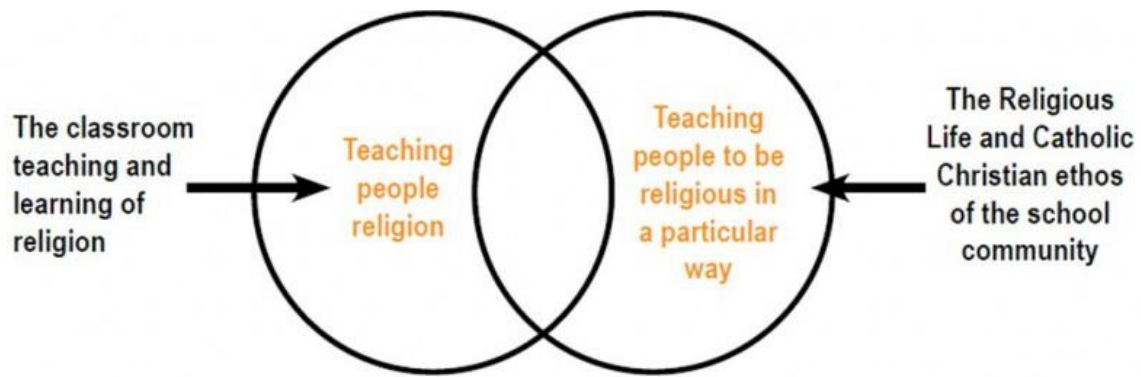


Religious Education Curriculum at St Rita's College



Model adapted from Gabriel Moran, 1991

Teaching Scripture in the Classroom

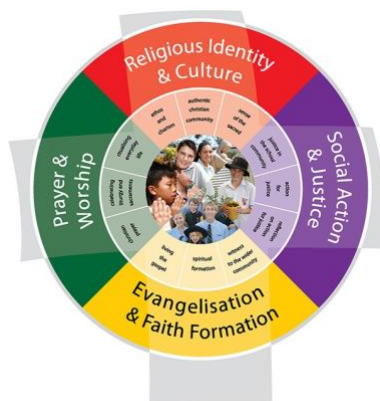
The study of scripture in the classroom context takes the reader into the world of Jewish and Christian believers. Students are challenged to develop reading and interpretation skills to appreciate the understandings of God and religious experience that are presented in Biblical texts. The Catholic approach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

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 **Christian Life:** CLPS19

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 **Church:** CHLS13 **Christian Life:** CLMF12, 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 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: BETR10, BEWR9 **Church:** CHLS12, CHPG9 **Christian Life:** CLMF12, CLMJ9

RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week

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 **Christian Life:** CLPS21

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

Year 9

Overarching Question: How do believers live what they believe?

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, CLPS23

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

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: St Rita's Day Mass

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 **Christian Life:** CLMJ10, CLPS22
RLOS: NAIDOC Week, Catholic Education Week, Year 9 – Kinetic Energy Theatre (Refugees)

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

Year 10

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

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

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

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

RLOS: St Rita's Day Mass

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

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

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

Years 11 and 12 Study of Religion

Year 11 Semester 1 – Ritual

Focus Area

The theory of ritual; College rituals; Indigenous Spirituality – Initiation; Christianity – Marriage; Hinduism – Marriage; Ethnographic Investigation

Beliefs: BEWR12 **Church:** CHLS16; CHLS17, CHCH10 **Christian Life:** CLPS26

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

Year 11 Semester 2 – Religion / State Relationships

Focus Area

Paradigm shifts; Christian Church history; Religion / State relationships in Australia today; Religious persecution – Judaism, Islam or Tibetan Buddhism

Beliefs: BEHE12, BEWR12 **Church:** CHPG12, CHCH10 **Christian Living:** CLMJ12

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

Year 12 Semester 3 – Religion, Values and Ethics

Focus Area

Ethical theories; IVF; Ethnographic Investigation; Environmental and Business ethics

Beliefs: BETR14, BEHE13 **Christian Living:** CLMF15, CLMF16

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

Year 12 Semester 4 – Women in Religion

Focus Area

The Sacred Feminine – Women in the Old and New Testaments

Indigenous Women's Spirituality

Sacred Text: STOT17, STNT21, STCW12 **Beliefs:** BETR14, BETR15, BEHE12, BEWR12

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

Years 11 and 12 Certificate III – Christian Ministry and Theology

Year 11 Semester 1 – Spirituality Today

Focus Area

What is spirituality? Accents in Catholic Spirituality. Women's Spirituality. Practical Project.

Sacred Texts: STCW12 **Beliefs:** BETR14, BETR15, BEHE12, BEHE13

Church: CHLS16; CHLS17, CHPG12 **Christian Life:** CLPS26

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

Year 11 Semester 2 – The Story

Focus Area

The Bible; Interpreting the Bible; The Old Testament; The New Testament; Practical Project

Sacred Texts: STOT17, STNT21 **Beliefs:** BETR14, BETR15, BEHE11,

Church: CHCH10 **Christian Life:** CLMJ8, CLMF11

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

Year 12 Semester 3 – Choices

Focus Area

Foundations; “The Best Kept Secret” – Catholic Social Teaching; Case Studies (Human Trafficking);
Practical Project

Beliefs: BEHE13 **Church:** CHCH10, CHPG12 **Christian Life:** CLMF15, CLMJ16, CLMJ12

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

Year 12 Semester 4 – The Edge

Focus Area

Life Visions, Life Visions Matter, Practical Project

Beliefs: BEHE11, BEWR12 **Christian Life:** CLMF15, CLMJ16, CLMJ12

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