CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2011

April 29—May 6

Faith … Learning … Growth
A frequently asked question by parents considering a school for their child is “What makes a Catholic school different from any other type?”

The answer can be found in this year’s Catholic Education Week theme: Building on Firm Foundations. The foundation of a Catholic school is Jesus Christ.

While each of our 41 Catholic schools has its own identity, we all share the same overarching goal: the promotion of the human person.

The student is the centre of all our endeavours in the school, recognising that it is in the person of Christ that the fullness of truth concerning humanity is to be found.

The tagline of the Catholic Education Office in the Diocese of Sale ‘Faith … Learning … Growth’ reflects the three fundamental core purposes of all staff working in Catholic schools.

Faith is about bringing every student to a knowledge and love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and mediated to us through the Catholic Church. Learning is about enabling every student to learn so that he or she can lead a fulfilling life and contribute positively to the development of a healthy and just society. And growth is about enabling every student to thrive in an environment that enhances his or her social and emotional growth.

Happy Catholic Education Week!
Regards

Peter Ryan
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF SALE
Background

Purpose: the goal of Catholic Education Week is to communicate and celebrate the distinctive mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Sale. It is an opportunity to celebrate and promote not only the great work being done in our schools but also our ethos.

Theme

Each year a theme is chosen to highlight an aspect of Catholic education. In 2011, the theme is ‘Building on Firm Foundations.’

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid: that foundation is Jesus Christ.

(1 Cor 3:10-11)

The theme was chosen in recognition of the Catholic school’s mission to further the work of Jesus Christ. It also reminds us that our schools work in partnership with families, building on the learning and relationships that develop in a child’s first years of life.

Timing

Our diocese will celebrate Catholic Education Week between Friday 29 April and Friday 6 May.

As there is already some confusion in the general community regarding the timing of Catholic Education Week (the Archdiocese of Melbourne celebrates it in March each year), we strongly discourage clusters or individual schools from rescheduling the week to suit their own needs.

We would like parents right across the diocese to be able to visit Catholic schools during Catholic Education Week, even if you hold Open Days at other times throughout the year.

Audiences

The audience for the week encompasses all those who are part of Catholic school communities as well as those in broader community and political life. It includes:

- Staff
- Students
- Parents, grandparents and family friends
- Parishioners
- Clergy and bishops
- Local, State and Federal politicians
- Feeder school students
- Prospective students and families
- Media
- Catechists / Catholic students in State schools
- Wider community / general public

Key activities

- Leadership Dinner
  Friday 29 April in Traralgon

- Diocesan Students’ Mass
  Thursday 28 April at St Mary’s Cathedral

- Spirit of Catholic Education Awards
  Nominations closed Friday 25 March
Here is a range of celebratory and promotional activities that could be used during Catholic Education Week to highlight the values of Catholic education and showcase the great things happening in Catholic schools.

**School / community liturgy**
This is a great opportunity to extend invitations to all members of the school, parish and local community.

**Shopping centre display / performance**
These may be static (student work, photos and uniforms attached to a pinboard) or active (featuring a dance, choir, instrumental or debating performance).

**Exchange visits between schools**
Secondary schools may invite Grade 6 students from feeder schools to participate in an afternoon of science or sport activities.

**Fundraising effort**
Even if you already contribute to various charities throughout the year, Catholic Education Week is an excellent week in which to focus your fundraising efforts or introduce a new fundraiser.

**Educational activities / workshops / courses**
Consider tapping into your staff or parent skill base and offering a free workshop or course to the public. If your budget permits, you may also employ a guest presenter on a topic of wide community interest (e.g. parenting teenagers or social networking).

**Open libraries**
Schools may invite parents and parishioners to tour the library and explore books and CD-Roms with students.

**Guest lecturers / speakers**
Prominent or interesting past students or staff may be invited back to present a lecture for parents or speak to students.

**Slideshow or home page**
Place the theme of Catholic Education Week to appear for a few seconds on the school’s homepage and/or on the school computer system screen saver.

**Community service**
If your students’ main form of community service to date has been contributing to fundraisers, consider organising something a little more hands on. Could one of your classes visit an aged care facility to perform songs and interact with the residents? Could students read to children at the local kinder or childcare centre, or people with vision impairment? Could students assist with some garden maintenance at a local community facility? Could students make and deliver gifts for children in hospital?
Below are some key messages that might be useful to include as part of your school newsletter articles about Catholic Education Week 2011.

