



# **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

## **RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

### **SPIRITUALITY AND CHARISM**

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School is under the patronage of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop), Foundress of the Sisters of St Joseph and Our Lady of Lourdes (Mary, Jesus' mother) and therefore draws its charism from the ways of Mary MacKillop and Our Lady. Each year our new staff induction program focuses on the Josephite and Marian traditions and their impact on the school's Vision and Mission.

On January 15, 1842 Mary MacKillop was born of Scottish parents, Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald in Fitzroy, Victoria. From the age of sixteen, Mary earned her living and greatly supported her family, as a governess, as a clerk for Sands and Kenny and as a teacher at the Portland school. While acting as a governess to her uncle's children at Penola, Mary met Father Julian Tension Woods who, with a parish of 56,000 square kilometres, needed help in the religious education of children in the outback. At the time, Mary's family depended on her income, so she was not free to follow her dream. However, in 1866, greatly inspired and encouraged by Father Julian Tension-Woods, Mary opened the first Saint Joseph's School in a disused stable in Penola.

Young women came to join Mary, and so the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was begun. Mary and the early Sisters, together with other Religious Orders and lay teachers of the time, had a profound influence on the forming of Catholic Education as we have come to know and experience it today. She also opened orphanages, providences to care for the homeless and destitute both young and old, and refuges for those who wished to make a fresh start in life.

Throughout her life Mary suffered ill health. She died on August 8, 1909 in the convent in Mount Street, North Sydney where her tomb is now enshrined. This great Australian woman inspired great dedication to God's work in the then new colonies. In today's world, she stands as an example of great courage and trust in her living out of God's loving and compassionate care of those in need.

Mary MacKillop was canonised on October 17, 2010 at St Peter's Basilica, Rome, and her feast day is celebrated on the 8th August.

To highlight the charism of Our Lady of Lourdes, key buildings and house colours have been named which reflect our school's Patron Saint, Josephite charism and significant people in our school's history. These include: Josephite Place ("Joey's Place"), St Bernadette Soubirous Building, Tension-Woods Building, The Our Lady of Lourdes Resource Centre, the Holy Family Building, The Monaghan Centre, Penola Centre, The St Mary of the Cross Administration Centre (The MacKillop Administration Centre), MacKillop House, Tension House, Penola House and Fitzroy House.

Elements of the Marian and Josephite traditions are also evident in our School's Vision, Mission and Values Statements and our school prayer and school song.

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School is a ministry of the local Church and collaborates with the Sunnybank Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, other Archdiocesan agencies and community/government agencies to serve the Sunnybank community.

The purpose of the Catholic school is the development of human beings steeped in the profound human values embodied in Jesus Christ. Catholic schools nurture students' faith and lead them to deepen their relationship with God through prayer and celebration, their growing knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures and Catholic Tradition, and action in the world for peace and justice.

Our goal is to enhance our Catholic identity, in a language that reflect and recognises God's presence permeating throughout Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School. We do this by strengthening the integration of faith, life and culture, inviting students to discover God's presence in their daily lives and engaging them in a dialogue between their life experiences and Catholic teaching.

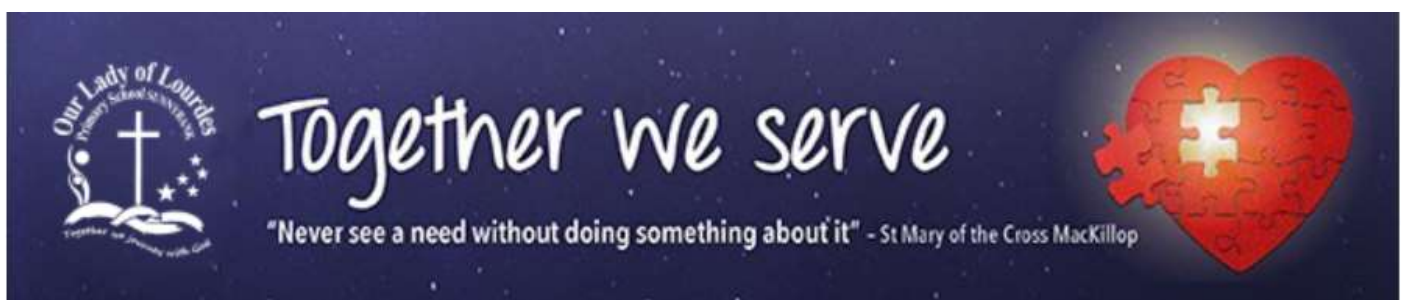
In this way they may grow in understanding of themselves and their world in light of the Gospel and be empowered to take responsibility for themselves and for creating a just society.

