



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Way back in early 2018, OLMC began an active role in the development of a new Religious Education Curriculum by asking our Stage 3 children what they wanted to know about their Catholic faith. Mrs Nolan was invited to be a part of the writing team. This team consists of expert theologians, priests and teachers who have worked alongside parents (our own Danielle Gardner) and students to shape a meaningful curriculum that is reflective of the catechism, tradition and social teachings of our Catholic church.

Last year in Term Three, our Stage 3 classes trialled their first unit and then in Term Four all other grades began trialling and planning with the new units. We have continued this engagement throughout this year and provided valuable feedback to the writers as they made amendments. Our teachers and children are now working with the third draft of the new curriculum. Since embarking on this journey we have invited parents to share this journey with their children and in conversation with Mrs Nolan and Mrs Haddad.

During this process the quality, depth of knowledge, skill and engagement of our staff and students in Religious Education has been on a level I have never experienced in my nearly 30 years in Catholic Education. Our students are inquiring into big theological concepts to understand why we believe what we do as Catholics and how we can live our beliefs in our daily life.

Recently there has been a great deal of discussion about our Draft New Religious Education curriculum stemming from an article in the Daily Telegraph. The article took one aspect of the curriculum relating to sexuality and other belief structures aimed at Year 10 students and has implied that this is reflective of all stages of the curriculum. The work of developing a new curriculum is long and considered to ensure we get it right. I am excited by, and proud of the work we have done as a developer school in being able to shape this curriculum.

Our Catholic Faith does not exist in a vacuum and is ecumenical in nature. We exist in a society and world that is made up of many viewpoints, religious faiths and those without faith. As citizens, we have to co-exist with all the people in our world. In order to do this we need to understand others to find common ground and to understand ourselves. Jesus taught us to love our neighbour, this is difficult to do if we do not know ourselves or who our neighbour is.

I encourage you to look carefully at the work samples and the video of our children discussing their Religious Education included later in the newsletter. Talk to your children about what they are learning. We always welcome conversation with our parents about what we do at school. For those who would like to read more about the new curriculum you can read recent letters from our Vicar General Fr Chris de Souza at the end of the newsletter.

Olimpia Pirovic
Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

Week 7

3:15-4:15pm League Stars Clinic
(No Parents to stay on site)

Thurs: **NO Work Out with Mr Jones**

9:15am Fathers' Day Raffle - Facebook Live

Fri: Staff Development Day - No students

Week 8

Mon: Second Hand Uniform Shop OPEN **2:45pm - 3:10pm**

Tues: School Banking

3:15-4:15pm League Stars Clinic
(No Parents to stay on site)

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY THIS FRIDAY
~ NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ~**

NOTES HOME

Last Week

- Student Contact Details
- Yr 5 Jarara In-School Exp.
- Book Week In-School Exp.

This Week

- Yr 2 Father's Day Card (small photo)
- Yr 2 Jarara In-School Exp.
- K Wicked Weather In-school Exp.
- K - 6 Book Week

MERIT AWARDS

KB	Emma ▪ Pravi	4B	Kinjal ▪ Jose
KG	Eren ▪ Serah	4G	Mason ▪ Erinn
1B	Charlotte ▪ Anuj	5B	No awards presented
1G	Leah ▪ Reis	5G	Kruti ▪ Irene
2B	Yelesta ▪ Olivia	6B	Nouhad ▪ Serena
2G	Yara ▪ Lily	6G	Tomos ▪ Rhianna
3B	Olivia ▪ Rohan	CA	Logan ▪ Adam
3G	Jada ▪ Jeremiel	PE	No awards presented

STAR CARD REWARDS

Gold Awards: Jacob ▪ Navya ▪ Dev ▪ Siya ▪ Leah ▪ Noah ▪ Patrick ▪ Charbel ▪ Michael ▪ Luca ▪ Samuel ▪ Kiara ▪ Jerome ▪ Sylvana ▪ Logan Lila ▪ Sajin ▪ Marcus ▪ Jerrick ▪ Aiden ▪ Adrianna ▪ Amiel ▪ Natasha ▪ Bhakti ▪ Osean Noriel ▪ Leon ▪ Arav ▪ Grace ▪ Emad ▪ Amelia ▪ Roman ▪ Gabrielle ▪

Opal Awards: Aakash ▪ Misha ▪ Mary ▪ Pranav ▪ Kian ▪ Samyel ▪ Arian ▪ Rihanna ▪ Ethan ▪ Jieke ▪ Amelie ▪ Riya ▪ Palash ▪ Isaac ▪ Jonah ▪ Charlotte ▪ Maliyah ▪ Ithayan Rayar ▪ Abbey ▪ Makayla ▪ Hansikaa ▪ Katrina ▪ Gabrielle Malubag ▪ Emma ▪ Samuel ▪ Leela ▪ Sanjana ▪ Yasemin ▪

