



RELIGION NEWS AT ST BERNADETTE'S

Term 3 2019

Confirmation Retreat

On Monday 22nd July, all the Year Six students visited the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre and St Patrick's Cathedral. Students were informed about the life of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop and how she lived a life of faith in God and was dedicated to helping so many children receive an education. St Mary of the Cross Mackillop was a very spirit filled woman and used the gifts of the Holy Spirit in her life every day.

St Bernadette's was also recognized by the Mary Mackillop Heritage center as being the school that has visited the center for the most years. This recognition was in the form of a Mary of the Cross Mackillop statue and certificate. These can be found in the glass cabinet in the foyer.

Parent Workshop for Confirmation

On the 29th of July, parents worked together with their children to decorate a candle with their Baptism certificate on it. These were then displayed around the Baptismal font in the church on their Confirmation day. At Baptism children receive the Holy Spirit and when they are Confirmed, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are strengthened in them, enabling them to be witnesses to their faith.



Students also had the opportunity to tour St Patrick's Cathedral and see what a beautiful and special place it is.



Confirmation – Bishop Mark Edwards

On the 13th of August, our Year 6 Catholic students were Confirmed by Bishop Mark Edwards. The Confirmation celebration was very special as Bishop Mark prayed over the students, asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen them with the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit. It was a lovely celebration which acknowledged these young people's commitment to their Catholic faith.



Social Justice Action – Water Filters

On Wednesdays during Term 3, the whole school raised funds for Compassion Australia's water filters which provide clean drinking water to those people who often have to drink water filled with waterborne diseases. There was a different activity each Wednesday and these included guessing how many lollies in the jar, guessing the Teacher's baby photo, minute to win it games, chocolate toss as well as the selling of icy poles and Zooper Doopers. The activities were a great success with \$800 raised. This allowed us to purchase 10 water filters. Thank you to all those who supported the students.



Eim Karem

The site where Mary visited Elizabeth when they were both pregnant.



The site of Jesus' birth

A 14 pointed star, embedded into the marble floor of the Church of the Nativity marks the traditional site of the birth of Jesus.



Feast of the Assumption

On the 15th of August, the whole school celebrated the Feast of the Assumption. It was a time for us to recognise and praise Mary our Mother. Mary was so special that she was taken up, body and soul, into Heavenly glory.



Our Pilgrimage to Israel

The Pilgrimage was an amazing experience for Mrs Webster and myself with many religious sites visited. It was a spiritual experience which deepened our faith and enhanced our understanding of the stories that we have grown up with. We will never read the scriptures stories the same way again as we now have a stronger context for them and visuals of where they took place. There were many photos taken and we would have liked to share all of them with you. With Advent and Christmas coming up, we decided that a few photos related to this very special time in our Church would be shared.

The Shepherd's Field.

This site commemorates the place where the Angel appeared to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth. It consisted of many caves which were used by the shepherds for shelter. It was a very spiritual site.

The guide shared with us a very interesting explanation for why the Angel appeared to shepherds in the nativity story! He told us that it is linked to the Old Testament and the traditions of the Jewish people in the time of Jesus!

He spoke about the Sacrifice that the Jewish people offered at the Temple and that often the offering/sacrifice was a Lamb! The Sacrifice needed to be clean, free of blemishes and healthy and that often people would go to the shepherds and ask them to choose their sacrifice as they would know which sheep were the healthiest! As Jesus came into our world to sacrifice himself for us, the angel appeared to the shepherds when Jesus was born so that they can witness the cleanest and purest sacrifice there will ever be!! - Jesus Christ our Saviour.

