



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.

Year Level Description

In Year 3,

Students develop their understanding of God's relationship with people as individuals and as community, and the presence and action of God in daily life experiences, as they engage with a variety of texts (including key stories from the Torah, images of God used in Old Testament texts, and the wisdom of prayers attributed to the saints). They develop an appreciation of the order and harmony of creation. They learn about the cultural contexts in which the Gospels were written and the text types used in the New Testament to develop their understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus and the Christian belief that Jesus is the Messiah.

Students develop an appreciation of the Scriptures as a basis for Christian moral living, including respect for basic human rights and acknowledgement of responsibilities, in particular to the poor and disadvantaged. They develop an appreciation of the collaboration of clergy, religious and laity as they learn about significant features of a parish and diocese, past and present. They learn about the significance of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) for the Church community. They investigate prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of praise, including psalms and doxologies, to facilitate an appreciation of the significance of these forms of prayer for Christians.

How do we belong in Community?

God's Relationship with People based on 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.

Lent and Easter

Students understand the significance of the story of Easter and the liturgical season of Lent.

Caring for and Living in God's 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.

Living a Good and Moral 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.

Jesus is remembered through the Sacraments.

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.

Celebrating and remembering Jesus' Birth and Advent.

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.

Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 3,

Students select and use information, ideas and events in texts (including key stories from the Torah; images of God used by the human authors of Old Testament scriptures; and prayers attributed to the saints) to express their ideas about God's relationship with people as individuals and communities; God's presence and action in daily life experiences; and the order and harmony in God's creation. They locate information about the cultural contexts in which the Gospels were written and the text types used by the human authors of New Testament texts. They use this information about texts to discuss ideas about the life and teaching of Jesus, including the Christian belief that Jesus is the Messiah.

Students explain how the Scriptures provide a foundation for living a moral life, including respect for basic human rights and acknowledgement of responsibilities, in particular to the poor and disadvantaged. They identify prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of praise, including Glory to the Father [Glory Be] and demonstrate understanding of the significance of these forms of prayer for Christians. They explain ways in which the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) welcome and strengthen members of the Church community. They describe significant people, events and features of a parish and diocese, past and present, including the collaboration of clergy, religious and laity. They participate respectfully in a variety of prayer experiences, including meditative prayer, prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of praise.