Our school, along with other Catholic schools in the Dioceses of Sale, Sandhurst and Ballarat, will celebrate Catholic Education Week from Friday 29 April—Friday 6 May.

The theme for this year’s celebrations is Building on Firm Foundations.

> According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid: that foundation is Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 3:10-11)

As a Catholic community, we build daily on the firm foundation of Christ in the way we respect others, the environment and ourselves.

Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools to celebrate our distinctive mission and share things that are special about our schools and ethos with families, parish and the wider community.

Student representatives from our school will attend the Diocesan Students’ Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral, Sale, on Thursday 28 April, while members of our staff will be part of the Leadership Mass and Dinner held in Traralgon that evening.

Our school will also hold a number of activities including … [list activities].
Media releases are a professional, proactive way of getting your message across to journalists and increasing the likelihood they will choose to cover your story. They can be written and submitted before an event (inviting journalists to attend) or after an event (as a ready-to-publish article supplied with the best photo from the event).

**Possible topics**
- Activities your school is participating in or undertaking to celebrate Catholic Education Week.
- Activities that provide active and colourful photo opportunities.
- Nomination of any of your staff members for a Spirit of Catholic Education Award.

**The top of the page**
- Type your media release on school letterhead and head the page ‘Media Release.’
- Include a headline that is short, catchy and preferably mentions your school’s name.

**First (lead) paragraph**
- Must include the Who, What, When and Where

**Following (supporting) paragraphs**
- Explain the How and the Why

- Include quotes by key personnel (Principal, Subject Coordinator, parent or student representative)
- Include contact details for the relevant person at your school

**Sample text**

(Open Day—before the event)

*Name of School in Suburb / Town* will hold three Open Mornings next week to celebrate Catholic Education Week in the Diocese of Sale.

Current and prospective families, as well as members of the wider community, are invited to visit *Name of School* between 9:00am and 11:00am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Open Mornings will include a welcome address by Principal *Name of Principal*, school tours and a morning tea prepared by Senior students.

“Quote along the lines of how excited the school community is about the event,” said *Name of School Principal Name of Principal.*
Students from Name of School in Suburb / Town will be among more than two hundred students gathering at St Mary’s Cathedral in Sale on Thursday 28 April to celebrate the launch of Catholic Education Week.

The Mass will draw representatives from the 34 Catholic primary schools and 7 Catholic secondary colleges in the Diocese of Sale. Many students will travel between two and three hours to attend this special Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of Sale, Most Rev. Christopher Prowse.

“Quote along the lines of the wonderful opportunity it is for students,” said Name of School Principal Name of Principal.

The Mass will feature the Lavalla Catholic College choir, a procession of students carrying their school banners and extensive student involvement in the readings and offertory procession.

This theme of Catholic Education Week, which runs from Friday April 29 until Friday 6 May, is ‘Building on Firm Foundations.’

Students from Name of School in Suburb / Town were among more than two hundred students who gathered at St Mary’s Cathedral in Sale today to celebrate the launch of Catholic Education Week.

The Mass drew representatives from the 34 Catholic primary schools and 7 Catholic secondary colleges in the Diocese of Sale. Many students travelled between two and three hours to attend this special Mass, celebrated by the Bishop of Sale, Most Rev. Christopher Prowse.

“Quote along the lines of how well the Mass went,” said Name of School Principal Name of Principal.

The Mass featured the Lavalla Catholic College Choir, a procession of students carrying their school banners and extensive student involvement in the readings and offertory procession.

The theme of Catholic Education Week, which officially commences tomorrow and concludes on Friday 6 May, is ‘Building on Firm Foundations.’
Welcome Introduction (Principal or School leader)
Leader: Welcome to all members of our school community who have come together to celebrate Catholic Education Week 2011. This year’s theme is ‘Building on Firm Foundations.’ Today we especially honour our Catholic heritage, humble beginnings and hopeful future.

Gathering Song
Suggestions:
- Gather Us In (Haugen, 1982 on As One Voice)
- We Welcome You to This Place (Burland, 2001 on One Family)
- In the Footsteps of Jesus (Chinn, 2007 on Many Roads, One Journey)
- One Family (Burland, 2001 on One Family)

Call to Prayer
Leader: As we begin, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia.

