

Religious Life of the School



The Religious Life of the School, which is reflective of second dimension of the Religious Education – 'teaching people to be religious in a particular way' (Moran, 1991), provides a lens through which our school community at St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial can develop and enrich its religious life.

At St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, we have a vibrant and engaging faith life. As a Catholic school, we aim to nurture and support all students and their families to connect and participate in the Catholic Christian tradition. We believe that Catholic schools are distinctive, where the Gospel values permeate our entire school program and where the Good News is actively lived out in all parts of the community. We do this by strengthening the integration of faith, life and culture, inviting students to discover God's presence in their daily lives and engaging them in a dialogue between their life experiences and Catholic teaching.

The community of St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, recognises and celebrates the diversity of our students, encouraging and supporting the development of a child's faith and spirituality through the Religious Life of the School as influenced by our co-founders St Joseph, St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, and the Rats of Tobruk.

At St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, our goal is to build a faith-filled community, where all are inspired by the person and teachings of Jesus Christ to lead and serve in an inclusive community that works together to create a preferred and hope-filled future for today's generation and those to come.

The four interrelated components: Religious Identity and Culture; Evangelisation and Faith Formation; Prayer and Worship and Social Action and Justice provide an important focus for the development of the religious life of our school community.



Religious Identity & Culture

Religious Identity and Culture at St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial is centred on the person of Jesus. Our challenge as a Catholic school is to translate the inspiration of Jesus into the real world. We also draw inspiration from the rich heritage and tradition of the Catholic Church. Here at St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, the Josephite charism is central to our story and ethos. Our school is named 'St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial', a name given to reflect the co-founders of Monsignor Owen Steele, a Beenleigh Parish Priest and a Rat of Tobruk, and St Joseph, the patron of the Sisters of St Joseph who were entrusted with the education of children from the school's establishment. The school is inspired by the qualities and values of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and nurtures the Josephite charism within the school community. As a school community, we celebrate the Feast days of St Joseph and Mary MacKillop and teach about the charisms of Mary MacKillop and St Joseph. **Courage, Faith and Love** are evident in the lives and stories of St Joseph, Fr Owen Steele and Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop which significantly contribute to the founding history and traditions of the school. The school's core values of dignity, justice, compassion, camaraderie, courage, resilience, reconciliation and trust & faith in God are integrated into the purposeful and daily life of the community.

At St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, we demonstrate this through:

- Josephite Charism central to our story
- 'Courage, Faith & Love' school motto named, communicated and lived in community
- Celebration of Feast days - St Joseph, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- Opening School Year Mass
- School house teams connected to the school's founding significant figures
- School Iconography – signs & symbols
- Learning the story, traditions and ethos of the school throughout religion units
- Communication through school website, parent portal and social media
- Staff development days focused on the school's story and charism
- School song known and used by staff and students
- Mother's Day, Father's Day and Grandparent's celebrations
- Catholic Education Week celebrated with Parish Schools
- Catholic perspectives across all area of learning
- Parish Priest visible in school
- Tobruk Garden Space
- Connection to other Religious Institutes through excursions
- Every Prep child receives a lady beetle and blessing at Prep Orientation
- New children to the school and special guests receive a ladybeetle and blessing
- Leadership Mass
- End of Year Thanksgiving Celebration
- Year 6 Graduation Liturgy
- Year 6 School Awards – Mary MacKillop, St Joseph, Rats of Tobruk
- Prayer assemblies, liturgies of the Word and Mass for significant community days like Harmony Day, NAIDOC Day, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day



Evangelisation & Faith Formation

Evangelisation and Faith Formation occurs at St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial through both the Religious Life of the School and through the Religious Education Curriculum. Our mission is to serve and lead an inclusive faith-filled community that is inspired to be filled with hope creating a preferred future. This ongoing mission is grounded in the Good News of Jesus and is involves each member of our community, staff, students, parents and parishioners. We proclaim the Good News through living out the Gospel values and by listening to and reflecting upon the Word of God, allowing it to change our heart by engaging with the world like Jesus did.

At St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, we demonstrate this through:

- Strong links with St Patrick's Parish – opportunities are extended to families to celebrate as a community
- Strong links between the three Parish schools – Mother Teresa, Trinity College & St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial
- Parish News and announcements are included in staff and parent communications
- Regular contributions to the Parish Bugle Publication
- Parish Sacramental Information shared with parents
- Student led and participation in whole school/class Masses, Assemblies and Liturgies of the Word
- School Song used with school community
- Social media highlights feast days, celebrations, prayer and liturgy
- Staff RLOS calendar
- BCE Formation opportunities and Catholic Identity Newsletter shared with staff
- Staff and student formation plan developed and enacted
- Year 5&6 Leadership formation
- Yr5/6 BCE Formation Day Opportunities
- Visiting presenters from visiting organisations like St Vincent de Paul
- Family Parish Masses
- Mission Ambassador Program
- Students attend and participate in fortnightly Class Liturgies and Class Masses



Prayer & Worship

Prayer and Worship allows all in our community to celebrate our lives and identity as members of the Church. Prayer and worship nourish the spiritual growth of all members and this is a part of our daily practice. It is also crucial that we all engage in a wide variety of prayer experiences that can nurture our relationship with God and with others. At St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, this occurs through Mass and Liturgy of the Word, class prayer, music, meditation, and individual prayer. It is also important for students to come to know and understand the formal traditions of the church to allow them to participate and engage in the life of the church and religious life of the school more fully.