Platinum Awards: Mason ▪ Alyn ▪ Anuj ▪ Kruti ▪ Isabella ▪ Prasadi ▪ Deng ▪ Gia ▪ Alexander ▪ Charlotte ▪ Isabel ▪ Reis ▪ Matthew ▪ Zoe ▪ Logan ▪ Candace ▪ Amalia ▪ Neeti ▪ Rouba ▪ Joseph ▪ Shanaya ▪ Cooper ▪ Chad ▪ Sri Harika ▪ Estelle ▪ Iniya Chelsea ▪ Nirvan ▪ Rohan ▪ Lucas ▪ Celeste ▪ Tomos ▪ Anabella ▪ Simona ▪

Principal's Awards: Lucas ▪ Zoe ▪ Serena ▪ Jose ▪ Damon ▪ Gabriella ▪ Luke ▪ John ▪ Serah ▪ Sienna ▪ Lucinda ▪ Pravi ▪ Anthony ▪



PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the last 9 children who completed the PR challenge in the past week. This year **269** were able to complete the 2020 Premier's Reading Challenge. Well done to all challenge participants and those who finished this week.

Kinder: All Complete

Year 1 & Year 2: All Complete

Year 3: Luke G

Year 4: Chelsea B, Adriana M & Riya K

Year 5: Caitlyn G & Irene M

Year 6: David D

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Today is Teacher Assistant Appreciation Day. At OLMC we are fortunate to have an amazing team of Teacher Assistants who go above and beyond to support our teachers and students. They tirelessly and patiently work with our children to give them extra practise and attention. Thank you Mrs Hanson, Mrs Aboud, Mrs Cundy, Mrs Martin, Mrs Gauci and Mrs Leslie, We couldn't do what we do without your support!



CONTACT DETAILS

All families have received a personalised letter with the contact details we have on file for your family. Please check this information, make any necessary changes and return it to school by Friday.

LATEST COVID ADVICE

Thank you to our parents for following the advice in relation to student illness. We understand that the current requirements put extra pressure on families however these procedures are about protecting our entire school community.

To support families we have developed an [OLMC At Home Online Learning](#) website which has a range of learning activities that your children can engage with while they are waiting to be symptom free. The work has been specifically planned for each stage of learning and is reflective of the skills and outcomes in the main Key Learning Areas.

Please remember.....students **must not attend school if they are unwell.**

- Students who are absent from school or who have been sent home due to **FLU LIKE** symptoms **must be tested.**
- Students **MUST NOT RETURN** to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result **AND** are **symptom free**
- Schools **MUST SIGHT** the negative COVID-19 test result **prior** to allowing students to return to school i.e. NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre correspondence (SMS or email or hard copy) and/or a medical certificate must be provided to the school and a record of this kept by the school.
- If your child is being tested and awaiting results, Parents are expected to **inform the school** so that we can apply a 'Flexible' code for attendance.
- If your GP does not think a COVID test is necessary, they **must provide you with a medical clearance letter.** This must be sent to school **prior** to students returning to school.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If your family is moving and you plan to change schools parents are required to give a minimum of 10 week's notice of intention to leave to avoid a requirement to pay term fees. Parents are required to complete a Notice of Leaving form available from the office. This form can be completed even if you do not have a set leaving date.

COSHC AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY

Due to the Staff Development Day on Friday, COSHC will be operating and providing supervision for children whose parents are unable to make other arrangements. To make a booking contact Teresa Aiteh on 0409 361 929

P&F NEWS

A Fathers' Day Prayer

*God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.
We pray for all fathers: may they guide their children with patience and loving wisdom.
May they feel appreciated in all they do and supported as their hands work to provide sustenance and security for their families.
We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation;
May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.
We pray for grandfathers and great grandfathers; may we value their wisdom and experience as they teach and guide us.
May they feel pride in their children and the support of family and friends.
We pray for fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering;
May they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.
We pray for fathers who are separated from their families for whatever reason.
May they feel united with them in spirit, even though distance keeps them apart
We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.
We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.
Amen*