Opening Prayer
Loving Father,
You have given us a firm foundation to build on, the foundation of Jesus Christ. Help us to cherish the gift of Jesus and help us to use His life and love as an inspiration to build a strong future for both ourselves and others,
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Procession of the Word
(The Word can be carried ceremoniously to a place of proclamation. It could be accompanied by either instrumental music or appropriate acclamation.)

Song Suggestions:
- ‘Halle, Halle, Halle’ ©1990 Caribbean Tradition (As One Voice for Kids)
- ‘Celtic Alleluia’ ©1985 Fintan O’Carroll & Christopher Walker (As One Voice)
- ‘Hallelujah! Praise Ye Lord’ ©Traditional (As One Voice)

READINGS

Reader: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 3:10-11). According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.
This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 7:24-27)

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

OR

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 7:24-29 from the Dramatised Bible)

Jesus' parable of the two house builders

Voice 1: Anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock.

Voice 2: The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed, and the wind blew hard against the house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

Voice 1: But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

Voice 2: The rain poured down, the rivers overflowed, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!

Narrator: When Jesus finished saying these things, the crowd was amazed at the way he taught. He wasn’t like the teachers of the Law; instead, he taught with authority.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Pause for a moment of silent reflection)
After the reading, the leader relates the meaning of the Scripture passage to the lives of the students and teachers today.

Reflection Song
- Will You Love Me (Boniwell, 1981)
- Follow Me (Rice, 1999 on These Hands by Chinn)
- Nurturing Disciples (Chinn, 2000 on These Hands)

Prayers of Intercession
Leader: Confident of God’s mercy and generosity, we pray:

Reader 1: For Pope Benedict, Bishop Prowse and all the priests and deacons of our diocese and all who lead and serve the church in the world, in Australia and in our local community, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Reader 2: For Catholic education in Australia and across our diocese, both urban and remote. May we strive to provide education for all in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we pray to the Lord

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: For our own school communities. May we build a future in faith and learning together, we pray to the Lord

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: For those in the world, especially children, for whom the future is uncertain, we pray to the Lord

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord God, you have given us all that we are and all that we have, continue to bless us with your gifts and hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Lord’s Prayer
All pray the Our Father together.
Closing Prayer
Our awesome God, You are with us always. 
Bless us as we strive to love and serve You through all we do. 
Keep us focused and faithful. 
Help us make a positive difference in our world as we build on the firm foundations of Jesus. 
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen

Blessing
Leader: May God the Creator bless you as you journey forth. 
All: Amen

Leader: May Jesus the Saviour be at your side through all times and seasons. 
All: Amen

Leader: May we reach out and serve as we follow in the footsteps of those who have paved the way for us. 
All: Amen

Leader: May the Holy Spirit watch over us now and always. 
All: Amen

Sending forth
Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. 
All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Song
Suggestions: 
♦ Anthem Towards Tomorrow (Burland, 2005 on Lord Teach Me Your Ways) 
♦ Rise Up (Mitchell, 2006 on Ordinary People) 
♦ Tell the Good News (Chinn, 2004 on Wherever I Go) 
♦ People of God (Chinn, 2002 on This Day) 
♦ Journeying Together in Hope (Mitchell, 2004 on Journeying Together in Hope)
Matthew 16:13-20
Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

OR

Matthew 16:13-20, from the Dramatised Bible

Peter’s Declaration about Jesus

**Narrator:** Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples:

**Jesus:** Who do people say the son of man is?

**Narrator:** They answered:

**Disciple 1:** Some say John the Baptist

**Disciple 2:** Others say Elijah.

**Disciple 3:** Others say Jeremiah or some other prophet.

**Jesus:** What about you? Who do you say I am?

**Narrator:** Simon Peter answered:

**Peter:** You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Jesus: Good for you, Simon son of John! For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

Narrator: Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Luke 6:46-50
The Two Foundations
“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.”

Luke 9:18-20
Peter’s Declaration about Jesus
Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” They answered, “John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Messiah of God.”

Isaiah 58:11-12
The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Hebrews 11:8-10
The Faith of Abraham
By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
Prayers

Prayer is a very powerful tool in developing the understanding of a prayer life for the Christian. “If we remain attentive to the truth of the mysteries that our Lord teaches us in prayer, how happy we will be.” (St Francis de Sales)

The Mission of My Life by John Henry Cardinal Newman

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about.

General intercessions

Jesus built his Church, the people of God, on a solid foundation and that solid foundation is faith. Let us pray to God our rock who always hears our prayers.

