

Warlawurru, the eagle, is the totem of the Jaru people, the custodians of the land on which the school is built. God's Spirit caring for his people is seen as parallel to the eagle gently hovering over its young.



EVANGELISATION PLAN 2016 - 2018 Warlawurru Catholic School Red Hill

# Helping Students Develop as Whole Persons

## What is Evangelisation?

Evangelisation is everything we do that introduces, promotes, develops and gives witness to faith. To evangelise is to be willing to share the Good News about God with others. Evangelisation is about taking the risk to care for all people, inviting them to share in a Christian community in which they come to know God more fully and in which they form a deeper relationship with God so God becomes central in their lives.

Evangelisation 'cannot attain its full meaning and vitality unless it issues in witness, stirs wonder and leads to conversion. Modern people listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses' [15,21,41, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 1975]

Evangelisation is an activity of faith, built upon the power of the message. It achieves its purpose gradually, for people need to accept the message for it to have its full effect. Evangelisation is any deliberate activity or action by which we cooperate with the self-revealing God. It involves sharing, risking and achieving.

The Church's mission, received from Jesus Christ through the apostles is to proclaim the Good news of Salvation to every human being.

## Catholic schools have a vital part to play in the Church's mission to the world today.

'Evangelisation is the mission of the Church.... She must proclaim the Good News of salvation to all. To carry out her saving mission, the Church uses, above all, the means Christ has given her... She establishes her own schools because she considers them as privileged means of promoting the formation of the whole person.

## Mandate Letter to the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (2009 - 2015)

For a school to be Catholic, it must first be a good school. Otherwise it will be unable to fulfil its mission. With many other education traditions, the Catholic school's concept of education will be:

'the development (of students) from within, freeing them from that conditioning which would prevent them from becoming fully integrated human beings. The school must begin from the principle that its educational program is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person' [Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977]

The Catholic school, however, differs in a fundamental way from those of other education traditions. What makes it distinctive is its vision of the 'fully integrated' human being.

The Catholic school differs from all others which limit themselves to forming men and women. Its task is to form Christian men and women and, by its witness and teaching, to show non-Christians something of the mystery of Christ, who surpasses all understanding. (Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977)

#### **Mission Statement**

As a good school, Warlawurru Catholic School strives to build an inclusive community growing together in faith. Guided by Gospel teachings we seek to empower our students so that they may be independent and walk with dignity and joy in both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures with which they interact. Following the way of Ngawi we seek to nurture Gospel values and Aboriginal Spirituality.

#### **Vision Statement**

Ngawi ngan yura, kiningi ngan yura -Because of God's Goodness, our heart is good

#### **Historical Context**

1987 saw the establishment of a Catholic School at Lunja Community, Red Hill, approximately two kilometres north of the town of Halls Creek. Jaru speaking parents wanted their children to attend a school where their language and culture would be respected and nurtured. The Cannossian Sisters who taught at the school cooperated with parents in establishing the Jaru program.

Since that time, many families have moved from the Lunja community to other residential areas in Halls Creek and new families have moved into Halls Creek.

In 1997 a review of education at Red Hill revealed that carers and parents wanted Warlawurru School to remain on its original site and to continue to offer other culturally appropriate programs.

The first four principals of the school were from religious orders. In 1997 the first lay person assumed the role of principal. In 2003 the school was again led by a religious sister when a Presentation Sister was appointed. Since 2006, a lay Principal has been in this role.

In 2013-2014 a School Community Partnership Agreement was developed to guide the school in its operations and development.

## Sign of the Times

- At the present time, there is a noticeable shift in the expectations of the parents and carers of children who attend Warlawurru Catholic School, many of whom are ex-students. This new generation of parents express the wish for their children to have similar educational opportunities as non-indigenous children and for them to develop as whole persons who 'can be independent and walk with dignity and joy in both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures with which they interact.' (School Vision Statement).
- Children who attend Warlawurru Catholic School are no longer primarily from the Lundja Community at Red Hill. Ease of transportation and a growing number of families moving away from communities to Halls Creek has seen a significant shift in the children enrolling at the school. Warlawurru Catholic School has a growing multicultural element, with children from India, Vietnam and the United States enrolled at the school.
- Actively maintaining, encouraging and valuing Jaru/Kidja cultural traditions and language is difficult due to the fact that the parents and in many cases the grandparents of the current children have lost touch with their own culture and language.
- Children at Warlawurru have similar exposure to popular culture, the internet and social media as that of their peers in regional and metropolitan centres.
- A growing number of Christian churches, combined over recent years with the lack of a Catholic Parish Priest has impacted on the faith identity of children and their families attending the school.
- Most families at the school including some previous Catholic Families have embraced Peoples Church and Bush Fire Church as their preferred place of worship.
- Dysfunction as a result of addictions impacts the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of a significant number of children.
- Elders who are now becoming frail are not being replaced with significant role models for the younger generation resulting in a loss of story and sense of place.