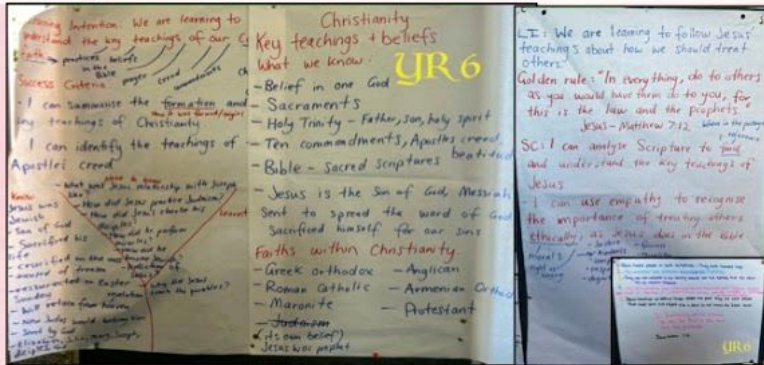
We hope all the Dads, Granddads and father figures in our community are made to feel particularly special and loved on Sunday. We hope you love the small tokens of affection that your children have brought home for Fathers' Day from the Parents and Friends.



Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for the Fathers' Day Raffle, your support is truly appreciated. Thanks once again to everyone who donated prizes, especially GBS, who donated our first prize. **Good luck in the draw to take place on Facebook on Thursday 3rd September, due to the staff development day on Friday.**

THE NEW RE CURRICULUM AT OLMC

Since 2018, OLMC has proudly been a developer for the New Religious Education Curriculum, with all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 engaging with this inquiry based learning since 2019. The development of this student focused, Jesus centric and rigorous new curriculum signals our strategic focus on developing a curriculum that aims to foster knowledgeable, compassionate, responsive and flourishing disciples. Disciples who live their lives to the fullest within a diverse community. Below are what our K-Yr6 students are engaging with during Term 3



Unit: In God's plan of salvation, there are a variety of religious beliefs and pathways to God

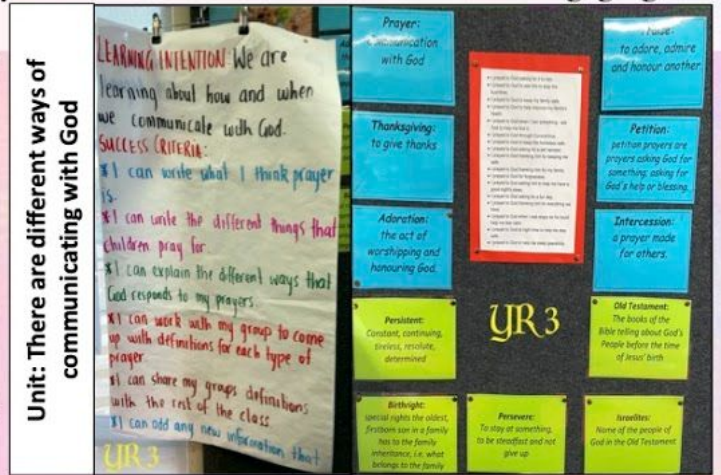


Unit: We gather for Eucharist as community, in fellowship, to remember Jesus' sacrifice and give thanks



Unit: The world is a gift from God, for which we are responsible

**2019 Year 6
students talking
about their
experiences of
the New
Curriculum**



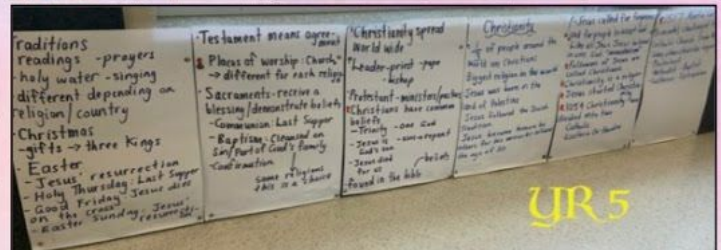
Unit: There are different ways of communicating with God



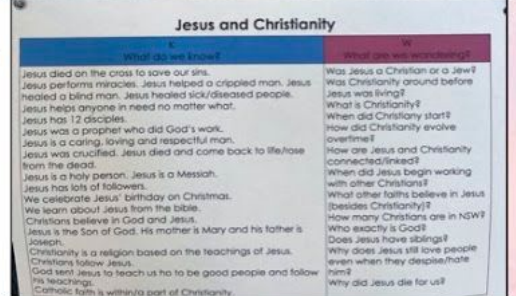
Unit: God loves me for who I am?



**Unit: The Sacred Scriptures are
a way of life inspired by the
Word of God**



Unit: The significance of the Early Church for Intentional Faith Communities



28 August 2020

Dear Friends,

'Good News' for Young People in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

Over the past few weeks you may have seen media coverage about how Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) is looking to further strengthen the Catholic faith of our young people through a review of the Religious Education Curriculum. With so many parents entrusting CEDP to teach their children the Catholic faith in our schools, the Diocese of Parramatta takes this responsibility extremely seriously. This letter is to update you on the current status of this exciting and evolving project.

