



St Joachim's Catholic School, Holland Park

Prep – Religion Unit Descriptions

During the year, the students will engage in the following units of work.

Class teachers will advise which units are being covered each term.

Focus Areas	Description	Achievement Standard Element Assessed
<p><i>How do the teachings of Jesus help students to be members of the St Joachim's community?</i></p>	<p>In this unit, students explore what makes their school and class special. They become familiar with the ways that their school community gathers together for prayer and liturgical celebrations such as assembly and the Opening School Year mass and <i>Ash Wednesday</i>. Students learn about the church as a sacred place and the Bible as a sacred book for believers. They are introduced to the <i>Sign of the Cross</i> and the <i>Amen</i> as a special prayer and using stillness and silence as a meditative prayer practice. They learn about God's gift: the freedom of all Christians to choose between good or bad, right or wrong. They listen to, read and view some stories that tell of Jesus' teachings about love, compassion and forgiveness such as the <i>Good Samaritan</i> and Jesus' <i>Golden Rule</i>.</p>	<p>Students communicate clearly their ideas, feelings and thoughts about God and God's plan that people help each other to live safely and happily together, for the good of all. They recognise Jesus' teachings about love, compassion and forgiveness that challenged people about the way they were living. They relate examples of people having the freedom to choose between good and bad, right and wrong. Students understand that prayer helps believers to follow the teachings of Jesus; to live according to God's plan.</p>
<p><i>What is the Easter story and why is it important to Christian believers?</i></p>	<p>Students are introduced to the story of Jesus' death and resurrection; a story that is very important in the lives of believers and in the liturgical year of the Church. They also observe ways in which believers pray and how the Church and their class prayer spaces change to welcome the Easter season. Students are introduced to the idea that believers try to follow the teachings of Jesus' every day, to live according to God's plan.</p>	<p>Students listen and respond to stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.</p>
<p><i>How can people know about God?</i></p> <p><i>What's so 'good' about creation?</i></p>	<p>In this unit, students are introduced to the Christian belief about God; as creator of all and God's special and loving relationship with all of creation through some stories in the Old Testament of the Bible. They engage with the sacred myth of creation in Genesis 1 and explore their ideas, feelings and thoughts about God and make connections between the goodness of creation and the natural world through performing and visual arts experiences.</p>	<p>Students communicate clearly their ideas, feelings and thoughts about God and the goodness of God's creation.</p>



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<p>How can people know about God?</p> <p>How do Bible stories tell of God's love?</p>	<p>Students continue to explore the concept of God's plan that people help each other to live safely and happily together for the good of all. In this unit, they engage with the stories of Joseph and David, both characters in the Old Testament in the Bible. Students explore how the events, characters and messages of these stories tell believers about God. They make links between how these stories of families may be similar to or different from their own experiences.</p>	<p>Students identify connections between some Old Testament stories and their personal experience, including the experience of the goodness of creation.</p>
<p>How and why do believers celebrate and pray together?</p>	<p>In this unit, students explore ways that Christian believers come together to celebrate and pray. They visit the parish church and other sacred spaces around the school community and observe the words, actions, symbols and colours used in different rituals and liturgical celebrations. They listen and respond to stories of Jesus praying and teaching others to pray from the Bible and engage in daily and meditative prayer practices with their peers.</p>	<p>Students listen and respond to stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus praying and teaching others to pray. They recognise ways in which believers pray either alone or with others, using words, music, action, silence, images, symbols and nature, and participate with respect in a variety of these prayer experiences, including meditative prayer, the Sign of the Cross, and Amen. They describe ways in which believers pray together during special celebrations and rituals that mark important times in the life of believers and in the Church year.</p>
<p>What does the Bible tell about the birth of Jesus and his family?</p>	<p>In this unit, students listen and respond to stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus' life as a Jew, his mother Mary, his friends and family. They explore and identify what life was like for Jewish families at the time of Jesus' birth. Students explore the infancy narratives through comparing and contrasting the accounts in Matthew and Luke of Jesus' birth. They continue to explore the Church's liturgical calendar through the colours and symbols of the Advent season.</p>	<p>Students listen and respond to stories of and about Jesus in the Gospels that tell of Jesus' life as a Jew, his mother Mary, his friends and family.</p>