Further, our goal is to build a community of faith and hope, where we are all inspired by the person and teachings of Jesus Christ and imbued with the Holy Spirit, and work together for the benefit of each member of the school community.

### **RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND CULTURE**

Our Lady of Lourdes embeds and communicates the **ethos and charism** through:

- Promoting elements associated with the ethos and charism of our school (e.g. Josephite Values and key sayings from Mary MacKillop)
- Incorporate prayers associated with the school's charism into the life of the community (e.g. school's charism is evident in our school prayer and school song, Hail Mary, Rosary, Children's Prayer to St Mary of the Cross MacKillop)
- Celebrating days of religious significance to focus upon values associated with the school's ethos and charism (St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Days)
- Researching and communicate the history and heritage of the school to enhance understanding of its ethos, charism and Catholic identity
- Develop staff and student formation plans which embed the charism of the school and its contemporary application (e.g. staff and student formation plans)
- Communicating and promoting the distinctive identity and nature of the school to the wider community (e.g. online newsletter, School Facebook Page, Parent Portal/BCE Connect App, Digital Signs, Prayer, Religious Iconography)



Our Lady of Lourdes creates and values a **sense of the sacred** through:

- Establishing and maintaining sacred and reflective spaces in classrooms and around the school (e.g. classroom prayer spaces, Mary MacKillop garden)
- Displaying religious art and iconography around the school (e.g. displays around school)
- Using the natural environment to enhance a sense of the sacred (e.g. Mary MacKillop garden)

Our Lady of Lourdes builds **authentic Christian community** through:

- Celebrating the cultural diversity of the school (e.g. Harmony Day)
- Acknowledging connections with the wider Church community (e.g. promoting parish youth events, parish sacramental program, supporting Catholic charities such as St Vincent De Paul)
- Welcoming, encouraging and supporting participation of families in the life of the school (e.g. school and year level Masses and liturgies, Grandparent's Day, celebration of learning)

### **EVANGELISATION AND FAITH FORMATION**

Our Lady of Lourdes fosters the call to **live the gospel** through such ways as:

- Reflecting the life and message of Jesus Christ through routines and practices, e.g. hospitality (Father's Day Breakfast, Mother's Day Morning Tea) and outreach (parish altar server program and Senior Catholic Identity Committee, Christian Servant Leadership - ARMIA House)
- Establishing policies, practices and structures that promote inclusion and a sense of belonging to a Christian community (e.g. positive behaviour for learning, behaviour support policy and practices)
- Presenting the gospel message in engaging ways (e.g. echo mime, chorus play)
- Supporting the parish Sacramental program, fostering school/parish relationships through collaborative planning and communication of school, parish and Archdiocesan events (e.g. school parish family Masses twice a year, school parish Masses for significant liturgical events (e.g. Ash Wednesday Mass), supporting parish programs through communication in the school newsletter, school facebook page, Parent Portal and BCE Connect App.

Our Lady of Lourdes nurtures the **spiritual formation** of each individual through:

- Providing faith formation experiences for students, staff and parents (e.g. spirituality days, staff and student formation plans)
- Providing opportunities to express spiritual awareness through the creative arts (e.g. Praying in colour, prayer journaling, exploring religious iconography)
- Celebrating the religious unity and diversity within the school community (e.g. Harmony Day)
- Responding to the religious diversity through programs, activities and experiences while being faithful to the Catholic Christian Identity of the school (using non-presumptuous language and analysis of Eminerva data when planning Religious Education learning cycles)

Our Lady of Lourdes are **witnesses to the wider community** through:

- Building collaborative relationships with the Parish and local Church (e.g. school/parish family Masses, parish altar server program)
- Participating in the life of the local community (e.g. Anzac Day, youth ministry)
- Engaging with students from other schools to give witness to the beliefs and values of the Catholic tradition (spiritual formation days with other BCE schools)
- Engaging Christian servant leadership initiatives (e.g. ARMIA House, Catholic Identity and Stewardship Leadership Committee)



