

Religious Education - Overview

Prayer

Prayer is an essential part of school life in a Catholic school. At St Joseph's School, children are encouraged to seek God's presence each morning, before their energy and attention is drawn by all the daily tasks they have ahead of them.

Engaging in prayer *together* helps to maintain our community and unites children in a common goal.

- At the beginning of each day, students pray.
- At the beginning of each new term we have whole-school prayers
- We begin our assemblies with prayer led by students.
- Teachers begin each staff meeting with prayer
- Board of Trustees and PTA meetings begin with prayer.
- The whole school prays the Rosary once a week during May, which is the month of Mary.

Liturgical Celebrations

Throughout the year we celebrate many Feast Days. Some of these are celebrated with Mass and those that are not are celebrated with a Liturgy.

Mary MacKillop's Feast day is celebrated on August the 8th every year. The Mary MacKillop Schools from around South Canterbury come together on this day and celebrate together with a Liturgy, games and a shared lunch.

Week day Mass

Mass is celebrated each Tuesday morning in the church at 9.15am. The whole school joins parishioners every second Tuesday for Mass

School Mass

Mass is celebrated every Saturday at 6pm in the church. We celebrate with a School Mass once a term. All children come to this Mass, in uniform. Parents, siblings and the wider whanau are expected to come along and support the school at Mass.

Some of the children will have a role in the Mass such as reading, saying the Prayers of the Faithful, Altar Serving, taking up the offertory, and welcoming.

Reconciliation

Those children who have made their First Reconciliation have Reconciliation during Lent and Advent.

Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and Eucharist

Children have the opportunity to be baptised and make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.