That all people will hear your call:
God our rock, hear us.
That we will be strong in our faith:
God our rock, hear us.
That we will share the good news of Jesus:
God our rock, hear us.
That we will lead by word and example:
God our rock, hear us.
That we will be open to your call:
God our rock, hear us.
That we will give thanks for those who have gone before us:
God our rock, hear us.
Learning activities

Here are some learning activities organised around the different levels of Bloom’s taxonomy. Over the course of the week, students could complete one activity from each of the levels.

Knowledge
- Make a timeline about the history of your school / your parish / the Catholic Church in Australia.
- Identify important symbols and features that are important to the history of your school.
- Create a word find about the Catholic Church in Australia using names, events and places.
- Write an acrostic poem about Jesus or your school / parish.

Comprehension
- Compose a poem / rap / song about Jesus / your parish or school.
- Identify the key characters in—and their contribution to—the history of the Church in Australia.
- Produce a script to interview a past student about his / her time at school.
- Create a cartoon strip showing the history of your school / parish.
- Prepare a flow chart showing the key events in the life of Jesus.

Application
- Write a book about the history of your school / the message of Jesus.
- Construct a Photo Walk about the history of your school.
- Construct a display showing the history of your school.

Analysis
- Write a biography of a person who is important in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia.
- Compare your school of today with the school of the past. How has it changed?
- Design a questionnaire to gather information about how the Church has changed over the life of your grandparents.
- Write a commercial to ‘sell’ the mission of Jesus.

Synthesis
- Design a web page about the history of the Church in Australia.
- Compose a song using the values of the Beatitudes.
- Write an imaginary conversation between yourself and a past pupil of the school.
- Write about your feelings in relation to your school.

Evaluation
- Assess how your school / class lives out the teachings of Jesus.
- Debate the topic ‘The Government should pay for Catholic Education.’
- Make a list of criteria you feel are needed in order for a school to be called Catholic.
Learning activities

For classes already familiar with Edward deBono’s Six Thinking Hats, here are some activities based on the reading Mt 7:24-27.

**White Hat: Information**
What information or message was Jesus trying to portray in this text?

**Red Hat: Feelings**
If you were a person in the crowd when Jesus was talking how would you have felt? How would you have felt if you were a Pharisee or Scribe listening to Jesus at this time?

**Yellow Hat: Positive aspects**
What was the positive message Jesus wanted the crowd to understand?

**Black Hats: Concerns**
What concerns would there have been for the people in the crowd?

**Green Hat: Creative**
What other examples could Jesus have given to the crowd to convey a similar message?

**Blue Hat: The Big Picture**
What are the implications this text has for us in our lives today?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verbal-Linguistic</th>
<th>Logical-Mathematical</th>
<th>Visual-Spatial</th>
<th>Bodily-Kinaesthetic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Write an acrostic poem for ‘Building on Firm Foundations.’</td>
<td>Create a flowchart of events in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia.</td>
<td>Create a mural of your parish Church or how you would like it to look in the future.</td>
<td>Perform a ‘Curtains Up Curtains Down’ based on the progress of the Church in Australia or your parish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write a speech or quiz about the history of your parish, the Church in Australia or a prominent Australian Catholic in the early years.</td>
<td>Research a prominent Australian Catholic in the early years.</td>
<td>Create a map depicting the different dioceses in Australia.</td>
<td>Perform a play about being called to follow Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct a Hot Seat activity at assembly about the history of your parish.</td>
<td>Create a timeline of different Popes, showing the contribution they made to the Catholic Church.</td>
<td>Create a Photo Walk showing the history of your school.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical-Rhythmic</td>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Intrapersonal</td>
<td>Naturalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a song / rap about your parish / the Church.</td>
<td>Interview your Parish Priest about the history of your Church. Interview class mates about how they can continue to work for the good of people in the parish.</td>
<td>Write a personal journal of how you are going to assist and raise awareness for the future of the Church.</td>
<td>Investigate your surroundings, school / home / community / world. Design a practical action plan to create hope for an improved environment for the future schools and churches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a song using the Beatitudes. Include a chorus so that everyone can sing along.</td>
<td>Explain and present to a younger class the history of the Church in Australia.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning activities

Here is a wide range of activities that can be adapted to suit various age groups.

Religious Education focus

- Identify the passages from Scripture that animate the life of your school. Explain how these passages influence the life of your school.