*School/Parish Masses and liturgies*

### **PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

Our Lady of Lourdes celebrates **prayer and liturgy and sacraments** through:

- Providing formation for staff, students and parents (e.g. spirituality days, school Masses and liturgies)
- Arranging the physical environment and providing resources for full and active participation in liturgy and Sacrament (e.g. classroom prayer boxes, well-resourced RE resource cupboards)
- Providing opportunities for the celebration of Sacraments within the life of the school (e.g. school Masses and liturgies)
- Supporting the Parish in significant celebrations (e.g. school/parish feast day celebrations, promotive parish celebrations in school newsletters, school Facebook page and Parent Portal.)

Our Lady of Lourdes recognises and ritualises the **sacredness of everyday life** through:

- Ritualising life events (e.g. baby blessings, beginning and end of year Masses, Farewell liturgies)
- Including prayer rituals in the day to day procedures and routines of school life (e.g. daily class prayer, staff prayer, whole school meditation three times a week)
- Inviting parental involvement in prayer rituals (e.g. school and year level Masses and liturgies, liturgies for special events and feast days)
- Participating in significant community celebrations (e.g. ANZAC Day March and services)



*Mary MacKillop Garden - outdoor sacred space*

Our Lady of Lourdes **nurtures the Christian prayer life** of its community through such ways as:

- Teaching and using a variety of traditional prayers and devotions for individual and communal use (e.g. Hail Mary, the Rosary, The Lord's Prayer) in a range of indoor and outdoor settings including classrooms, parish Church and Mary MacKillop garden
- Scheduling time to allow for prayer and worship across the school (e.g. school calendars)
- Participating in staff prayer, school Masses and liturgies for significant feast days in the liturgical year (e.g. Ash Wednesday, Our Lady of Lourdes and St Mary of the Cross Feast Days) and ritualising school and life events (e.g. Beginning of School Year, Catholic Education Week, Graduation) and year level Masses and liturgies once a term
- Immersing students in diverse experiences of prayer (e.g. meditation at midday for whole school three times a week)
- Year level Scope and Sequences and the whole school Religious Life of the School Overview provide links between both classroom learning and teaching and the religious life of the school
- Explicit teaching about prayer - classroom prayer and community prayer (e.g. explicit teaching of prayers in the Scope and Sequence)
- Explicit teaching about Church, community and celebrations (e.g. learning cycles about Church, community and celebrations)
- Teaching about the charism of the Saints that their buildings and house colours are named after



*Sacred space for Ash Wednesday School/Parish Mass*

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION**

Our Lady of Lourdes practises **justice within its own community** through such ways as:

- Identifying, implementing and promoting policies, structures and practices that respect the rights and dignity of all members of the school community (e.g. behaviour support policy and practices)
- Applying Christian stewardship to the resources and environment of the school (e.g. Paper Cut, recycling bins, online resources, community vegetable garden)
- Establishing just processes of discernment and critical judgement when making decisions (e.g. recruitment of staff processes)

Our Lady of Lourdes **acts for justice** through such ways as:

- Implementing policies and practices within the school that nurture a generosity of spirit (e.g. provision of concessional school fees, uniforms and books for families in need, including refugee families)
- Engaging with student initiated and/or local justice projects as part of the curriculum (e.g. Catholic Mission 'Socktober', Caritas 'Project Compassion' and St Vincent De Paul 'Winter and Christmas Appeals')

Our Lady of Lourdes consciously **reflects on its action for justice** through such ways as:

- Incorporating practices of review and critique in relation to current actions for justice within the school community (e.g. Use of the Religious Life of the School Audit Tool, online surveys)
- Explicit teaching about social action and justice (e.g. learning cycles, student participation in activities and fundraising to promote Catholic charities (e.g. Project Compassion and Catholic Mission)



*Crazy Sock Day (Socktober) – raising money and awareness for Catholic Mission:  
socking it to poverty.*



*Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) – raising money for Project Compassion (Caritas) and celebrating a  
significant day in the liturgical year.*