#### Aims of Warlawurru Catholic School

Through the Evangelisation Plan, Warlawurru Catholic School aims to foster the total development of each child within a caring and safe community that is totally committed to supporting Catholic principles and ideals within the context of Aboriginal Spirituality. We are committed to:

- ♦ fostering children's understanding of the way of Ngawi
- helping children to know Jesus so that they are able to become more like Ngawi
- providing a nurturing environment in which the dignity of each child, created by God is respected and developed.
- respecting, affirming and developing the individuality and God-given gifts of each child, staff member and school community member
- providing opportunities for all children to develop culturally within their own environment and to understand respect and embrace the cultures of others in our growing multicultural school
- working closely with the parish to help reconnect families with their Catholic faith
- verspecting, acknowledging and developing the parent's role as first educator of their child
- developing a staff community in which each person is encouraged to grow and develop in faith for the benefit of themselves, the staff, the children and the wider school community.

## **Evangelisation Plan**

The Evangelisation Plan that follows addresses three areas: staff, students and community. At its heart is the Christian vision of the human person in which Christ is the Foundation. The Church's mission received from Jesus Christ through the apostles is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation to every human being. The Evangelisation process contains a number of essential elements.

- The Christian Vision of the Human Person
- Christian Witness
- Primary Proclamation
- Catechesis.

These four essential elements of Evangelisation start in the family and Parish and find expression in the Catholic school. The Evangelisation Plan offers experiences in a Catholic school for building and nurturing of faith in our community.

#### **Christian Witness**

Our efforts to be Christ-like. It is our response to Jesus' calling to reflect our God. (Bishops Mandate para. 35—40)

Christian Witness is the behaviour that expresses one's personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man.

"This is given through actions and words that reflect a *Christ-like* presence and a *Christ-like love to others*." (Bishops Mandate p.12, para.18)

Formation of Christian Witness is ongoing and looks different for staff, students and the wider community. In Warlawurru Catholic School we plan for ongoing formation in the following way:

#### **ONGOING FORMATION - STAFF**

Being compassionate by listening and being empathetic to the needs of others.

Being aware of the isolation experienced by new staff, particularly those far from fami-

Supporting each other in times of crisis - eg cooking meals, helping prepare lessons etc

Extra-curricular social interactions - camping trips, Kimberley Moon, Trivia Nights, Bring

Showing tolerance, respect and appreciation of the uniqueness of each individual

Sharing roles and responsibility throughout the staff - asking staff to step up and provid-

Appoint staff members who witness Gospel Values

Commissioning of staff to include a commitment of service to the community at the

Affirmation of staff and acknowledgement of those who go the extra mile

Spiritual retreat at Warmun

Celebrate significant events - ie birthdays, anniversaries , births, etc.

#### **ONGOING FORMATION STUDENTS**

Encouraging students to show tolerance and acceptance of each other.

Acknowledgement of Christian Service through Merit Awards for those who show Gospel values - helpfulness, kindness, compassion, etc.

Acknowledgement of students birthdays at assembly.

Implementation of factions based on significant people in the history of the school or the Orders involved in the school

Implementation of Class of the Week which encourages students to display appropriate Christ like behaviours

Showing compassion for the needs of others:

Caritas - St Joseph's Day fundraising

Invite students to be involved in Parish masses and provide transport for those who wish to attend.

