

## **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SCHOOL CHAPLAIN SYNOD REPORT 2022**

- The Parish and School are forging through developing a new relationship after the passing of the statute last Synod. The Chaplain and Principal and teachers of the school have a good relationship working together.
- After Alternating Junior and Senior chapel on Monday mornings with COVID restrictions we are now able to have the whole school together again with restrictions being lifted.
- This year a new initiative from the Principal and Chaplain, called Faith Journey Time, is being undertaken with the children by Year in 2-4 week bursts. It is not religious education, but – as the title describes – working with the children on how and what their faith journey has been and will be. First Faith Journey Time with Years 1-3 now finished for this half of the year. They were brought over to the church to make them feel more at home in the building when they come over for services. They loved the font and pulpit and were fascinated by the candles to light for prayer. We looked all around and with Years 2-3 went through what all the windows were. Quite successful with some interesting questions from young minds! Now onto block with Years 7-8. Started with touring the church, but then some classroom time too to discuss faith in God and understanding what it really means to be a Christian.
- The Chaplain continues to liaise with Junior and Senior RE curriculum teachers so we don't overlap or so that we complement each other with themes kids having in class and church.
- From April 1-7 the School had four services covering the days of Easter (School broke up for holidays on the eve of Holy Week). We did Palm Sunday with Juniors and Seniors separately as it was the Friday before group limits increased to 200. Maundy Thursday Foot washing/Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter Day were done as whole school services as the limited was raised to 200. This was the first time we have been together in the church all together for a long time and was really special. The services are pretty short trying to fit everyone in and engage children fully for the whole service, but I and the RE teachers had been covering these days in chapel and class as well, which helped.
- Year 8 school Friday Mass servers have done their out of Mass training and now are learning "on the job" in Junior and Senior Masses. Two teams of five, which is encouraging. The majority are taking it very seriously, which is hopeful and helpful.

- We have two school servers from last year who have asked to come back and serve on Sundays, which is wonderfully encouraging and have interest from current school pupils to join us on Sundays too.
- School service on Friday afternoon has been adapted. Now the pattern is a Junior service, Senior service, Junior Mass, Senior Mass – sorts out number restrictions (when they apply) and also is much, much better for talking to and teaching the children when their development level can more closely align with what is being said (that is, simpler for the Juniors, which would bore the Seniors). Is working well and going by the sound of rustling in the pews seems to be working too! The little ones, benefit especially, as they now have a better grasp of what is happening in the Mass.
- I think these are really great developments in the chaplain's role and am very happy with the relationships being developed in this role.

A huge thank you to all who make this ministry not only possible, but a joy.

In peace,  
Mother Meg Harvey