- Bring from home three items that reflect the kind of foundation you would like to lay for yourself in life. These items must reflect spiritual qualities or values. Explain their significance.

- Prepare a role play in which Jesus calls you. What is your reaction? What decisions must you make? How does Jesus call people today? What holds people back from following Jesus today?

- Using the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), choose 5-6 verses that are important in living out the values of Jesus. Set these verses to music.

- Create a treasure box that you would like to pass onto your grandchildren. Inside the box, place symbols about the values that you think are important in living out the teachings of Jesus.

- Take the words of the Beatitudes and examine what they mean for the 21st century Christian.

- Explore the initiatives taken by one religious order in the diocese in the area of public morality. What did they do? How does the work of these organisations build on the foundations laid by Jesus?

- Imagine Jesus is a visitor to you school. Describe how Jesus would see his mission being lived out in your school.

History focus

- Create a display in your office foyer showing examples of old textbooks, readers, work examples etc.

- Research the history of your parish Church. Who was it named after? When was it built? Who was the first leader of your church? What different groups have existed in your Parish?

- Research the history of the founding order of your school. When did they come to Australia? When did they establish your school? How is the charism of the founding order lived out in the school today?

- Research the history of the Catholic Church in Australia. Create a timeline showing the events and people of the different periods in its history.
Learning activities

- Research the history of the Catholic missions in Australia. Why did they come to Australia? What was the main focus of their early missionary work? Where was most of their missionary work done? What else did missionaries bring to mission stations besides religion?

- Interview some Catholic people who lived in the 1950s and 1960s. How has the church changed over time? What impact did Vatican II have on the Church in Australia?

- Interview parishioners about their experiences of parish life in the past and compare with experiences today.

- During the second half of the twentieth century, the composition of the Australian Catholic Church changed dramatically. Identify ways in which the Australian Catholic Church changed.

- Research the role played by one religious order in the Diocese of Sale e.g. schools, social welfare?

- Research the life of different Popes and the role they played in building on the foundations of the Church.

- Tell the story of your school by dividing the history of your school into different eras and researching the people, buildings erected, teachers and pupils connected to that era.

- Design an interview for a prominent figure in the history of the Church in Australia. Perform these for the rest of the class.

- Identify important memorabilia, key features and religious symbols that are part of the fabric of your school’s history.

Literacy focus

- Using the website www.catholic.org.au, research your diocese. What is the name of it? Who is the Bishop? Go to the ‘Organisations’ listed on the site and choose three. Write a brief explanation about the work they do. How does the work of these organisations build on the foundations laid by Jesus?

- Use photos from parish events of the past. Describe what you see. What do you notice first? What people and objects are shown? How are they arranged? What is the physical setting? What—if any—words do you see? What other details can you see?

- Choose a photo from a parish event of the past. Write a caption for the image. Predict what will happen one minute after the scene shown in the image. One hour after? Explain the reasoning behind your predictions.

- Create a personal profile of Jesus. Include these sections: Personal information; Guiding values/mission; The impact of Jesus’ mission on your school.

- Complete a character map / analysis / profile of a prominent figure in the history of the Church in Australia. Some suggestions are:
  - Father Jeremiah Flynn
  - Father Therry
  - Caroline Chisholm
  - St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
  - Archbishop Bede Polding
  - Archbishop Roger Vaughan
  - Dr Daniel Mannix
Learning activities

Numeracy focus

- Many Church communities had regular social games nights. Learn how to play ‘Beetle’ and hold a beetle drive in the classroom.
- Create a timeline to show important events for the Diocese of Sale or your local Parish church.
- Use the inspiration of stained glass windows in many churches / local church to examine and locate variety of shapes.
- Use pattern blocks or other shapes to create the basis of a picture related to the Church or Bible stories.

Community focus

- Celebrate the Sunday liturgy in the parish (at the beginning or conclusion of Catholic Education Week) with greater than usual student involvement.
- Celebrate the achievements of the members of your school community. Hand out special academic or social awards during the week, or celebrate a community member’s achievements.
- Hold a simple ceremony of appreciation. After assembly or at the end of lunch time present certificates of appreciation to staff that assist you in school.
- Invite guest speaker to talk about their life and what they have done to live a life that has brought joy and service for others.
- Invite parents, guardians, grandparents to a special service / event / concert that that celebrates their important place in your life during Catholic Education Week.
- Interview a past pupil of your school. Ask him or her to explore his or her memories of the school, what stood out during his or her time at school and what was distinctive about the school.
- Honour members of the local community who are supportive of the school by sending them a special letter of thanks.
- Consider setting up links between your local primary and secondary school so that senior pupils can engage in a faith friends program.
- Organise an event that involves you interacting with a community group. Secondary schools may want to highlight their own faith groups during that week such as Remar and/or CSYMA.
- Invite local officials to address the school assembly or year group about the connections between the school, education and public service.

