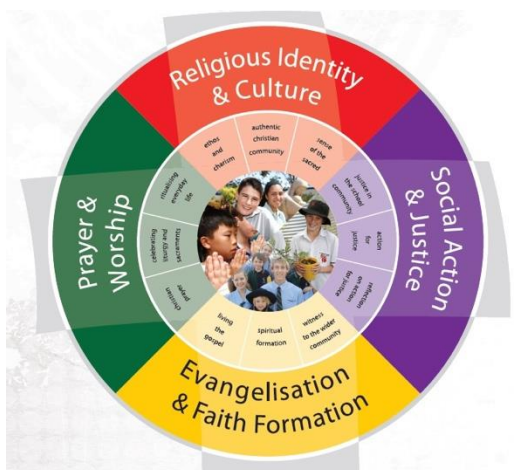




St Joseph's Catholic School Murgon Religious Life of the School

Reviewed 2021

Religious Life of the School



The Religious Life of the School, which is reflective of the 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 can develop and enrich its religious life.

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 community. They are reflected in the following ways:

SOCIAL ACTION AND JUSTICE AT ST JOSEPH’S

- Project Compassion (Caritas) – Weekly Assembly Prayer.
- Focus on values for Assembly prayer.
- St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal.
- St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.
- Anzac Day liturgy and participation in local community marches.
- Catholic Mission *Socktober* Appeal.
- Promoting the resources and activities of Catholic Social Justice and Peace agencies for prayer and action through involvement in Caritas, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul.
- Promotion of Social Justice actions through Facebook.
- Curriculum planning acknowledges social action and justice in units.
- Connection with high school immersions (schools from QLD and NSW).
- Marist Association membership for staff.
- Recycling paper boxes around school.
- Containers for change crates for poppers to recycle.
- School water tanks.
- Promotion of reconciliation through restorative conversations in line with PB4L processes.
- Reconciliation Action Plan working group established with RAP document in process of being created through Narragunnawali.
- Sorry Day liturgy and reconciliation activities.



RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND CULTURE AT ST JOSEPH'S

- Marist Charism central to our school story.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Spirituality central to our school story (Bush Tucker Garden, Totem garden and Totem artwork).
- Marist Characteristics named, communicated and lived in community.
- Celebrating days of religious significance to focus on the school values, mission and ethos.
- Celebration of Feast days – St Joseph, Nano Nagle, St Marcellin Champagnat, Edmund Rice, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.
- Beginning of year School Mass including student and staff yearly pledge and blessing.
- School house teams connected with school saints (Blue – Champagnat, Gold – Nagle, Red – Rice).
- Learning the stories of the saints and the messages from these (included in first Religion unit of the year).
- Learning the school story (included in first Religion unit of the year).
- School iconography – symbols, statues, murals including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.
- Induction of new staff – Marist induction program through Marist Mission and Life Formation.
- Communication through school website, parent portal and Facebook.
- Staff development days at the beginning of the year and twilights throughout the year – focus on school charism and story.
- Staff involvement in school and parish masses as readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.
- Connection with Catholic High School Immersion Groups.
- Marist Association Staff Group meet each term.
- Awards given for Charisms on feast days – St Marcellin Champagnat, Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice.
- Year 6 Graduation Awards – Presentation Sisters' Study Award, Edmund Rice Most Improved Award, Br Cleutus Drew (Marist Brother) Christian Leadership Award.
- Student and staff birthdays acknowledged during assemblies.
- School song and school prayer are known and used by students at school assemblies and celebrations.
- Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day and Grandparents' Day Celebrations.
- Catholic Education Week celebrated.
- Holy Week Reflection and Prayer and Easter Celebration.
- Christmas Concert.
- Visiting presenters inform, inspire and educate students and teachers – eg. Andrew Chinn and Michael Mangan.
- *What a Classroom Looks Like at Joseph's* document shared with staff and referred to each year, highlighting the Catholic Identity of the classroom.
- Catholic Perspectives are infused in learning across all learning areas.
- Marist Brother and Parish Priest are visible in our school every day.



- School buildings are named with connections to school charisms.
- First Nations painted cross stands in our Bush Tucker Garden.
- A metal cross that can be moved to different locations stands in our Totem Garden.
- Remembrance Garden.
- Angelus bell sounds at midday in May and October, recognising the month of Mary and the month of the Rosary.



EVANGELISATION AND FAITH FORMATION AT ST JOSEPH'S

- Strong links with St Joseph's Catholic Parish – Priest is present to students and families. Opportunities are extended to families to celebrate as a community.
- Parish Bulletin each week shared with staff through Staff News.
- Whole school masses and liturgies held throughout the year.
- Sacramental program, — although parish based, is led jointly by parish and school staff.
- School song and prayer are used with students, staff and parents.
- Facebook highlights feast days, celebrations, prayer and liturgy.
- Staff News each week informs staff about RE and RLOS News.
- BCE Catholic Identity Newsletter shared with staff.
- Staff and student formation plan created.
- Parish Priest supports classroom teachers with Religion curriculum needs.
- Year 5/6 student leadership day and BCE formation day.
- School Rules are based on our 3 values, Respect, Nurture and Faith.
- Visiting presenters inform, inspire and educate students and teachers – eg. Andrew Chinn, Michael Mangan, Education Officers: Religious Education.
- Students attend Parish Anointing Mass at Castra.
- Meeting the pastoral needs of families when needed eg. food hampers and uniforms.
- Staff and student formation plan developed and enacted.
- Marist Formation Twilight each year and staff invited to Marist Formation Retreats interstate.



PRAYER AND WORSHIP AT ST JOSEPH'S

- School Prayer is visible on wall in Undercover Area.
- Prayer is an important part of our morning gatherings and weekly school assemblies.
- The Term Calendar prioritises school feast days and liturgical celebrations.
- Staff gather weekly for staff prayer, led by staff members.
- School masses allow students to lead prayer as part of school celebrations.
- Class groups lead weekly assembly prayer.
- Prayer focus areas are set up for Lent and Holy Week.
- Marian prayer is an important focus of student and staff prayer experiences and Angelus Bell sounds at midday in May (Month of Mary) and October (Month of Rosary) for whole school prayer experience.
- Class prayer spaces are well resourced, varied and updated with symbols according to the liturgical season. Class prayer boxes are updated each year.
- Prayer Sways are sent to classes as class prayer resources.
- Staff prayer packs support staff in the development of the prayer life in their classroom.
- Local Marist Association group enable staff to be involved in a variety of prayer experiences.
- Use of The Arts to enhance prayer – movement and drama as part of liturgical celebrations.
- Induction of Year 6 leaders with pledge and liturgy.
- Celebrating special days; Beginning of Year Mass, St Joseph's Feast Day Mass with cake, Ash Wednesday Mass for Year 2-6 and in class prayer for Prep and Year 1, Holy Week Liturgy, Easter Liturgy, ANZAC Liturgy, Mother's Day liturgy and morning tea, Sorry Day Liturgy held in Bush Tucker Garden with Morning Tea and Reconciliation Award, St Marcellin Champagnat Mass and awards, Catholic Education Week Liturgy, Father's Day prayer and breakfast, Grandparents Day liturgy and morning tea, Prayer assembly for Nano Nagle and Edmund Rice and awards given to recipients, World Day of Prayer for Creation, Year 6 Graduation liturgy and awards, End of Year farewell liturgy.
- Parents invited to be part of prayer life of classroom and school.