#### ONGOING FORMATION WIDER COMMUNITY

Inviting Parish Priest and Religious Sisters/Brothers to various school social events

Raising social conscience and awareness of social, religious and cultural issues in the wider community

Promoting fundraising activities through the newsletters and assemblies

Inviting families to Assemblies and providing transport where necessary

Supporting families in crisis - Sorry Time, Prison, Trauma, CPFS

Providing surplus FoodBank supplies are given to needy families

Providing clean uniforms and showers to the children of families who are struggling

## **Christian Witness**

Our efforts to be Christ-like. It is our response to Jesus' calling to reflect our God. (Bishops Mandate para. 35—40)

Future Focus				
2016 - 2018				
STAFF	STUDENTS	WIDER COMMUNITY		
Spiritual Retreat - overnight at Warmun Retreat Centre.	Peer modelling: Buddy System with the Year 4/5/6 group buddied up with the P/1/2.	Bishop invited to visit the school and to celebrate Mass for the Red Hill and wider community in 2017 to celebrate the school's 30th Anniversary.		
PLC time for planning and sharing of initiatives	Acknowledge Christian Service and values each term at Assembly	Celebrate Mass at the school each term with a community focus		
	mary class with elders from the community sharing Abo-	Work with the Parish Priest to encourage baptisms of children from traditionally Catholic families, particularly in 2017. Make links to 30th Anniversary.		
Staff to continue to model Christ like behaviour in their relationships with staff, parents and students.		Display of Student work/Art Work across from the IGA during the 'dry'for everyone to seel		

## **Primary Proclamation**

Raising religious awareness amongst community members through helping someone to arrive at an initial belief in Jesus, developing the interest and helping them to learn more about what Jesus taught through the Gospel. (Bishop's Mandate Para. 44-45)

Primary Proclamation aims to call people to accept initial personal relationships with Jesus Christ himself as their Lord and Saviour."

"Primary Proclamation calls for conversion to the person of Jesus." (Paragraph 44 Bishops' Mandate, p.25)

#### **ONGOING FORMATION STAFF**

Shared prayer at the beginning of staff meetings

Participation in the Sacraments—expectation that all staff will attend Parish Masses

Encouraging, assisting and supporting staff in the preparation of class liturgies & masses

Religious Education (RE) Professional Development at school and promotion of RE PD offered by CEO

Assist and support Sacramental celebrations

Encouraging assisting staff in completion of Accreditation and renewal

All new staff participate in Faith, Story and Witness

#### ONGOING FORMATION STUDENTS

Daily Religious Education lessons

The teaching of and participation in the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation

Regular involvement in liturgical celebrations

Explicit teaching and praying of the Angelus as mandated by the Bishop of Broome

Gathering together as a whole school at the end of each day to pray

Publish school and parish events in school newsletters

Participation in daily class prayer

Celebrate St Joseph's Day

A liturgical focus in each room

#### ONGOING FORMATION WIDER COMUNITY

Reflection/Prayer in the school newsletter

Religious News in the school Newsletter

Smoking and blessing ceremony at the beginning of each school year by community Elder.

Parents and family members invited to attend and be involved in school liturgies

Involve community in Easter and Christmas celebrations

Prayer at assemblies

School and Parish work together in partnership with the Sacramental Programs

Celebrate St Joseph's Day

#### **Future Focus**

#### **Primary Proclamation**

### **Promoting Personal Relationships with Jesus—Religious Awareness**

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Staff	Students	Wider Community	
Setting up of appropriate sacred space in each classroom. Crucifix in	A liturgical focus in each room and area in the school—	School prayer Book Mark laminated and sent home.	
every room. Use a cloth to reflect liturgical time and have candles available for special occasions	prayer table kit  Roster for keeping the sacred space holy—not to be used as	If possible have school prayer in Jaru and Standard Australian English.	
Purchase Prayer Box from Sandra Dillon.	general storage.  Involvement in class liturgies	Sacramental programme explained at enrolment interview and permission sought for home visit by parish priest .	
Encourage all staff to be involved in staff prayer and to introduce school Prayer	at the end of each unit of RE Celebrating St Joseph's Day with a liturgy	Baptism suggested for children from Catholic families who may not have gotten around to doing this particularly	
Introduce a whole staff spiritual retreat	The teaching of and the participation in the Sacraments	during 30th Anniversary.  Individual invitations to parents to come	
Faith, story and witness to be renewed	Reconciliation focus Year 3-6 School prayer—know, under-	into our classrooms  Elders asked to participate in Jaru pray-	
Introduction of House System, Jobst, Canossian, Mackillop.	stand and use the school pray- er in the class and assembly	ers Children to be taught by Elders how to	
Staff are encouraged to further develop their spiritual journey—RE PD's. Sr Alma Cabassi RSJ	Children made aware that the cross is a symbol of Jesus's unconditional love for them.	make the sign of the cross in Jaru  Elders/family commitment to sacramental programs in Year 3, 4 & 6	
At least one R.E PLC each term			

