

Crossways Curriculum: Enduring Understandings Overview (P-12)

Through their learning in RE, students develop the following Enduring Understandings that are informed and offered by the Catholic Tradition:

Strand	Sub-Strand	P-R	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
God, Us and Faith	God: Father, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit <i>God revealing love to the world</i>	God fills the world with love.	God is the loving creator of the world and all that there is.	God reveals who God is in many ways.	Jesus taught about love in word and action.	Jesus of Nazareth proclaimed the Reign of God with his challenging words and actions.	The way Jesus loves, reveals God who is Love.	God's incarnation in Jesus reveals the depths of God's love and relationship with creation.
		God's love can be experienced through caring relationships. Jesus is God's Son and his birth is celebrated at Christmas. Jesus was part of a loving family.	There are many images and names for God. Jesus was born into a Jewish family over 2000 years ago. Jesus is God's Son and he is given many titles. Jesus showed people how to love God and love everyone. The Holy Spirit is God's constant presence with people and all the world.	God has continued a faithful relationship with people throughout human history. God is revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Spirit enables people to live good and loving lives.	Jesus is the Son of God, the chosen one whom God promised. The Holy Spirit, who was sent to the disciples by God, continues to inspire and help people today. Christians believe in one God who is a Trinity of love.	Christians understand Jesus as human and divine. The Trinity is a communion of Love.	The Resurrection of Jesus is a revelation of God's love. The Holy Spirit is God's love experienced personally and in everyday life.	Language about God can both enable and limit our capacity to know and talk about God. God's essential nature is relationship, and this is revealed as love in the Trinity. God does not desire or cause suffering.
Human Experience and Faith	Human Experience and Faith <i>being human in relationship</i>	God will always love me as I am.	Everyone is unique and special to God.	People are made in the image and likeness of God.	Through God's grace, people are inspired and helped to live a life of goodness. Created in the image of God, humans are known personally by God and their bodies are considered sacred and beautiful.	God is inclusive and loves all people unconditionally. God is constantly calling people into a personal relationship with God and others.	Each person is an unrepeatable creation of God, full of dignity and called to love. Relationships suffer when sin is present.	Humans are graced by God to lead lives of faith, hope and love. Life does not end with death.
		People can have a relationship with God.				Humans are free to choose to live authentically with God, others and creation. Christianity is a religion of hope as it believes that there is life beyond death.	Faith is the human response to God who reaches out in relationship. Human knowledge (sciences/arts) and religious faith can mutually enrich each other.	
Sacred Texts	Scripture <i>finding the Word of God in the Bible</i>	The Bible is a holy book.	The Bible is the main sacred text for Christians.	The Bible is a sacred book of books.	The four Gospels are central to Christian faith because they communicate the 'Good News' of Jesus. Scripture is interpreted in order to discover what God is communicating through these sacred texts.	The Bible is the foundational sacred text for Christians and is a collection of books. Biblical texts convey religious truths.	The Bible was written over many centuries with different authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is a living text; the Christian community interprets Scripture to discover the truth of God's message.	The Bible communicates God's enduring hopes for humanity and creation. Biblical interpretation invites meaning-making for individuals and communities.
		The Bible has stories about God's love.	The four Gospels are stories about what Jesus said and did.	The Bible is a sacred text which Christians call the Word of God. There are different genres found in the writings of the Bible.	Covenant (promise) is an important theme in the Bible.	God's steadfast love and mercy is a theme flowing through the Bible.	The prophetic call to justice and right relationship is a central theme of both testaments of the Bible.	
Other Christian Texts	Other Christian Texts <i>the Church reflecting and sharing wisdom</i>	Songs about Jesus and God, help us learn, pray and celebrate.	Picture books can help people imagine the world God desires.	Religious art, literature and music offer interpretations of Christian faith.	The creeds are important writings that express what Christians believe. The Catholic Church honours its living Tradition and has various documents that shape its role in teaching about faith and morals.	Christianity has a rich tradition of spiritual writings that have come from saints and inspirational leaders. The Catholic Church honours its living Tradition and has various documents that shape its role in teaching about faith and morals.	The Catholic Church uses various modes of communication to share its message for people in every age. The creeds summarise core beliefs of Christian faith.	The writings of women have contributed to the rich spiritual wisdom of the Catholic Church. Through their writings, Christian mystics share spiritual wisdom that speaks to the human heart. The documents of the Second Vatican Council are important Church texts which offer wisdom for the Church today.
Moral Life	Moral Decision Making <i>using conscience to choose good</i>	I am learning about positive choices.	People can learn what is right and wrong. [CST: Human Dignity]	People have the ability to work out what is right and wrong.	Conscience is a person's inner guide, given by God to help them make moral decisions.	People have free will to act morally, informed by conscience.	Conscience is the innate capacity for the human person to discern, make and evaluate moral choices. Choosing 'the good' is an individual and social responsibility.	Following one's conscience leads to greater freedom.