At St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, we demonstrate this through:

- Daily Prayer in classrooms
- Information regarding school patrons and significant figures are visible on walls of the Sr Jenny Centre
- School song is an important part of school gatherings
- Staff members gather and lead for prayer every Friday morning
- Special life moments are celebrated and include prayer for staff
- School calendar prioritises school feast days and liturgical celebrations
- Class prayer spaces are well resourced with liturgical colours and symbols and are updated each year
- APRE joins teachers for classroom prayer
- Parish Priest blesses each sacred space and classroom at the beginning of each year
- Each class has an opportunity once a semester to lead a prayer assembly, liturgy of the word and Class Mass
- Use of the arts to enhance prayer – movement, dance and drama in liturgical celebrations
- Induction of year 6 leaders at Leadership Mass with pledge, blessing and badges
- Parents /carers and wider community invited to be part of the school's prayer life
- Prayer resources in sways/powerpoints are sent to classes for significant days
- Sacred spaces in classrooms, staffroom, front office that reflect liturgical season or significant days
- School Celebrations: Opening Year School Mass, St Joseph's Feast Day School Mass, Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Stations of the Cross, Easter Liturgy, ANZAC Day Assembly, Mother's Day Assembly, Father's Day Assembly, Sorry day Assembly, Catholic Education Week Parish School Mass, Grandparent's Day Assembly, Harmony Day Liturgy, World Teacher's Day Liturgy, Year 6 Graduation Liturgy & Awards, End of Year Thanksgiving Liturgy, NAIDOC Day Liturgy



Social Action & Justice


Applying social action and justice requires two important dispositions: empathy (the capacity to stand in the shoes of another) and solidarity (the capacity to walk with another). Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings challenge us to be present, establish right relationships marled by love, compassion and reconciliation. We are called to serve those in our own school community and those in our wider local, national and global community. In the spirit of Mary of the Cross MacKillop, we are called to help and walk with those in need.

At St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial, we demonstrate this through:

- Project Compassion (Caritas) in Lent
- St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal
- St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal
- ANZAC Day Liturgy and student participation in local March and Service
- Remembrance Day Liturgy
- Mission Ambassador Program for student leaders with talks at weekend parish mass
- Catholic Mission Socktober Campaign
- Presentations from St Vincent de Paul to Year 4
- School Recycling Program
- School Garden Club
- National Reconciliation Week acknowledged in prayer and classrooms
- Promotion of the concepts of reconciliation and harmony
- Curriculum planning acknowledges social justice and actions in units
- Use of resources in classrooms for Caritas, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul
- Connections with local charities like NightLight
- Promotion of right relationships and reconciliation through restorative conversations and PB4L processes
- School Reconciliation Action Plan working group established with RAP document in process of being created through Narragunnawali
- First Nations Parent Group
- Strengthening networks, relationships and understanding with local Indigenous Elders





 Religious Life of the School Overview				
	Prayer & Worship	Evangelisation & Faith Formation	Social Action & Justice	Religious Identity & Culture
All Year Levels Term 1	Staff Prayer Classroom Sacred Spaces Classroom Prayer & Routines Opening School Mass Ash Wednesday Liturgy St Joseph's Feast Day Harmony Day P-2 Class Liturgies of the Word Yrs 3-6 Class Masses Holy Week/Stations of the Cross Family Parish Mass	Staff Retreat Day School Theme Yr 6 Leadership Ritual	Caritas Project Compassion Recycling Program Gardening Club	Staff Induction Staff Retreat Day TimTams and Tissues Parent Information Evening Welcome BBQ Cuppa & Chat Assemblies Shrove Tuesday (Pancakes) Lent – Liturgical Season
All Year Levels Term 2	Prayer & Worship Staff Prayer Classroom Prayer Mother's Day Liturgy National Sorry Day Prayer National Reconciliation Week Prayer Whole School ANZAC Day Liturgy P-2 Class Liturgies of the Word Yrs 3-6 Class Masses Family Parish Mass	Evangelisation & Faith Formation Staff Formation Module UPP Yr 5 Leadership	Social Action & Justice Recycling Program Gardening Club St Vincent de Paul – Winter Appeal	Religious Identity & Culture Cuppa & Chat Assemblies Mother's Day Liturgy Easter Season Pentecost Ordinary Time – Liturgical Season Local ANZAC Day March May (Month of Mary)
All Year Levels Term 3	Prayer & Worship Staff Prayer Classroom Prayer NAIDOC Day Grandparents Day Liturgy St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day Mass Father's Day Liturgy Feast of the Assumption of Mary P-2 Class Liturgies of the Word Yrs 3-6 Class Masses Family Parish Mass	Evangelisation & Faith Formation Staff Formation & PD Peer Mediation	Social Action & Justice Recycling Program Gardening Club Student SVDP Workshop Creation Month	Religious Identity & Culture Cuppa & Chat Assemblies Grandparents Day Liturgy Father's Day Liturgy Ordinary Time – Liturgical Season St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day
All Year Levels Term 4	Prayer & Worship Staff Prayer Classroom Prayer Leadership Mass World Educator's Day Farewell Liturgy October (Month of Mary & Rosary) Remembrance Day Liturgy Year 6 Graduation Liturgy End of Year Thanksgiving Liturgy P-2 Class Liturgies of the Word Yrs 3-6 Class Masses Family Parish Mass	Evangelisation & Faith Formation Student Ambassador Mission Sunday Leadership Mass	Social Action & Justice Catholic Mission Campaign Socktober St Vincent de Paul – Christmas Appeal Recycling Program Gardening Club	Religious Identity & Culture Cuppa & Chat Assemblies October (Month of Mary & Rosary) Yr 6 Guard of Honour Staff Induction Little Joey's Program Prep Orientation Ordinary Time & Advent – Liturgical Season All Saints' Day All Souls' Day Christmas Celebration