

# **Reflections on RE.... Upcoming events, and Dates for your Diary**

12th September

Mrs Emma Morrison - RE Leader

## **Why do we learn about Catholic Social Teachings???**

Learning to live harmoniously with others, in rightful and respectful relationships, is an essential part of a civil and just society.

Core to the Catholic faith is the belief that Jesus came to earth as our saviour, to show us how to love one another.



At St. Patrick's, our school-wide expectations of being **Safe, Respectful and Responsible** are our pillars for creating an environment that will allow all of us to grow within relationships that encourage us to accept differences, and support each other during times of growth and challenges, within a safe environment.

At each Gospel, held every second Monday in the church, we recognise 3 students who have demonstrated these values during the weeks prior. In doing so, students realise that these expectations are part of who we are as a community, and learn to Live Like Jesus did, so many years ago.

## **Gospel message - 8th September, 2025.**

### **Spotlight on a Saint**

Carlo Arcutis was canonized as a Saint this week, on September 7th, by Pope Leo XIV. He was only 15 years old when he died in 2006. In Gospel this week, we learnt about his lifelong commitment to his faith, and how he answered the call to serve those less fortunate through providing comfort and food to the homeless.



Has your child spoken about this video at home? Perhaps ask them how Carlo used technology to share God's word with as many people as possible, or [view the video](#) again as a family. It is important that children understand that even though Jesus lived long ago, many people today are still walking in the footsteps of Christ through the Catholic Social Teachings.



## SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY

**17th September, 6pm, St Mary's Cathedral:**

**Come and share in the sacramental journey** of more than 40 students from our local schools who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

The 7 students from St Patrick's, Stratford who are participating in the preparation for this sacrament, are then able to consider preparing for the Sacrament of First Communion (Eucharist) in Term 1 next year.

If you would like to receive information on the Parish Sacramental Programs, for either your children or yourself, please contact me on [emorrison@stpstratford.catholic.edu.au](mailto:emorrison@stpstratford.catholic.edu.au).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Gospel - every second Monday @ 3pm - St Patrick's Church, Stratford.**

Come along and join our students in learning how to integrate teachings of the Catholic Faith into their school day, and beyond.

All are welcome!!! This is not a mass, but an engaging discussion with a song or two. Come and hear what your children are thinking.



**Baptism - 9:30am September 21st, St. Patrick's Church, Stratford**

We warmly welcome all members of our school and parish community to attend the Baptism of Jemma Pattison. This is a very special occasion for Jemma, who, after much consideration, has been preparing for this for some time.

The Foundation class has been learning about members of the Parish community, and ways that we welcome people in our communities, including through the Sacrament of Baptism.

*Attending a Sacramental Mass is a wonderful opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of their classroom learning.*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### End of Year Celebrations

#### ***School led mass - Sunday 19th October 9:30 - 10:30am***

Once a year, each of the Catholic schools in our parish are responsible for their students fulfilling all the liturgical roles of the parish Sunday mass. This includes readings, prayer, offertory and singing.

Please support your child to participate in this mass; perhaps they could arrange to attend with a friend, and have a play date afterwards? **Students, staff, families and friends are welcome to attend.** You will not be required to undertake any roles during the mass, so feel free to come and sit quietly for an hour and enjoy seeing your child undertake a new role and the responsibility that comes with it.

#### ***End of Year Mass - Wednesday 19th November 9:15 - 10am***

As a Catholic school, we hold a mass at the completion of the school year, to thank God and each other for the joy and courage we have shared throughout all the challenges and experiences we have shared as a school community. **We welcome our families and friends to this mass**, as members of our school community who have walked this journey with us. You are not required to participate in any role during mass; You may wish to sit quietly and reveal in the wonder of all that our amazing students are capable of.

#### ***Graduation Mass - Tuesday 16th December 5pm, and celebration afterwards***

In celebration of the completion of their 7 year journey through the primary years of schooling, we hold a Graduation mass for our Year 6 students each year.

**This is attended by Yr 6 students, their families and our school staff.**

#### ***Whole School Nativity Play and Choral accompaniment***

#### ***Wednesday 2:15 - 3:30pm last day of school 17th December***

**Everyone is invited** to celebrate the final day of our 2025 school year, and the joyous celebration of Christ's birth. Bring your chair or picnic rug, find a shaded spot under the trees, and enjoy the talents of our students, as they act out The Nativity story to their own choral accompaniment.