Art focus

- Create a mural linking the teachings of Jesus to what we are doing today. If possible, include your parish as well.
- Design a postage stamp commemorating a person or event that has been influential to the Catholic Church in Australia.
Learning activities

ICT focus

- Research your school motto. Create a multimedia presentation using images and key statements that explain why you think your motto was chosen and how it influences the life of your school.

Geography focus

- Study a map of the different dioceses in Australia and, specifically, Victoria. Using the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Sale website, choose the ‘Our Schools’ tab on the top of the page. This will show a map of all the schools in the Diocese of Sale. Move the cursor over a town and it will list the names of the schools in that town. If you click on the school it will then take you to the specific school. Investigate some schools in the diocese other than your own.

Health / PE focus

- Examine healthy life choices that enable humans to live life fully: that is, body, mind and spirit. This could include healthy eating lessons, a multi-cultural food festival, an avoiding addiction seminar, fun exercise, aerobics, a nature walk, brain gym activities, self esteem and assertiveness training, managing stress or friendship skill workshops, meditation, spiritual harmony, mentoring etc.

Music focus

- Organise a celebration of song that captures the energy, enthusiasm and joy of life.

Career focus

- Hold a careers display that showcases how the talents and expertise of pupils has contributed to the development and enrichment of the local and global community. Use this opportunity to raise awareness with students about non-traditional career opportunities.

- Compose and perform ballad / song / rap in honour of a notable Australia Catholic.
Showcasing student work

Creating products for a real audience gives an authenticity to student learning that cannot be rivalled. Here are some suggestions.

Working in groups, students can:

- Create a historical display for your church or local community centre showing the work of your school over the years.
- Decorate the foyer or main entrance of your school in a way that indicates that Catholic Education Week is being celebrated.
- Create some quiet space in the school for students, teachers and community members during the week for prayer or reflection.
- Conduct a historical investigation of the development of your school or the patron saint of your school along the lines of the TV program ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ Hold a special viewing evening or morning to which parents, parishioners and community members are invited.
- Design a poster advertising Catholic Education Week and display these around the school.
- Write to parents explaining what they love about their Catholic school. The best responses can be published in the school newsletter.
- Browse the different sections of the school website and Catholic Education Office website www.ceosale.catholic.edu.au and write an advertisement or review for each. Publish the best ones in the school newsletter, including both website addresses.
- Study the structure of a media release and write one about how their school is celebrating Catholic Education Week. Publish the best one/s in the school newsletter.

Teachers can:

- Investigate and organise locations to display student work (local shopping centre, community centre and church).
- Submit the best examples of student work to the Catholic Education Office to be displayed or included in a news story for the website.
## Echo mime

This echo mime is a good way to involve younger students or bodily-kinaesthetic learners who need something shorter than the Foundation Rap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Everyone</th>
<th>spread hands and motion to all in the room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who hears my words</td>
<td>cup hand around ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And acts on them</td>
<td>a determined, walking / marching movement with arms swinging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will be like a wise man</td>
<td>head tilted to side, hand to chin, nodding wisely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who built his house</td>
<td>make shape of house with hands pointed like a roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On rock</td>
<td>beat left fist on top of right fist then right fist on top of left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And everyone</td>
<td>spread hands and motion to all in the room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who hears my words</td>
<td>cup hand around ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And does not act on them</td>
<td>stand still with arms folded under armpits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will be like a foolish man</td>
<td>make a silly face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who built his house</td>
<td>make shape of house with hands pointed like a roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On sand</td>
<td>raise two hands imitate sprinkling of fine sand from fingertips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rain fell</td>
<td>wiggle fingers and lower arms from above head height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The floods came</td>
<td>palms up raising hands slowly to above head height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The winds blew</td>
<td>make blowing action with puffed out cheeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And beat against the house</td>
<td>beating action using both hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And it fell</td>
<td>pointed roof shape made with both hands collapsing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And great was its fall!</td>
<td>whole body crumpling down to the floor and folding up into a ball</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Raps or chants are a great learning tool to help students understand material that is difficult or impossible to experience firsthand. Secondary students may be able to write their own rap about ‘Building on Firm Foundations’ while primary students may find it challenging enough to perform the rap below, written by Alice Youlden.

