

Celebrating our journey

FOCUS

1. Jesus is the head of the Church. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ on earth.
2. Peter and his successors represent Christ as the visible head of the Church on earth.
3. The Church has carried out Jesus' commission, even at the cost of martyrdom.
4. The beginning of the Church's journey in Australia was difficult. It was a Church mainly of Irish convicts, without priests, enduring political difficulties.
5. As the colony of NSW grew and expanded, the early Catholic communities were served by pioneering people: laity, priests and religious orders.
6. Also, great heroes emerged, such as William Davis, Caroline Chisholm, Bede Polding, Mary MacKillop.

In these lessons your child may have:

- identified that the Pope is the successor to St Peter;
- developed an awareness and understanding of the difficulties faced by the early Christian communities;
- identified the struggles and hardships faced by the Catholic community in early colonial times in Australia;
- listed significant dates and events in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia;
- developed an awareness of some of the heroes of the Catholic Church in its history in Australia.

John 21: 15-19

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs" . . . The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Acts 2: 42-47

They remained faithful to the teaching of the Apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers . . . They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

2 Corinthians 10: 15-16

Our hope is that as your faith increases, our field among you may be greatly enlarged, so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's field.

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

The following are suggested activities for you to do with your child.

1. Discuss with your child how the Pope is the leader of the worldwide Catholic Church.
2. Discuss with your child how your ancestors brought your family's faith tradition with them.
3. Go on a family excursion to the Cathedral in your diocese or Archdiocese.
4. Find out about some organisations in your parish. Discuss how you could assist or support them in their work.
5. Encourage your child to research some of the heroes of the Catholic Church in Australia.
6. Assist your child to complete the activity page.
7. More activities can be found at www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au Click on **Home Activities**.

TO REMEMBER:

The Catholic Church in Australia has a very special story.

The Catholic Church in Australia

 _____ first Catholics arrived as  _____ on the  _____ in 1788. They were treated very harshly by the government of the time. There were no  _____ and no one was allowed to gather for Mass. To keep their faith going people met for prayer in private  _____.

Australia's first officially recognised priest was Fr John Therry who arrived in 1820. This was followed in 1835 with the arrival of John Bede Polding, who was the first  _____.

The Catholic community survived the hardships largely due to the arrival of priests,  _____ and  _____ from overseas who started  _____ and hospitals.

Not all congregations were from overseas. In 1866 St  _____ and Fr Julian Tennison Woods established The Sisters of St  _____.

The Church grew quickly in the 20th century with the arrival of Catholics from around the  _____. Today there are over 5 million Catholics living in Australia.



O God most powerful and gentle, you love this southern land and all its peoples, old and new. As the Cross shines in our heavens so may Christ bring light to our nation. Amen.