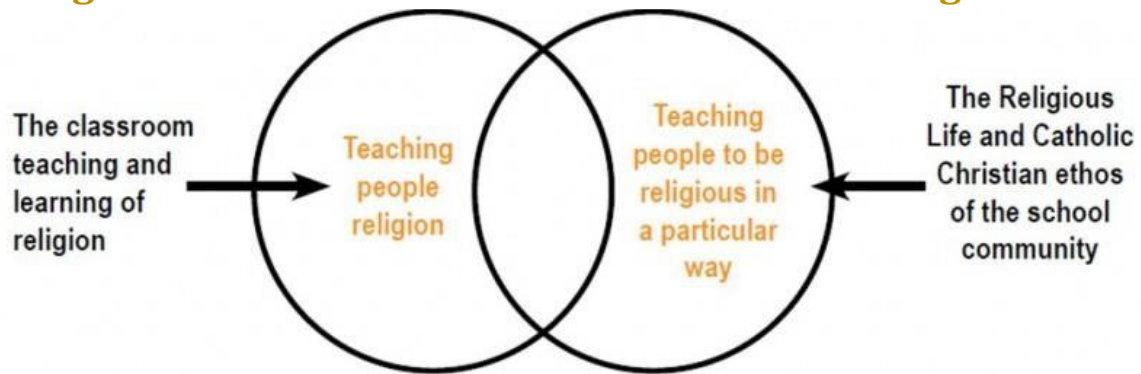


Religious Education Curriculum at St Rita's College



Model adapted from Gabriel Moran, 1991

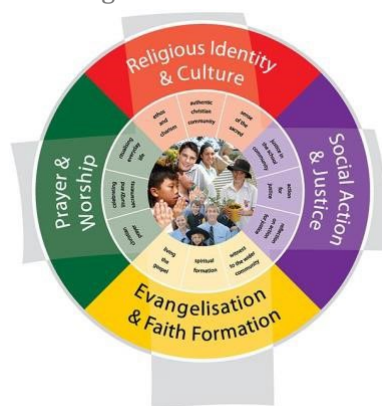
Teaching Scripture in the Classroom

The study of scripture in the classroom context takes the reader into the world of Jewish and Christian believers. Students are challenged to develop reading and interpretation skills to appreciate the understandings of God and religious experience that are presented in Biblical texts. The Catholic approach to interpreting scripture is summed up in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

In Sacred Scripture, God speaks to the person in a human way. To interpret Scripture correctly, the reader must be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm and to what God wanted to reveal to us by their words (n.109).

Students as lifelong learners who engage the world in a critical and authentic manner. At St Rita's College, we believe that as a Catholic Christian community, in the Presentation tradition, our mission is to develop students as lifelong learners who are enriched by the Gospel values so they can participate critically and authentically in our faith communities and wider society.

The links below overview the focus of Religion Curriculum units for each Year level.



Religious Education Curriculum Focus Areas

Year 5

Overarching Question: How does spiritual writing shape Catholic communities?

This unit explores the significance of the wisdom writings of the saints including St Mary of the Cross MacKillop for communities of believers. Students research and record information about how pioneering Catholics in Australia (c.1850 -1900) contributed to the preservation of faith and the shaping of particular communities, including Indigenous communities

Sacred Text: STNT12 STNT13 STCW6 **Church:** CHCH4

RLOS: Inaugural Mass & Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy,

Overarching Question: How are believers strengthened through prayer, worship and the Holy spirit?

This unit explores ways faith is strengthened in communities of believers, past and present. Students learn to explain the action of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and analyse information, including Scriptural references to the Holy Spirit and the words, symbols and actions of the Catholic Rite of Confirmation.

Sacred Text: STOT9 **Church:** CHLS7 **Beliefs:** BEWR6 BEHE5 BETR7

RLOS: St Rita's Day

Overarching Question: How do believers live out Jesus' ministry today?

This unit explores ways in which believers live according to Jesus' new commandment of charity (love). Students learn about ways in which believers make and act upon informed moral choices and how charity is the source and goal of Christian practice.