**Prayer and  
Worship**

**Evangelisation  
and Faith  
Formation**

**Social  
Action and  
Justice**

**Religious  
Identity and  
Culture**

**Term 1**

Staff Prayer

Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day/Beginning of Year/Leadership Mass (whole school)

Prayers for Special Events (e.g. Harmony Day)

Class Prayer

Reconciliation (Year 5/6)

Year Level Liturgies (P – Yr 4)

Year Level Mass (Yr 5 and Yr 6)

Ash Wednesday Mass (Yr 3 -6)

Ash Wednesday Liturgy (P – Yr 3)

Holy Week Prayer Rituals/Stations of the Cross

Prayer Assemblies

School/Parish Family Mass

Meditation

Staff Retreat Day

Student Retreat Day

Altar Server Program (voluntary – Yr 5 and Yr 6)

Sacred Singing

Caritas – Project Compassion (Fundraising)

Visit Nursing Home - Easter Visit (Yr 6)

Leadership Committees

ARMIA House (Yr 5 and Yr 6 - voluntary weekly visits)

Staff Retreat Day

Student Retreat Day

Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day/Beginning of Year/Leadership Mass (whole school)

Prayers for Special Events

Prayer Assemblies

Parent Nights

Welcome BBQ

Staff Induction

Tea and Tissues Morning Tea

Shrove Tuesday/ Ash Wednesday/Palm Sunday/Good Friday/Holy Week

Lent – Liturgical Season

Senior Leadership Committees

	<b>Prayer and Worship</b>	<b>Evangelisation and Faith Formation</b>	<b>Social Action and Justice</b>	<b>Religious Identity and Culture</b>
<b>Term 2</b>	<p>Staff Prayer</p> <p>Prayers for Special Events</p> <p>Class Prayer</p> <p>Year Level Liturgies (P – Yr 4)</p> <p>Year Level Mass (Yr 5 and Yr 6)</p> <p>Prayer Assemblies</p> <p>City Anzac Day Service (Yr 6)</p> <p>Local Community Anzac Day service (voluntary)</p> <p>National Sorry Day/Reconciliation Week Prayer</p> <p>School/Parish Family Weekend Mass</p> <p>Meditation</p>	<p>Staff Twilight (Formation Module)</p> <p>Altar Server Program (voluntary – Yr 5 and Yr 6)</p> <p>Sacred Singing</p>	<p>St Vincent De Paul – Winter Appeal (Fundraising)</p> <p>ARMIA House (Yr 5 and Yr 6 - weekly visits)</p>	<p>Prayer Assemblies</p> <p>Prayers for Special Events</p> <p>Ordinary Time – Liturgical Season</p> <p>Senior Leadership Committees</p>



	Prayer and Worship	Evangelisation and Faith Formation	Social Action and Justice	Religious Identity and Culture
<b>Term 3</b>	St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop Feast Day Mass)  Feast of the Assumption (Yr 5 and Yr 6)  Year Level Liturgies (Prep – Yr 4)  Year Level Mass (Yr 5 and Yr 6)  Grandparent's Day Liturgy  Prayer Assemblies  Father's Day Liturgy  School/Parish Family Mass  Meditation	Formation Staff Meeting  Student Retreat Day  Altar Server Program (voluntary – Yr 5 and Yr 6)  Sacred Singing	Armia House (Yr 5 and Yr 6) weekly visits)	Catholic Education Week  St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) Feast Day Mass  Grandparent's Day Liturgy  Prayer Assemblies  Father's Day Liturgy  Student Retreat Day
	Prayer and Worship	Evangelisation and Faith Formation	Social Action and Justice	Religious Identity and Culture
<b>Term 4</b>	Graduation Mass  End of Year Mass  Year Level Liturgies (Prep – Yr 3)  Year Level Mass (Yr 4 and Yr 6)  World Teachers' Day/Years of Service Prayer  Farewell Staff Prayer/Thank you Volunteer's Prayer  Meditation	Student Retreat Day  Altar Server Program (voluntary – Yr 5 and Yr 6)	Choir Visit - Nursing Home for Christmas  Catholic Mission – Crazy Sock Day  Leadership Committees  Armia House (Yr 5 and Yr 6 weekly visits)	Prep Orientation  Staff Induction  Student Retreat Day