament. The Parish Priest, the Religious Education Leader and teachers facilitate these meetings or guest speakers are invited to visit.

St Mary's Parish has developed a Catechetical Sacramental Programme for catholic children not attending our school. This programme ensures that the children are properly prepared for their sacrament and are then invited to join the main school celebration.

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Prayer and liturgy are important aspects of the Religious Education programme and all members of the school community participate in these regularly. The whole school participates in the Parish Mass every Thursday morning where each grade is timetabled to help organise the liturgy for the day. Children, teachers and parents are involved with the readings, music and distribution of communion. Liturgies and paraliturgies (prayer services) are planned according to the church calendar, feast days, special school events or supporting a RE unit. The *Know, Worship and Love* texts include prayer and traditional rituals for the students to follow.

Children are encouraged to participate and lead prayers at assemblies, in classrooms during liturgical celebrations and at the Parish Mass. All classrooms have a prayer table, bibles and display religious icons and artifacts. There are prayerful displays in classrooms and around the school.



To

The feast day for St Mary's is December 8 (The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary).