



MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE



## *My Faith is My Light*

### OVERVIEW OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE

“The schools and colleges of the Archdiocese of Brisbane aspire to educate and form students who are challenged to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and who are literate in the Catholic and broader Christian tradition so that they might participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society. The *Religious Education Curriculum* is authoritative. This curriculum has been promulgated by the Archbishop for use in all Catholic and ecumenical schools in the Archdiocese of Brisbane” (Betts, P. 2013. P.5).

### The Religious Education Curriculum

The Religious Education programme at Mary MacKillop College aims to give the students an understanding of the Catholic faith and practice appropriate to their age and development. The programme assists students to develop a better appreciation of their relationships and understanding of self, peers, family, environment and God explored over six years at levels applicable to each age group. The College is committed to religious education as a way of providing a vision of reality that is enriched by the interaction of both a religious and educational standpoint, thus contributing to the total development of the student.

At Mary MacKillop College, the complementary nature of the Religious Life of the School and the Learning and Teaching of Religious Education, reflects the Brisbane Catholic Education Model for Religious Education. The interrelated focus is on teaching people religion and teaching people to be religious. It is strongly connected to Catholic Christian teachings, the MacKillop vision and Josephite traditions.

## Learning and Teaching Framework

There is acknowledgement of the multi-faith context of the community that reflects an ecumenical contemporary culture. This is embedded in the Religious life of Mary MacKillop College and reflects core tenets of the *Brisbane Catholic Education Learning and Teaching Framework (2013)* and the *Deliver Excellence in Learning and Teaching (DELT 2015-2016)*. We aim to educate all to live the Gospel of Jesus. As informed learners, students seek to find meaning in the search for truth and do what is right. In line with this, it is our role as teachers to provide authentic, inclusive and contemporary learning contexts for our students.





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## Year 7 Religion

### Focus Areas

### *Beginnings*

*At Mary MacKillop College Year 7 students embark on the beginning of their faith formation at secondary school. Initially, they are immersed in the beginnings of Christianity and sacred texts, the MacKillop charism and the Josephite tradition. From this foundation, students then investigate other monotheistic religions, participating in prayer experiences and ritual practices.*

### **FOCUS 1**

#### **Abrahamic Faiths , Emergence of Christianity and Lived Charism of Mary MacKillop**

#### **Fertile Question: How can so many people believe in one God?**

This unit introduces the common beginnings of the Abrahamic faiths as a precursor to understanding the emergence of Christianity. Students investigate the life and time of Jesus in a social, cultural and religious context which reveals the core Gospel values. From this, students explore the development of these core Gospel values over time through the 'Worlds of the Text' and how this is lived out through the lives of religious communities and their founders such as the charism of Mary MacKillop within the Australian context. (10 Weeks)

**Beliefs:** BEWR8 **Church:** CHLS10, CHCH6, CHPG8 **Christian Life:** CLMJ8, CLPS19

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Connect Day where students participate in a one day retreat to focus on developing an understanding of Mary MacKillop and the Josephite tradition in the context of the College.
- St. Joseph's Day where students
- Fitzroy Day

## FOCUS 2

### **The importance of words that shape religion, law, social structures and contexts in Christianity**

#### **Fertile Question: How can something written so long ago, still matter today?**

In this unit students understand the purpose and meaning of the Bible as a sacred text to understand the laws and principles that act as a guiding tool for followers. To do this they examine the themes that emerge from the Bible such as compassion and forgiveness and use it as a key focus to explore the relevance of these themes in their life. To further develop their spiritual formation and the importance of words, students unpack the elements of prayer structure for the purpose of using this structure to share prayer within the community.

(10 weeks)

**Sacred Texts:** STOT12, STNT16, STNT17 **Beliefs:** BETR9, BEHE7 **Church:** CHLS11 **Christian Life:** CLPS19

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Anzac Day Ceremony
- World Vision Youth Conference
- McCormack Day

## FOCUS 3

### **The concept of Sainthood and the lives of saints**

#### **Fertile Question: Why does the Catholic Church have Saints and how does a person become a Saint?**

In this unit students will explore aspects of the cultural context of the lives of the saints and Church Law relating to beatification and canonisation. Mary MacKillop is used a platform to understand the pathway towards Sainthood, allowing students to deepen their understanding of this woman as the founder of our community. From this students make connections between the stories of saints and their meaning and influence in contemporary contexts. Students examine prayers relating to saints and their core message in the saints Catholic understanding of God (e.g. St Francis of Assisi).

**Sacred Texts:** STCW8 **Church:** CHCH6, CHPG8 **Christian Life:** CLMF11, CLMJ8, CLPS19

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Mary MacKillop Day- August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Penols Day

## **FOCUS 4**

### **Investigating common threads among monotheistic faiths in relation to ritual practices**

**Fertile Question:** Why in the development of some of the rituals and practices of monotheistic faiths are there common threads and how does each retain their individual identity?

This unit explores the physical, textual and symbolic elements within ritual practices of the Abrahamic faiths. Students investigate the common threads that these faiths share but also discover their individual identity. Students use the Worlds of the Text to understand the infancy narratives. A particular focus is centred on Advent, Passover, Laylat al Raghaib as a means to compare the use of elements of ritual.

**Sacred Texts:** STOT12, STOT16, STNT17 **Church:** CHLS10, CHPG8, CHCH6 **Christian Life:** CLPS18, CLPS19

### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Christmas Liturgy



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## Year 8 Religion

### Focus Areas

### *Foundations*

*At Mary MacKillop College Year 8 students explore the foundational story of the Church, the College and rituals; in particular initiation rituals. They learn of religious teachings and the history of the Church and the Church's presence in today's society through biblical stories which set the context for their own story and the MacKillop story.*

### FOCUS 1

#### **Decisions, Decisions, Decisions...Ethical Decisions**

**Fertile Question: What helps me make the right decisions for the right reasons?**

This unit challenges students use the teachings of Jesus, the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the reasoned judgements of conscience to respond to ethical situations. Students analyse the ways the Church is present and active in the world today and how the religious teachings within bible stories on laws guide ethical understanding. Students examine ethical decision-making from their own world, within a religious context and the moral responsibility for Global decision making. Students are introduced to stewardship, and the Millennium Development Goals. Students also take time to explore Lenten concepts and symbols as the terms sits within a significant part of the Liturgical Year. (10 Weeks)

**Sacred Texts:** STOT13 **Christian Life:** CLMF12 CLMJ9 **Church:** CHPG9 **Beliefs:** BETR10

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Retreat Day
- St. Joseph's Day
- Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter Liturgy
- Fitzroy Day

## **FOCUS 2**

### **Making Meaning Through Story & Prayer**

#### **Fertile Question: Why do stories make such good teachers?**

This unit addresses the purpose and structure of story through Biblical storytelling, religious teachings within bible stories and digital story telling processes. Specifically this unit engages students with the digital world and at the same time enable them to be critical, creative and responsible in their use of the Bible Gateway and other appropriate online Bible tools. Students examine the concept of Covenant by exploring the Old Testament and the Prophets. They explore the stories by investigating the world of the Old Testament and attempt to make connections to the contemporary context of their world. Students have opportunities to share in prayer experiences (10 weeks).

**Sacred Texts:** STOT13, STNT18, STCW9 **Beliefs:** BEHE8 **Church:** CHLS13 **Christian Life:** CLPS20, CLPS21

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Anzac Day Ceremony
- World Vision Youth Conference
- McCormack Day

## **FOCUS 3**

### **Iconography of Mary MacKillop**

#### **Fertile Question: What roles do imagery and Art play in shaping faith?**

This unit is designed to explain the role of key people and events and the challenges they faced. It commences with an analysis of the images of the Trinity and concepts within it then links the Holy Spirit to Christian belief that mission of Jesus is continued through activity of Holy Spirit and how important people in the Church have championed this belief, spreading the Christian ministry and mission. Particular focus is on the Icons of Catherine of Sienna; Hildegard; Julian of Norwich and on Mary MacKillop. Students examine Christian iconography and discover the purpose of religious imagery as an extension of faith. A focus is given specifically to images of Mary MacKillop and how these are used to explore her story, her ministry and the establishment of the Sisters of St Joseph.(10 Weeks)

**Sacred Texts:** STCW9, STNT18 **Church:** CHCH7 **Beliefs:** BETR11

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Mary MacKillop Day- August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Penola Day

## **FOCUS 4**

### **What's in a Name? – The Rituals of Initiation and Baptism**

#### **Fertile Question: Why is the ritual of initiation so important to Christians when a person is named?**

This unit is designed to develop understanding of how believers, past and present, are called through baptism to continue the mission of Jesus in the world. Students make connections between the ritual practices of initiation in the monotheistic religions from the past and their meaning in contemporary contexts using a range of Biblical tools. In particular this unit allows students to develop their understanding of prayer, symbols and text in the Christian tradition through an experience of the baptismal ritual. (10 Weeks)

**Sacred Text:** STNT18 **Beliefs:** BEWR9, BEHE8 **Christian Life:** CLMF 12 **Church:** CHLS12, CHLS13, CHPG9

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Christmas Liturgy
- Night of Excellence
- Graduation Ceremony





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## Year 9 Religion

### Focus Areas

#### *Missions*

### FOCUS 1

**Justice: *Building Bridges not Walls***

**Fertile Question: How do we work for the Common Good in promoting Catholic Social Teachings?**

This unit addresses the theme of social justice. In particular it looks at the Church's response to the issues of justice for refugees and asylum seekers, and the Australian Government's response to people seeking asylum. Catholic Social Teaching Principles are a rich treasure of wisdom for building a just society and provide guidelines for living lives amidst the challenges of modern society. Role of Government, Dignity of Human Person and Common Good are three principles relevant to justice for refugees and asylum seekers and are therefore key focus points in this unit. (10 Weeks)

**Sacred Texts:** STCW10 **Christian Life:** CLMJ10, CLPS22

#### RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:

- Retreat Day where students participate in a one day retreat to focus on developing an understanding of self, future, relationship and healing within those relationships
- St. Joseph's Day where students focus on life of Joseph, as a refugee and our links with the Sisters of St Joseph and their mission today and the Term 1 JJAMM theme of refugees
- Fitzroy Day

## FOCUS 2

### *Jesus the Leader*

**Fertile Question: Why does Jesus make a good leader (even in today's society)?**

This unit addresses the role of Jesus as a leader in society. In particular it looks at the human face of Jesus through Sacred Texts which identify aspects of Jesus' leadership qualities. The unit looks at what makes a good leader and aligns these qualities with those displayed by Jesus in the Scripture. In doing this, the qualities and virtues in Christian Life are examined and People of God in the Church, who have the same qualities, are explored. (10 weeks)

**Sacred Texts:** STOT14, STNT19 **Beliefs:** BETR12 **Church:** CHPG10 **Christian Life:** CLMJ10, CLMF13

### RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:

- Anzac Day Ceremony
- World Vision Youth Conference
- Mc Cormack Day

## FOCUS 3

### **Jesus, Mary MacKillop, Josephites & Me**

**Fertile Question: How can we live Mary MacKillop's mission amidst the complex issues we are facing in today's society?**

This unit addresses the mission of the Sisters of St Joseph in contemporary society with emphasis on Jesus' mission through Sacred Texts, Mary's mission, her spiritual writings, her founding of the Sisters of St Joseph and their work today. In particular this unit provides an opportunity for each student to personally connect with someone who is living Mary's mission today.

**Sacred Texts:** STCW10 **Church:** CHCH8, CHPG10 **Christian Life:** CLMF10, CLMJ8, CLPS22

### RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:

- Mary MacKillop Day- August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Penola Day

## **FOCUS 4**

### **Multi-Faith Rituals**

#### **Fertile Question: How do faith rituals enrich the lives of followers?**

Most religions have rituals that carry great meaning, even transformational power, for those who believe. But for outsiders, the practices often raise the question of why. This unit explores Faith rituals and our desire to have a stronger connection to our faith. A particular focus is centred on the elements of Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu rituals.

**Beliefs:** BEWR10 **Christian Life:** CLPS22, CLPS23

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Christmas Liturgy
- St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal



## Year 10 Religion

### Focus Areas

### *Mysteries*

*At Mary MacKillop College Year 10 students explore the mystery of faith. Students learn about various ways in which humans have understanding of the mystery of God or the 'Other', which is ultimately beyond human language, concepts and stories. These include the human experience of the created world; the valuable insights of the major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism) as reflected in their core beliefs and practices; the different representations of God in [Old Testament](#) and [New Testament](#) texts by various human authors in different historical, social and cultural contexts; Christian spiritual writings that search for the mystery of God in the midst of world events and the course of human history; and participation in personal and communal prayer that can lead believers to contemplation (the simple awareness of the presence of God).*

### FOCUS 1

#### Revealing Mystery (World Religions)

**Fertile Question :** How does the diversity of beliefs help our understanding of God or the Other?

The religions of the world contribute valuable insights into the idea of God or the 'Other'. The core beliefs and practices of the major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism) reflect this mystery of God/Other which is beyond human understanding. (BEWR11)

Students examine four of the Big 5 World Religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam. Key elements such as beliefs, practices, the Golden Rule and the conception of "God" are explored. (10 Weeks)

**Sacred Text:** STOT 15; STOT16 **Beliefs:** BETR13; BEHE10; BEWR11 **Christian Life:** CLPS25

#### RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:

- St. Joseph's Day
- Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter Liturgy
- Fitzroy Day

## FOCUS 2

### **The Mystery Man and Christianity (Catholicism)**

#### **Fertile Question: Who is God? Who is Jesus?**

In this unit students identify different ways in which humans have understanding of the mystery of God or the 'Other'. They will be able to explain how the mystery of God can be named and understood through the experience of the created world. Students will analyse core beliefs and practices of the major world religions explain how these reflect the human understanding of God or the 'Other'. Students investigate how different representations of God in Old Testament texts reflect the different historical, social and cultural contexts of their human authors and explore their relevance for a modern Australian context. They will critically analyse a range of Christian spiritual writings that reflect the search for the mystery of God in the midst of world events. The second part of the unit examines the historical context of Jesus' life and teachings – the socially just prophet and political dissident. They explore the development of the early Christian Church as a developing institution, as well as the Vatican and the Catholic Church of Australia. The challenges faced by Mary MacKillop will be investigated in response to those institutions. Connections are also made around the Church's role in response to Social Justice issues and Catholic Social Teachings.

**Sacred Texts:** STNT20; STCW11 **Beliefs:** BETR13 **Church:** CHLS15 ; CHPG11 **Christian Life:** CLMJ11

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Anzac Day Ceremony
- World Vision Youth Conference
- Mc Cormack Day

## FOCUS 3

### **Mystery In Action (Marginalisation of Women)**

#### **Fertile Question: Who will stand up for her?**

This unit addresses the theme of social justice. In particular it looks at the Church's response to the issue of the marginalisation of Women in today's world in various contexts. Catholic Social Teaching Principles are a rich treasure of wisdom for building a just society and provide guidelines for living lives amidst the challenges of modern society. Dignity of Human Person, Equality of Opportunity and Rights of the Individual are just three principles relevant to this issue and are therefore key points in this unit. Students examine the plights women face in the local, national and global contexts. There is a focus on the economic, social, emotional and cultural marginalisation of women. Prayer experiences are shared that relate to the theme of the unit. (10 Weeks)

**Sacred Text:** STNT 20 **Beliefs:** BEHE10 **Church:** CHLS15; CHCH9 **Christian Life:** CLMF14; CLMJ11; CLPS24; CLPS25

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Retreat
- Mary MacKillop Day- August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Penola Day

## **FOCUS 4**

### **Engaging with Mystery – Ritual**

#### **Fertile Question: What is this thing called love?**

In this unit students investigate and analyse the divergent understandings about God, of monotheistic religions and their core beliefs about love (marriage) and resurrection. The understandings of God, grace, love, hope and marriage as revealed in characters, events in scripture are explored. The foundational beliefs of Christianity are identified and encyclicals affecting sacrament of Eucharist and marriage with relevance and consequences of these for believers today are examined. Describe how Jesus' forgiveness, love, care and compassion are continued through the Sacraments of Eucharist in the Catholic Church today. 10 Weeks

**Sacred Texts:** STOT16; STNT20 **Beliefs:** BEWR11 **Church:** CHLS15 **Christian Life:** CLMF14; CLPS24

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Christmas Liturgy
- Night of Excellence
- Graduation Ceremony



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**Year 11/12**  
**Study of Religion**  
**Certificate III in Christian**  
**Ministry and Theology**  
**Focus Areas**

*At Mary MacKillop College Year 11 and Year 12 Study of Religion and Christian Ministry and Theology students engage in a course that explores different forms of religions, beliefs, values and worldviews. The aim of both subjects is to understand the nature of the religious landscape of Australia that will enable them to participate in the context of the pluralistic society in which they live. The two subjects are seen as a gateway and bridge to form cross-cultural harmony and mutual enrichment.*

## FOCUS 1

### **Study of Religion**

#### **Exploration of the emergence of religion through primal and indigenous traditions and the transformation of faiths overtime in the Australian context**

To understand religion in the 21st Century it is important to understand where religion emerged from, why it emerged, how it emerged and how it has transformed over time. This unit focuses on the values, attitudes and religious traditions that emerged from primal and indigenous religions to understand the origin of faith. These themes are then used as foundations to explore the emergence of major world religions. In addition, the rise of religious diversity in Australia as a result of multiculturalism is explored as a tool for students to understand the essence of religious practitioners and practices. Interfaith dialogue has a place in education as it connects people of different faiths and allows for acceptance to be a shared commonality in society. Through this unit students will learn the value of youth in the promotion of acceptance and tolerance in Australia.