Christian Life: CLMF9 CLMJ6

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week

Overarching Question: How does Mary continue to influence the life of believers?

This unit examines Mary's role as mother of Jesus and mother of the Church. Students analyse elements and features of Marian prayers including the Hail Mary, the Rosary and the Litany of Mary of Nazareth to describe the role of Marian prayer in the lives of believers past and present. Students participate respectfully in a variety of prayer experiences.

Christian Life: CLPS14 CLPS15 **Church:** CHPG6

RLOS: Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, Remembrance Day, Graduation Mass, Christmas Liturgy

Year 6

Overarching Question: What are the many portraits of Jesus?

In this unit, students learn that the Gospel present many different portraits of Jesus. Students investigate the use of images and titles of Jesus in scripture. Students explore how communities of faith use different titles and images of Jesus to develop their meaning of Jesus today

Sacred Text: STNT14 STNT15 **Beliefs:** BETR8

RLOS: Inaugural Mass & Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy,

Overarching Question: How do believers live their faith?

In this unit, students will come to understand how people live different faith through examining scripture. Students explore the different ways people have lived faith in Australia since 1900 CE to present day. Students will examine founding religious orders in Australia and their contribution to past and current society.

Sacred Text: STCW7 **Church:** CHCH5 **Beliefs:** BEHE6

RLOS: Inaugural Mass & Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy,

Overarching Question: What is the significance of the Eucharist?

In this unit, students explore the many ways in which faith is celebrated in the lives of believers, past and present, including the Church's liturgical year and the celebration of Eucharist.

Sacred Text: STNT14 **Church:** CHLS8 **Christian Life:** CLPS16 CLPS17

RLOS: St Rita's Day

Overarching Question: What is the significance of celebrations in the lives of Jewish believers?

In this unit, students make connections between the celebrations of Jewish believers and the celebrations of Catholic believers. Students use a range of biblical tools to explore Old Testament scripture texts to find out about celebrations in the lives of Jewish believers.

Sacred Text: STOT11 **Church:** CHLS8 CHLS9 **Beliefs:** BEWR7

RLOS: St Rita's Day

Overarching Question: What is Jesus' New Law? What are the spiritual and corporeal works of Mercy?

This unit explores ways in which faith is lived out in the lives of believers past and present. Students learn about the significance of Jesus' New Law for the way believers live their faith and examine the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy.

Christian Life: CLMF10 CLMJ7 **Sacred Text:** STNT14 STNT15

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week

Overarching Question: What is the Communion of Saints?

In this unit, students identify and make connections between the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and the saints, coming to an understanding of the term 'communion of saints.'

Church: CHPG7

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week

Overarching Question: What is the significance of the Our Father?

In this unit students learn the origins of the Lord's Prayer and why this prayer has meaning today.

Christian Life: CLPS16 CLPS17 **Sacred Texts:** STNT14

RLOS: Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, Remembrance Day, Graduation Mass, Christmas Liturgy

Overarching Question: What are the messages and contexts of Old Testament Prophets?

In this unit students will research the Old Testament and learn the stories of three Old Testament prophets.

Sacred Texts: STOT10 STOT11 **Beliefs:** BEH6

Year 7

Overarching Question: How can our College be a community of faith?

How can the stories of St Rita and Nano Nagle inspire and shape who I am?

This unit introduces students to the St Rita's College community. Students investigate the charisms of Nano Nagle, the Presentation Sisters and St Rita of Cascia. As students explore how these charisms permeate the College community, they reflect on how these stories can inspire and shape their daily lives.

Sacred Text: STCW8 **Church:** CHLS10, CHLS11 **Christian Life:** CLPS18

RLOS: Inaugural Mass & Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy, Year 7 Reflection Day

Presentation Action: How can we promote a spirituality of justice in our local community?

This unit explores how the Presentation charism is expressed through the Presentation Ministries

supported by the eight Houses at St Rita's. Students are encouraged to embrace the College motto – *Virtute non Verbis* (Action not Words) in their daily lives. Students investigate the role and place of the Catholic Church in the local and global community especially those supported by the Presentation Sisters.