Our Church teaches that parents and guardians are the first educators of their children. They have an obligation and right to educate their offspring (Canon 793 §1). I can assure everyone concerned that the Draft New Curriculum is firmly based in Catholic Scripture, Tradition and Context, focused on sharing the faith with students as well as encouraging them to become attentive, intelligent, reasonable and responsible Catholic adults.

The Religious Education Curriculum review process is not finalised. Right now, in Term 3 2020, we are trialling our first draft.

Following the trial, there will be opportunities for you to share your feedback for further refinement moving forward.

An up-to-date approach in the tradition of Catholic thought

As Catholic educators, we are working to better align with the sound educational principles behind effective student learning.

This new approach has been developed based on the big questions students themselves ask about life and their relationship with God. We understand their need to take an active role in finding the answers, in turn helping them to be more open to accepting and living our Church's precious teachings at a deeper level.

Children always have lots of questions. You may be interested to know that the approach behind the new curriculum has been practised in Catholic education for centuries as illustrated in the *Summa Theologiae* of St Thomas Aquinas developed more than 700 years ago. It consists of looking to our Catholic faith for answers to challenging questions arising from different scenarios. Pope Francis recently affirmed this method when he advised leaders in the Church not to simply continue answering "questions people are no longer asking."

Working together as a Catholic community

The process of reviewing the Religious Education Curriculum began in 2014, by speaking to parents, clergy, teachers and students, through research conducted by Catholic educational experts at the University of Notre Dame. There have been 23 stages of review including consultation with teachers and students in 2016, learning frameworks developed by clergy and others in 2017, clergy and parent advisory groups in 2018 and trials and parental observations in 2019.



I enclose a full list of the steps we have undertaken so far, and those that are planned to come. Our intention is to have a transparent process. Numerous Church documents especially from the Congregation for Catholic Education underpin our approach which will be included in the final version of the Curriculum as a resource for teachers.

We look forward to the launch of the new Religious Education Curriculum and we continue to consult widely. The final version of the curriculum will be rolled out only when all stages of the process are complete.

Current Media Commentary

In recent days, we have seen one or two elements of the new curriculum discussed in the media. Unfortunately, some media outlets are not presenting the new curriculum accurately, particularly its teaching content.

Religious Education in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will continue to give our young people a deeper understanding of *God, Jesus, Church, Prayer, Sacraments, Sacred Scripture and Christian Life*.

More information

We understand that many of you may have questions.

The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website contains podcasts and videos which discuss and demonstrate the rationale and the process we have followed. These can be found at <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/News-and-Events/Planning-for-the-Future/New-curriculum-to-connect-faith-learning-and-life>.

We also have a dedicated email address for your questions. Please send any questions you may have to feedback@parra.catholic.edu.au.

The process is evolving, and we are keen to hear from our Catholic community. We will keep you updated.

Like you, we want to share the gift of our Catholic faith with the young people of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris de Souza'.

Very Rev Christopher de Souza
Vicar General
Episcopal Vicar for Education & Formation

26 August 2020

Response to The Daily Telegraph – 26 August 2020

New approach to Religious Education is 'Good News' for young people

The Western Sydney Catholic community has been working together to develop a new approach to teaching Religious Education at Catholic schools. There have been recent statements made in the media about this. The good news is that we now have a more relevant, thoughtful and up-to-date way to share our precious Catholic faith with the next generation.

Opinion writer Miranda Devine yesterday published an article criticising this new approach to teaching children and young people about religion. Miranda's piece seems to seek to agitate and divide rather than make a meaningful contribution to public discussion about either religion or learning.

Today, I wish to share further thoughts on this subject with readers of the Daily Telegraph. Many clergy, parents, teachers and students were involved in the process of developing this new Religious Education curriculum over the past six years.

Let me be clear - Catholic Scripture, Tradition and Context remain firmly at the heart of our approach to teaching children and young people about our religion and everything we do in daily life. This Draft New Curriculum is a direct response to the call of the Second Vatican Council. Even this is not new - it has been more than 50 years since the Church was called to discern the "signs of the times"!

Miranda suggests that the Diocese of Parramatta has a "woke agenda". Though the Catholic Church is an organisation that very few would consider 'woke', this glib cancel culture catchphrase seems to suggest that our schools are too socially aware. Our Patron, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, is famous for saying "never see a need without doing something about it": there's nothing new or woke in that.