**Sacred Texts:** STOT17 **Beliefs:** BEHE11, BEHE12, BEWR12 **Christian Life:** CLMF15, CLMF16

### **Christian Ministry and Theology**

#### **Module 1: Spirituality Today**

- Catholic spirituality
- Different expression of Spirituality
- Writings – Rohr; Goldberg; Elizabeth Johnson
- The meaning behind the comparisons
- Comparing different expressions– with similar sacraments
- Vatican II documents – Lumen Gentium
- Different views of spirituality
- Christian spiritual practices
- Investigate different Liturgy and sacraments between different denominations of Christianity
- Importance of signs and symbols in religions
- Sacraments as metaphor
- Encyclicals on sacraments

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Opening Mass and Badge Ceremony
- St Joseph's Day
- Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter Liturgy



## **FOCUS 2**

### **Study of Religion**

#### **Foundations of symbols and rituals in World Religions and the influence these elements have on personal and communal faith identities**

This unit focuses on the key elements of ritual and symbol in world religions. Students explore the power of symbols in revealing various levels of meaning to followers. Christian symbols are explored in depth with particular reference to the school emblem to contextualise how symbols promote values, stories and faith identities. From this students use the foundation of symbols to evaluate the significance of key religious rituals in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students use an ethnographic study to guide the inquiry to get an authentic worldview of the power of ritual in religious experience and how vital it is to faith formation and identity.

**Sacred Texts:** STCW12 **Beliefs:** BETR15, BEWR12 **Church:** CHLS16, CHLS17, CHPG12, CHCH10 **Christian Life:** CLPS26

### **Christian Ministry and Theology**

#### **Module 2: The Story**

- **Issues in Biblical interpretation using methods to pull apart Genesis and the story of Jonah.**
- **Bible dictionaries , commentaries and concordance**
- **Synoptic Gospels from Jesus to Christ – with focus on John**
- **Parallel text of Crucifixion**
- **Letters of Paul – opportunities to explore his world and reflecting on the early Christian communities**
- **Reflecting ways of naming God**
- **Explaining God’s revelation between Scripture and tradition**

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- **Mary MacKillop Day Celebrations**
- **Christmas Liturgy**
- **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

## **FOCUS 3**

### **Study of Religion**

#### **Exploration of religious values, ethics and moral formation**

This unit explores various ethical issues and evaluates values and judgements based on secular and religious ethical frameworks. Students will explore various ethical issues in depth and outline the values and guidelines put forward by various measures of what it means to have or implement a moral compass. By investigating what ethics is, students will be able to understand and make ethical judgements in an array of scenarios which is a valuable life skill.

**Sacred Texts:** STOT17, STNT21    **Beliefs:** BEWR12    **Christian Life:** CLMF15, CLMF16

### **Christian Ministry and Theology**

#### **Module 3: Choices**

- **Case studies on Catholic Social Teachings**
- **Application of Catholic Social Teachings in reality**
- **Investigating Ethical situations surrounding Catholic Social Teachings**
- **Being just people, investigating morality and ethics and the role they play in decision making.**
- **Participating in social action projects and raising awareness of issues in the community.**

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- Year 12 Twilight
- Opening Mass and Badge Ceremony
- St Joseph's Day
- Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter Liturgy

## FOCUS 4

### **Study of Religion**

#### **Investigating origins and identities**

Students will be immersed in an ethnographic study between people of the three Abrahamic faiths and explore their religious ideas on origins and identities. Within a cultural context, an individual's experience may raise questions that seem unanswerable and call into question the value, meaning or purpose in life. These ultimate questions challenge people to engage in the continual search for answers. Religion and cultural contexts have influenced, and continue to influence, the formation of an individual's world view and response to questions that revolve around issues of origin and identity - 'ultimate questions'.

**Sacred Texts:** STOT17 **Beliefs:** BEHE11, BEHE12, BEHE13 **Church:** CHCH10 **Christian Life:** CLMJ12

### **Christian Ministry and Theology**

#### **Module 4: The Edge**

- **Life Visions**
- **Can we prove God exists and having faith**
- **Understanding worldviews and articulating a Christian worldview**
- **Develop personal worldview**
- **Inquiry into do different religions lead to the same path**
- **Investigate and analyse major world religions**
- **Investigating the concept and existence of suffering**
- **Asking the question how do we draw on religious traditions and value systems in our choices.**
- **Discussion on suffering.**

#### **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL:**

- **Mary MacKillop Day Celebrations**
- **Christmas Liturgy**
- **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**