Beliefs: BEHE7 **Church:** CHLS10, CHPG8 **Christian Life:** CLMJ8, CLPS19, CLMF11

RLOS: St Rita's Day

Where did it all begin?

This unit explores the social, cultural and religious context of the Old and the New Testaments. Students investigate how sacred texts reflect the audience, purpose and context of their human authors and explain how sacred texts influence the life of believers. Students engage the 'Three Worlds of the Text' – the world behind the text, the world of the text and the world in front of the text, to interpret sacred texts from the Bible.

Sacred Text: STOT12, STNT16 **Beliefs:** BEWR8

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week

How did the early Christian Church survive?

This unit explores the early Christian Church from its Jewish beginnings through three centuries of Christian persecution to a period of religious tolerance under Emperor Constantine. From the Apostles Creed to the Nicene Creed, students engage the Christian beliefs which are still the basis of Christian teaching today.

Beliefs: BETR9 **Church:** CHLS10; CHCH6 **Christian Life:** CLPS19

RLOS: Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, Remembrance Day, Graduation Mass, Christmas Liturgy

Year 8

Overarching Question: How can faith be strengthened and challenged in our College community?

How do human beings have a relationship with God?

This unit engages the mystery of Trinity as the central mystery of Christian faith and life. Students are challenged to reimagine their own creative response to the mystery of Trinity through a creative task. Students are also encouraged to nurture their relationship with God through ritual practices and social action in our College community.

Beliefs: BETR10, BETR11, BEWR9, BEHE8 **Church:** CHLS13 **Christian Life:** CLPS21

RLOS: Inaugural Mass & Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy

Who rocked the Church? (From 650 – 1750 CE)

This unit engages the key writings and messages of significant reformers in the Christian Church during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Students grapple with a time of great change in the Christian Church when a growing number of reformers questioned the role and practices of the Church in the world.

Sacred Text: STNT18, STCW9 **Church:** CHCH7 **Christian Life:** CLPS20

RLOS: Year 8 Reflection Day, St Rita’s Day Mass

How can I live out God’s saving plan for all creation?

This unit engages students in a study of the unique relationship between God and God’s people through scripture. Students engage the Old Testament covenant narratives to reveal the actions and messages of the prophets who challenged their people to be faithful to the covenant in their lives.

Sacred Text: STOT13 **Beliefs:** BEHE8, BETR10 **Christian Life:** CLMF12

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week

How can believers begin and live their journey of faith?

This unit engages how the initiation rituals within the Abrahamic religions begin the faith journey of believers. Students explore the diverse ways in which Christians embrace their faith journey to fulfil the mission of Jesus in our world today. Students investigate the teachings of the Catholic Church on emerging issues in our world by engaging Catholic Social Teaching and recent encyclicals such as *Laudato Si’*.

Beliefs: BEWR9 **Church:** CHLS12, CHPG9 **Christian Life:** CLPS21, CLMF12, CLMJ9

RLOS: Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, Remembrance Day, Graduation Mass, Christmas Liturgy

Year 9

Overarching Question: How do believers live what they believe?

Who and what challenged the Church? (From 1750 – 1918 CE)

This unit engages students in a study of who and what challenged the Catholic Church from the Enlightenment to the Industrial Revolution and the European settlement of Australia to World War I. Students grapple with a period of great reform in the Catholic Church from the growth of rationalism to the beginnings of modern science; from the era of European settlement as the

Christian Church journeyed to new territories; and the role and place of the Catholic Church in World War I.

Sacred Texts: STCW10 **Beliefs:** BEHE9 **Church:** CHCH8, CHCH7 **Christian Life:** CLMJ10, CLPS22

RLOS: Inaugural Mass & Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy

How can refugees arriving in Australia experience a spirituality of justice? This unit engages students in a study of the refugee crisis facing Australia and the global community. Students investigate the call to hospitality and compassion revealed in the Bible, the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the Presentation Pillars. Students are encouraged to embrace the pillars of hospitality and compassion in response to this growing crisis in our world.

Sacred Texts: STCW10 **Beliefs:** BEHE9 **Church:** CHPG10 **Christian Life:** CLMF13

RLOS: St Rita's Day Mass

How can we interpret the Bible today?