		Jesus shows us how to be loving to everyone. [CST – Human Dignity]	Jesus taught the importance of forgiveness.	Jesus taught people to love God and love one-another.	The Ten Commandments help people make moral decisions and be in right relationship with God, self, others and creation.	Christianity provides many sources of moral wisdom.	All human life is sacred.	The moral wisdom of the Church is based on a universal moral standard called Natural Law.
		Christian sources informing about goodness, justice and reconciliation.	All people have a right to be included in community. [CST – Participation and Subsidiarity]	Fair communities look after the common good of all people. [CST – Common Good]	Christians are called to be in solidarity with the poor and those suffering in justice. [CST: Solidarity and Preferential Options for the Poor]	Human Dignity and the Common Good are foundational principles of Catholic Social Teaching. [CST: Human Dignity and the Common Good]	Christians are called to prioritise the poor and marginalised and work in solidarity for justice. [CST: Preferential Options for the Poor and Solidarity]	
Integral Ecology	Integral Ecology <i>caring for the earth, our common home</i>	Nature is God's gift for all to love and enjoy.	All people have a responsibility to care for creation.	The earth is our common home for all people and all creatures to share.	Ecological choices have the greatest impact on the poor and vulnerable.	The natural world and every living thing have intrinsic value and speak of God's creative and tender love.	Humans are called to respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.	All people are called to ecological conversion.
		Many people try to be like Jesus.	Christians are people who believe in Jesus and follow his example. Mary said yes to being the mother of Jesus.	The saints are models of Christian discipleship.	Vocation is the way God calls Christians to lead lives of service. Mary responded to her calling by living a courageous life.	Disciples today challenge themselves and others to build the Reign of God.	Mary was the first disciple. The saints continue to offer inspiration and support to being a disciple of Jesus.	Everyone is called to discern their vocation to be a leader for the Reign of God
		My school is part of a parish community.	Parishes are local Christian communities that share the message of Jesus.	The early Church began as a community of believers who came together in response to the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Bishop has a role as a 'shepherd' to the people of the Church.	As migrants and missionaries came to Australia, the Church was established with communities, schools and charities. There are many branches of Christianity which share a common faith in Jesus and have some different beliefs and practices.	The Church is the community of Christians, guided by the Holy Spirit, seeking to serve God's mission. Leadership in the Catholic Church is exercised in various ways to serve the Body of Christ.	The Schism and the Protestant Reformation changed the course of Church history. Ecumenism responds to Jesus' desire for Christians to be united in love and mission.	The Second Vatican Council re-focused the life and mission of the Church in the modern world.
Sacramentality and Sacraments	Sacramentality and Sacraments <i>encountering and celebrating the sacred</i>	Sacred symbols are special and important.	Ordinary things and everyday events can show God's presence and action in the world.	The seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church are important moments of Christian life.	Everything that exists can be seen as sacramental because each part of creation can be a sign of God's love and presence.	A sacramental way of viewing the world sees God in every-day things and events.	All reality can be a window to a deeper, divine reality (transcendence).	The sacramental nature of creation is a basis for an ecological spirituality.
			Sacraments are special celebrations in the lives of Christians. In the sacrament of Baptism, the Church community welcomes new members.	God's love and forgiveness are experienced in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens people to live Christian lives.	Sacraments are sacred actions which bring about encounters with God in people's lives. The sacraments of healing reflect Jesus' love and forgiveness.	The Church has two Sacraments that celebrate the priority of love given in service of others: the Sacrament of Marriage and the Sacrament of Holy Orders.	The Sacraments of healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick) communicate and celebrate God's unconditional love and mercy.	Through Baptism all members of the Church are called and enabled to participate in its life and mission. In the sacrament of Eucharist, Christians experience communion with God and together are called to be the 'body of Christ' for others.
		People pray to be with God.	Praying together is important for Christians.	The Mass is the central and most important way that Catholics pray together and be with God. The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the gift of Jesus in the form of the consecrated bread and wine.	Prayer is a dynamic, ongoing relationship with God, who can sometimes feel close or far away. The Gospels can help people understand the significance of prayer.	Prayer is an encounter with the mystery of God.	The search for meaning, purpose and ultimate connection in life (life's spiritual journey) is nourished by prayer. The Christian tradition is a rich source of inspiration for prayer and spirituality.	In the practice of prayer, people's relationship with God challenges them to love and serve the world. Using word, ritual and symbol, liturgy is the Church's communal prayer which sends people forth to help build the Reign of God.
Prayer and Liturgy	Prayer and Liturgy <i>expressing personal and communal relationship with God</i>	The Sign of the Cross is a prayer to God.	Jesus teaches that praying is important in life.	The Church celebrates Jesus' life, death and resurrection in the many feasts and seasons of the Liturgical Year.	Catholics and many other Christians are united as they focus on the same Bible reading on Sundays.	Christians actively recall and contemplate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus with liturgical cycles and seasons.	Participation in liturgy helps nourish and strengthen a faith community's identity and mission.	
		Easter and Christmas are two special seasons in the Church year.	The Church has liturgical seasons which reflect the life of Jesus.					