Despite the attempts by some commentators to create moral panic, Parramatta Catholic schools remain strongly Catholic and proudly so. We are working together to strengthen the faith of our young people, encouraging them to become attentive, intelligent, reasonable and responsible adults. The real news here is 'Good News.'

Very Rev Christopher de Souza
Vicar General and Episcopal Vicar for Education



Questions and Answers on the Draft Religious Education Curriculum for Catholic Education in the Diocese of Parramatta

We know some of you may have questions about the Draft New Religious Education Curriculum. Below are responses to some of the questions that have been asked. At the end of this document we explain how you can also find out more information.

What is happening?

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta is updating the Religious Education Curriculum taught in schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. This process began with a review in 2014, and is continuing. We will be finalising the curriculum after we are satisfied we have consulted widely.

Has the Draft Curriculum been finalised?

No. The curriculum is still in draft mode. In Term 3 2020 a trial of the first draft of the curriculum is taking place. We will be monitoring the trial closely. We will continually review the curriculum. The next draft will be produced following the trial and further consultation.

Can amendments to the curriculum be made?

Yes. It is expected that the feedback received from our students, parents, clergy, parishioners, teachers and others will help shape the next stage.

Why is there commentary in the media and on social media about this curriculum?

The Draft New Curriculum is all about providing children and young people with a Catholic view from Scripture and Tradition about issues that they are wondering about.

Some commentators have suggested that the Draft New Curriculum is presenting a perspective on these issues that is not consistent with our Catholic teaching. This is inaccurate.

The curriculum is about giving our young people a way to talk about important questions in a way that is consistent with our shared faith.

What does a young person's sexuality or gender identity have to do with their faith? Has the Church's teaching changed on this?

Parents are children's first teachers (Canon 793 §1), particularly on these matters. At Catholic schools, the approach to these sensitive matters will be firmly based in the traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church.

A very small section of our new curriculum involves 15 and 16 year-old adolescents (Year 10 only) exploring the Catholic view on issues like sexuality and gender identity. This content will be age appropriate.

This learning is aimed at encouraging students to become attentive, intelligent, reasonable and responsible adults.

This supports the teachings of the Catholic Church. We are using methods of inquiry that date back 700 years to St Thomas Aquinas, which are still relevant today.

Is Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta changing the teachings of the Catholic Church with this new curriculum?

The new curriculum does not change the content of the Catholic Church's teachings.

The Magisterium of the Catholic Church (the way the Catholic Church interprets the Word of God) underpins the content of the Draft New Curriculum and follows the teachings of Pope Francis, the head of the Magisterium.

Further, this Draft New Curriculum is grounded in Canon 803 §2, "The instruction and education in a Catholic school must be grounded in the principles of Catholic doctrine; teachers are to be outstanding in correct doctrine and integrity of life."

The Draft New Curriculum is about updating the learning methods to help young people understand and embrace our Catholic Traditions and Faith.

Has any part of the curriculum been influenced by a particular point of view?

We have been rigorous in our consultation process ensuring we speak to people from many points of view.

At the same time, we have consciously founded our curriculum on the concepts of Catholic Social Teaching. We know parents send their children to Catholic schools to learn the Church's rich Tradition of social justice and to live out our faith in daily life.

Why are children learning about social media in religious studies?

Social media is a big part of the lives of young people. Our curriculum teaches children to seek the truth and inform their own conscience, and to think critically about what they are seeing and hearing on social media.

This learning is also aimed at encouraging students to become attentive, intelligent, reasonable and responsible adults.

I have a question – who can I ask about the new curriculum?

More information can be found at <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/Learning/Religious-Education>.

We have a dedicated email address feedback@parra.catholic.edu.au for questions.

TRANSFORMING LEARNING



Bethany Centre 470 Church Street Parramatta NSW 2150 | PO Box 3066 North Parramatta NSW 1750



9840 5600



www.parra.catholic.edu.au



[catholicedparra](https://www.facebook.com/catholicedparra)

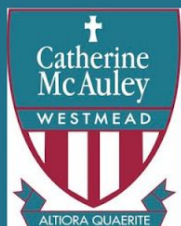


[@CatholicEdParra](https://twitter.com/CatholicEdParra)



[catholicedparra](https://www.youtube.com/catholicedparra)

ABN 66 875 623 908



Catherine McAuley Westmead

Enrolling Now for Year 7 2022



Contact the school on 9849 9100 or visit our website for an enrolment pack. Applications close end of March 2021.
For enrolment criteria please refer to our school website.

Tours of the school campus will be held in Term 4 - Tuesday 10th November & Friday 4th December 2020.

Catherine McAuley, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead | www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au