This unit engages students in how sacred texts from the Old Testament and New Testament can be interpreted using modern biblical criticism. Students are introduced to the theory of documentary hypothesis – the four sources of the Pentateuch, as well as the key themes of the Pentateuch including creation, sin, covenant, law and promise, worship and the Chosen People. Source criticism, narrative criticism and form criticism as they apply to the parable and miracle stories in the New Testament are also engaged.

Sacred Text: STOT14, STNT19 **Christian Life:** CLPS23

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week

How do religious beliefs shape how people live?

This unit engages students in a study of religious beliefs shared by Judaism, Christianity and Islam. While belief in one God is a shared belief, the three monotheistic religions have divergent understandings of God that are reflected in their belief and practices.

Beliefs: BEWR10, BETR12 **Church:** CHLS14 **Christian Life:** CLPS22, CLPS23

RLOS: Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, Remembrance Day, Graduation Mass, Christmas Liturgy

Year 10

Overarching Question: How do believers seek to make sense of the world?

How do religious beliefs shape how people live?

This unit engages students in a study of the core beliefs and practices of the major world religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism). Students investigate how these beliefs and practices reflect their human understanding of God or the 'Other'.

Beliefs: BEWR11, BEHE10 **Christian Life:** CLPS25

T1 RLOS: Inaugural Mass and Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy

How can we be Eucharistic people?

This unit engages students in a study of the historical and scriptural foundations for the Eucharist. Students explore how the Eucharist is the primary and indispensable source of nourishment for the spiritual life of believers. From the early Church to the Church of the Empire, the Middle Ages to the Council of Trent and finally to Vatican II, the celebration of the Eucharist remains the source and summit of the Christian life. Students also analyse the personal reflections of Ronald Rolheiser who describes the Eucharist as personal, communal and ultimately social outreach.

Church: CHLS15, CHCH9 **Christian Life:** CLMJ1, CLPS25

T2 RLOS: St Rita's Day Mass

How can the mystery of God be revealed through the Scriptures?

This unit engages students in a study of the mystery of God revealed in the sacred texts. Students engage the tools of Biblical criticism by applying socio-historical criticism (historical, cultural, literary, political, social and geographical contexts) to Old Testament texts and some techniques of rhetorical criticism to the writings of St Paul.

Sacred Text: STOT15, STOT16, STNT20 **Beliefs:** BETR13, BEHE10

RLOS: Year 10 Reflection Day, NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week

How can we promote a spirituality of justice in our world?

This unit engages students in a study of a range of emerging threats to both human ecology and environmental ecology. Students explain the significance of various sources that guide the Church's action in the world (including the teaching of Jesus and the early Church; the principles of Catholic social teaching and the reasoned judgements of conscience, carefully formed and examined).

Students also engage the Sustainable Development Goals as a global response alongside the Catholic Church to these emerging threats.

Sacred Texts: STCW11 **Church:** CHCH9, CHPG11 **Christian Life:** CLMJ11, CLPS24, CLMF14

T4 RLOS: Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, Remembrance Day, Graduation Mass, Christmas Liturgy

Years 11 and 12 Study of Religion

Year 11 Semester 1 – Sacred texts and religious writings

Focus Area

In Unit 1, students are introduced to the five major world religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, and to Australian Aboriginal spiritualities, as a foundation to the course of study. Through a study of sacred texts and religious writings, students explore how these texts offer insights into life, provide guidance for living, and may express a relationship between a people and a higher being. As Unit 1 progresses, there is a particular focus on the sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. (QCAA, Study of Religion 2019 v.1.2 General Senior Syllabus, 2019, p14)

RLOS: Inaugural Mass & Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy and St Rita's Day Mass.

Year 11 Semester 2 – Religion and ritual

In Unit 2, students build on their understandings of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Australian Aboriginal spiritualities and Torres Strait Islander religion as they investigate religious rituals that mark significant moments and events in the religion itself and in the lives of adherents.

