



OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Religious Education Newsletter Term 4, 2021



Te Ara a Maria – Mary's Way

This artwork, undertaken by Damian Walker, is touring around New Zealand in a Hikoi following the celebration on the Feast of the Assumption, Sunday 15 August 2021 at St Mary of the Angels' Church in Wellington, where all the bishops were present. St Mary of the Angels church will become a national shrine to Mary.

It will be in the Christchurch West Parish from Saturday 6th – Tuesday 9th November

Respect, Service, Social Justice, Excellence and Sustainability

Tēnā koutou and welcome back to the final term of 2021. We hope you had a relaxing two weeks.

The main Strand covered this term is the Communion of Saints. This links in well with [Mission Sunday](#) on 24th October and also the celebration of All Saints and All Soul's day at the beginning of Week 3. The children have specific lessons on these, as part of learning about the Liturgical Year. The Achievement Objectives for the Communion of Saints for each level are outlined below.

The last three weeks of the year the children will have lessons about Advent and Christmas. As 'Service' is our values focus this term, a number of classes will be serving in the community and sharing their gifts and talents leading up to Christmas. (Depending on the Alert Level we are in) The Young Vinnies will also be having a Cake Stall to raise money to purchase gifts to distribute to those in need.

At Level 2 we are unable to attend Mass as a whole school however we will be attending with buddy classes on a roster. Watch out for the Newsletter to see if these change with the changing levels.

This year our Parish begun a new programme for preparing children for First Holy Communion. Thankfully a lot of the lessons are online so the children have been able to continue their preparation for this special sacrament. The programme will finish up with a half day Saturday retreat on the 27 November followed by **First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 28 November**. (Time to be confirmed)

All going well we will finish the school year with a whole school Mass on Tuesday 14th December at 5.30 followed by the School Prizegiving. We are hoping to have the prizegiving in the Church straight after Mass. All students are expected to attend these events and whanau are invited to join us for this special farewell to our Leavers.

God Bless
Cath Shaw -DRS

Important Dates for your Calendar

22 October	Mass -S2 and J1	9:00am
29 October	Mass – Room 10 and 5	9:00am
5 November	Mass – Room 4 and S1	9:00am
12 November	Show Day	9:00am
19 November	Room 6 and 8	9.00am
26 November	Room 7 and 9	9:00am
27 November	First Holy Communion Retreat	Time TBC
28 November	First Holy Communion Mass	Time TBC
3 December	Mass -S2 and J1 (Level dependent)	9:00am
10 December	Mass – Room 10 and 5 (Level dependent)	
Tuesday 14 December	End of Year Mass for Whole School. Prizegiving to follow	5.30pm
15 December	School Finishes	

Because our parish is subscribed to FORMED, all our parishioners have access to this amazing resource.

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Below is an outline of learning for Communion of Saints for each Curriculum Level

In their study of the Communion of Saints Te Kotahitanga o Te Hunga Tapu, children and young people will gain and apply knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to understand and integrate into their lives:

- 1) That the Communion of Saints is the Church - the living and the dead.
- 2) Whakapapa genealogy as relating to the whānau a te Atua family of God
- 3) Mary, Mother of God, her life and her significance in the life of the Church.
- 4) The Saints and other inspiring people, including people in Aotearoa New Zealand, who serve the poor and vulnerable.
- 5) The sanctity and meaning of life and human dignity, the mystery of death, loss and suffering from a hope-filled Christian perspective.
- 6) The Christian belief in judgement and life after death and their relationship to the everyday choices people make while they consider the Common good.