You’ve heard of the importance of firm foundations;  
It’s the basis of structures giving stabilization.  
It’s the grounding or the footings on which to build  
So each storey and layer will not be spilled.

The Christian story has a history that’s oh so long  
With Jesus as the basis which makes it so strong.  
Through him it stretches back into earlier times  
To the Hebrews love of God from which it climbs.

From Jerusalem to Ephesus and even on to Rome  
It spread throughout the world from one man it had grown.  
He called upon the twelve to help him spread the word  
And here are their names of which you may have heard.  
Peter, Andrew, James and John  
Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew and Thom(as)  
Simon and James, well that’s a couple more,  
With Jude and Judas Iscariot rounding off the score.

And so from firm foundations the story just grew  
Not just across the world but through time and history too.  
As each layer brick by brick was built by people oh so strong  
With their deeds and with their words they have taught us right from wrong.

The sacred land of ancient peoples we call Australia today  
Was where European settlement gradually found its way.  
From early convict days we have people who inspire  
Such as Irish Catholic convicts who kept the flame of faith afire.

From humble, harsh beginnings firm foundations were put down  
By many people in the outback, in the valleys and the rough and shanty towns.  
They are an inspiration in the way they lived their faith,  
In their love of God and others, Jesus’ mission it was safe.
Foundation rap

From convict times when Irish Catholics kept the flame of faith alive
In the face of opposition from the government they did strive.
Those like Caroline Chisholm who lived out our faith tradition
Helped the poor and suffering. That was her mission.

Father Therry who loved music built the cathedral of St Mary’s
Whilst travelling to far places even though it was quite scary.
Bishop John Bede Polding, the first Bishop in this land,
Invited religious orders to give him a helping hand.

There were sisters of Charity, St Joseph and Good Sams
As well as Christian brothers to help educate a man.
Although it was a struggle for Catholic schools to exist
There were many such as Mary M who were hard to resist.

We tip our hats to all of those who strengthened this foundation
As it spread across this sunburnt land carried on by each generation.
To Gippsland towns, to Tarraville, to mines and by the sea
A land so rich and fertile that’s the Sale Diocese.

And just the same as in other spots we have a history of great people
There’s Dan Ahern, Father McAlroy and lots of pioneers.
Bishop Corbett and the Brigies, the Joeys and Sion nuns
The Marist men and many more whose dedication just stuns.

To all who built on Jesus’ love and mission from the Father
We realise your selflessness and love of God and other.
For us today in looking back we see our future true
To be God’s Church for all to see, to be a light anew.
Websites to explore

Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Sale: www.ceosale.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Diocese of Sale: www.sale.catholic.org.au

Catholic Mission: www.catholicmission.org.au

Catholic Church in Australia: www.catholic.org.au

Catholic Religious Australia: www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org

Catholic Vocations: www.cam.org.au/vocations

The Church in Australia: The Catholic Tradition: http://yuri.netii.net/ecc/mod8.html

Caroline Chisholm: http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A010208b.htm

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop: www.marymackillop.org.au

St Vincent de Paul Society: www.vinnies.org.au/home-vic

With so many other things on the school calendar, it is easy for Catholic Education Week to become ‘lost in the crowd’. Here is a checklist to help you ensure the celebration gets the attention it deserves.

Have you:

- Planned at least one whole-school event to be celebrated during Catholic Education Week, preferably one that involves people beyond the school community?
- Promoted this event through the school newsletter, parish newsletter, school website or local media (as appropriate)?
- Encouraged your Religious Education Coordinator to organise a school liturgy (or Mass) based on the one provided in this booklet?
- Encouraged classroom teachers to select appropriate activities from the suggestions provided in this booklet?
- Organised for a staff member to take photos of your Catholic Education Week activities?
- Prepared and submitted a media release about your main event?
- Displayed the enclosed Catholic Education Week posters around your schools?

Towards the end of Catholic Education Week

Have you:

- Prepared and submitted (along with a photo) a media release about your main event?
- Sent a copy of this to Kirsty Pitman kpitman@ceosale.catholic.edu.au so it can be included as a news story on the Catholic Education Office website as well?