The rituals are studied under two categories: lifecycle rituals and calendrical rituals. Lifecycle rituals mark rites of passage in the biological and sociological cycle of human life; calendrical rituals occur at a particular time of the week, month or year or mark a period of time since a significant event. (QCAA, Study of Religion 2019 v.1.2 General Senior Syllabus, 2019, p17)

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week, Year 11 Leadership Camp

Year 12 Semester 3 – Religious Ethics

Focus Area

In Unit 3, students continue to build on Units 1 and 2 to examine the religious–ethical principles that are evident within the traditions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. They are required to understand the religious foundations that form and inform ethical principles within different religious traditions. Students apply religious–ethical principles and theories to real-life contexts and evaluate how they influence people, society and culture. (QCAA, Study of Religion 2019 v.1.2 General Senior Syllabus, 2019, p20)

RLOS: Inaugural Mass and Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy and St Rita's Day Mass.

Year 12 Semester 4 – Religion, rights and the nation-state

Focus Area

In Unit 4, students consider how religion affects and influences people's understanding of culture, history, politics and social interaction. Within this context, issues of rights and religion-state relationships are considered. Students investigate how religions seek to shape or are shaped by their social, cultural and political contexts. They examine how the dynamic of religion in different times and places has interacted with the nation-state, as well as religion's contributions to society and culture. (QCAA, Study of Religion 2019 v.1.2 General Senior Syllabus, 2019, p32)

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week, Year 12 Retreat, Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, Remembrance Day, Graduation Mass.

Years 11 and 12 Religion and Ethics

Year 11 Semester 1 – Elective 6: Meaning and Purpose

Concepts and ideas:

- Humanity's search for meaning and purpose is common across cultures and religions and has a profound influence on the decisions people make.
- A meaningful life typically has a clear and positive self-concept, goals that give purpose to life, commitment to relationships and some 'greater good', and a sense of hope for the future.
- People make significant choices that give life meaning and purpose, and these are the result of complex processes.
- Worldviews and religious traditions offer varied viewpoints on living lives of meaning and purpose. (QCAA, Religion and Ethics 2019 v 1.0, 2019, p23)

RLOS: Inaugural Mass and Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy, St Rita's Day Mass

Year 11 Semester 2 – Elective 7: Peace and Conflict

Concepts and ideas:

- Religion has been both a means of peace and conflict within the world.
- Peace studies are concerned with practical questions of how to realise peace and justice in the world at all levels of social organisation —individual, family, small group, nation and the international community.
- Resolution may be achieved through understanding and acceptance of religious, spiritual and ethical differences. (QCAA, Religion and Ethics 2019 v 1.0, 2019, p24)

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week, Year 11 Leadership Camp

Year 12 Semester 3 – Elective 2: Ethics and Morality

Concepts and ideas:

- Concepts of right and wrong underpin all human communities.
- The process of moral decision making is influenced by personal, cultural, historical and religious factors. (QCAA, Religion and Ethics 2019 v 1.0, 2019, p18)

RLOS: Inaugural Mass and Investiture Ceremony, Ash Wednesday/Lent and Easter Liturgy, St Rita's Day Mass

Year 12 Semester 4 – Elective 10: Religious citizenship

Content and ideas:

- We live in a diverse society and in an interconnected world, and therefore our civic knowledge and understanding must include understanding of global dimensions and multiple viewpoints.
- Understandings of religious citizenship have broadened over time.
- People express their religious citizenship in a variety of ways and in different contexts. (QCAA, Religion and Ethics 2019 v 1.0, 2019, p27)

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week, Year 12 Retreat, Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, Remembrance Day, Graduation Mass.

Years 11 and 12 Religion, Meaning and Life

This is an alternative non-accredited course for Year 11 and 12 students within the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

In this course, learning builds on *Religious Education Curriculum from the Archdiocese of Brisbane P-12 (Brisbane Catholic Education (2013;2020))*. Within *Religion, Meaning and Life*, students in Year 11-12 complete four Units of work (two per year). In this course, students will have an opportunity to access quality theological material in multiple learning modes and engage in a variety of religious experiences and service-learning opportunities.

(BCE (2023) Catholic identity: religion, meaning and life. <https://catholicidentity.bne.catholic.edu.au/religious-education/SitePages/Religion-Meaning-and-Life.aspx>)