Level 1 – Year 1 &2:	Level 2 – Year 3 &4:
<p style="text-align: center;">Mary Saints and Inspiring People</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Life, Death and Christian Hope Choices</p>
<p>Mary is the greatest Saint and the mother of Jesus and the wife of Joseph. Mary's holiness was increased as she was very close to God because she was the mother of God's only son. We celebrate Mary's holiness in our Church. The Saints are very holy people because they were very close to God when they lived on earth and now they are in heaven with God. The Saints show us how to live as God wants us to and they can lead us to God. People on earth are connected to the Saints through prayer. Saints can inspire others to love God</p>	<p>During our lives we have times of sadness and pain. God is with us to comfort us in these times. We believe that at death our bodies die but our souls live with God forever in heaven and because of this belief we are filled with hope. Death is a sad time for families and friends. There are many special ways to say goodbye to those who have died. We can remember them and pray that they are at peace with God. We can be with people who are sad and help them to cope with their sadness. On our journey of life we make choices that influence the person we become. We have free will to choose what we do and we try to make good choices and be responsible for what we do. How we live will affect what happens to us when we die. God wants us to live good lives so we can be with God in heaven when we die.</p>
Level 3 - Year 5 & 6	Level 4 – Year 7 & 8
<p style="text-align: center;">Saints and Inspiring People Mary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Choices Life, Death and Christian Hope</p>
<p>The belief in the Communion of Saints is a Catholic belief about the unity and community of all the members of the Church, those now living, those who are with God in heaven and those who are undergoing purification before entering into the fullness of life with God. The living may pray to the Saints asking for God's help for those in purgatory. The living and the dead join in praise of God. The lives of the Saints inspire the living and show them how to listen to and be strengthened by the Spirit so their lives may be holy. We honour the Saints, as they are our models. Mary's faith journey is told through stories in the Scripture. Mary was a model of faith and the first disciple of Jesus. Mary is honoured because she is the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. Mary is the patroness of Aotearoa New Zealand. There are many different devotions used in the Church to honour Mary</p>	<p>God has given people the gift of free will. With this gift comes the responsibility to develop an informed conscience so people can make life-giving choices for themselves and others. When our conscience knows what is right and wrong we can make good choices. We need to keep using our conscience to examine the choices we make each day. We will be judged by God when we die according to the life we have lived on earth. Life is a very precious gift and people must show respect for life at all stages. A human person is made up of a body and soul. These gifts help people to feel pleasure and pain and other feelings, to form relationships with God and with others, to learn and to make choices. Catholics believe that at the end of time Christ will come again in glory – we call this the Second Coming. When this happens all of creation will be renewed and there will be no more death, pain or sadness. Catholic burial rites express the Church's respect for those who have died and faith in life after death and those who mourn their</p>

loss. All Catholic burial rites are focussed on hope – the hope of eternal life with God forever. Different cultures have different burial rites and ways of honouring those who have died.

Liturgical Year – All Saints, All Souls and Advent

Level 1

- The feast of ALL SAINTS is the day the Church celebrates and honours all who have died and are now with God.
- How people remember and pray for those who have died on ALL SOULS DAY.
- ADVENT is a time to get ready for the birth of Jesus

Level 2

- The feast of ALL SAINTS is the day the Church celebrates and honours all who have died and are now with God and are united with people who are living and are still on their pilgrim journey.
- Why Catholics celebrate ALL SOULS DAY using special prayers and rituals for all those who have died.
- The meaning of the symbols of the ADVENT wreath.
- ADVENT is a time to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus, son of Mary and Son of God

Level 3

- The feast of ALL SAINTS celebrates the saints who are members of the Church in heaven, who are united to the members of the Church on earth and who pray for them. This is what we call the Communion or Community of Saints.
- The feast of ALL SAINTS is the day the Church celebrates and honours all who have died and are now with God in heaven and are united with people who are living and are still on their pilgrim journey.
- Why Catholics celebrate ALL SOULS DAY using special prayers and rituals for all those who have died and how the Church on earth can help the Holy Souls who are not yet with God.
- The significance of the Jesse Tree in the meaning of ADVENT
- The people of ADVENT who prepared for the Messiah - God Te Atua come among us: Isaiah, John the Baptist, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph

Level 4

- The feast of ALL SAINTS celebrates the saints who are members of the Church in heaven, who are united to the members of the Church on earth and who pray for them. This is what we call the Communion or Community of Saints.
- The feast of ALL SAINTS is the day the Church celebrates and honours all who have died and are now with God in heaven and are united with people who are living and are still on their pilgrim journey.
- Why Catholics celebrate ALL SOULS DAY using special prayers, practices and rituals for all those who have died and how the Church on earth can help the Holy Souls who are not yet with God.
- The symbols of New Zealand that remind Christians about the message of ADVENT.
- People celebrate Christ's coming in ADVENT as a real event in history, they recognise Christ comes now through the liturgy and how Christians can prepare for Christ's Second Coming