### **Future Focus**

## **Primary Proclamation**

## Promoting Personal Relationships with Jesus by celebrating key events during the liturgical year

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## **Initiatory Catechesis**

"Initiatory Catechesis in an apprenticeship in the formation of the entire Christian life joined to Christ our teacher. Initiatory catechesis deepens belief (as distinct from simply knowledge) in Christ's teachings. Initiatory catechesis is following an acceptance of Jesus Christ and striving to deeply live a Christian life. (Bishop's Mandate par.52-56 p.28)

Within the area of Initiatory Catechesis, the experiences of Jesus are entered into through the four pillars of Catholic faith:

- Creed
- Sacraments
- Commandments (Life in Christ)
- Prayer

#### **ONGOING FORMATION STAFF**

All staff working towards the appropriate Accreditation requirements

Involvement in St Mary's Parish through active participation in Mass and liturgies

Involvement of staff in school liturgies through Reading and being Special Ministers of Holy

Involvement in Religious Education studies at CEO and tertiary level

Participation in Holy Week celebrations

All staff support the Sacramental Program by attending Parish Masses for each Sacrament

#### ONGOING FORMATION STUDENTS

Daily class prayer

The preparation of the students for the reception of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirma-

Explicit teaching of the parts of the Mass and responses

Explicit teaching about the symbols of the Church and particular signs of reverence eg. Genuflection

Participation in Holy Week and Easter celebrations

Participation in regular liturgical singing

Participation in whole school Mass and encouraged to attend Parish Mass on the weekend

Whole school acknowledgement of students involved in sacramental programs

## **Initiatory Catechesis (cont.)**

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- Prayer

#### ONGOING FORMATION WIDER COMUNITY

Encouraging parents to attend sacramental celebrations by written invitation sent home with children and bus drivers

Using Missa Kimberley when masses are predominantly attended by Aboriginal parents/carers.

Inviting parents to be part of class liturgies and school masses

Participation of parents in Sacramental workshops

Inviting the community to participate in Holy Week celebrations

Inviting parents to attend assemblies and praying at the beginning of assembly

Prayer and reflection at the Community Meetings

Parent reflection as part of the Parent Information Nights

## **Initiatory Catechesis**

### **Future Focus**

## 2016 - 2018

STAFF	STUDENTS	WIDER COMUNITY
Regular weekly staff prayer and all staff are rostered in to lead the prayer. Gospel reading should be included as per the correct liturgical date and year.	All students to learn the school prayer	Using the assemblies and other means of encouraging parents to attend sacramental mass
Weekly focus all staff invited to lead prayer	Knowledge on the story of St Mary of the Cross McKillop— Australia's first Saint.	Educating community about sacrament celebrations
Supporting families and the Parish as they begin to take on the role of celebrating the Sacra- ments	Have students assigned to prayer table responsibilities (prayer leaders)	Inviting parents to read and/or take part at whole school masses. Have a mass lead by parents/community members.
Staff role model living a life like Christ, treating others the way we want to be treated, by their on-going relationship with their children	Explicit teaching about symbols of church / reverence	Sending home the letter before every Religion unit to help the parent understand what the children will be learning to reinforce these teachings at home
Promote and teach the Apostles Creed to the children	Saying prayer morning, recess, lunch and end of each day	Parents are encouraged to pray at home with their children
All staff to become familiar with The pillars of Faith; The Creed, Sacraments, The Ten Commandments and The Lord's Prayer.  All staff to learn and know the Aboriginal Our Father.	Hymn singing encouraging children to participate in whole school hymn singing as another way of praying  Teaching the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed to ensure the children have an understanding of it and its importance	Through our own modelling and relationships, assist parents to continue to grow and develop their understanding of how to behave in life like Jesus.



## Warlawurru Catholic School Prayer

## Ngawi

**Our God** 

We thank you for our school and the people in it.

We thank you for our beautiful world,

especially our home here in Halls Creek.

Keep us safe in your care

and teach us to love each other.

Help us to be proud of who we are.

Ngawi,

You are our God

Amen.

