



436 Moppett Street
HAY NSW 2711
02 6993 1775
admin.hay@wf.catholic.edu.au

Term 4 Week 4— Wednesday 27th October 2021

St Mary's Scoop

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary's

One of the great things about the character strengths is that we can use the many 'teachable moments' throughout the school day to highlight different strengths with the children.



On Tuesday morning before school I was having a conversation with a young student who was upset that one of the baby chickens at school had died. Gently we talked at a child's level about feeling sad, about loss, about what happens when people and creatures die and the existence of a creator God. In short, we were exploring human spiritual nature. Each of us, child and adult alike, has a sense of spirituality. The reality is that we often go through periods in our lives when this innate sense of spirituality lays dormant within us. We need to awaken ourselves regularly to tap into our spiritual nature.

Spirituality has been defined consistently by scientists as the search for or connection with

'the sacred.' Sometimes this may relate to religion or religious practice but just as often it does not. The sacred might be experienced in the forgiveness offered by a child, or an awesome sunset on the Hay Plains, or indeed a profound experience during meditation or a religious service.

As a character strength, spirituality involves a belief that there is a dimension to life that is beyond our human understanding. Some people don't connect this belief with the concept of God and prefer to think of it in a sense of meaning rather than spirituality.

As a Catholic school are naturally motivated towards encouraging each other to explore the spiritual dimensions of our human existence. We need to be constantly asking ourselves such questions as *"Where do and when do our students and we ourselves experience Jesus or God at school?"*



I find that the Ignatian spirituality of the Jesuit tradition which in simple terms stresses that we experience God in all things that are part and parcel of everyday life to be very appealing. The nature of God's existence has been contested, challenged and defended over the centuries by many and there continue to be just as many people today who would deny the very existence of God in our world and some such as Richard Dawkins who propose quite convincingly that believers in God are simply delusional.

I came across the following little story during a prolonged session of social media trawling some time ago and its simplicity struck a chord with me:

A man went into a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said, "I don't believe that God exists!" "What makes you say that?" the customer responded. "Well you just have to go out the door here and onto the street to realise God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be neither suffering nor pain. We would have no Covid. I can't imagine that a loving God would allow this to happen." The customer thought for a moment but didn't respond as he didn't want to get into an argument. He also didn't want to get a bad haircut.



The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man on the street with long, stringy, dirty black hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and scruffy. The customer turned back and entered the barbershop again and he said to the barber. "You know what? Barbers don't exist." "How can you say that?" responded the puzzled barber, "after I've just cut your hair." "No," said the customer, "Barbers don't exist because, if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like the man outside your shop right now." "Ah," responded the barber,

"Barbers DO exist. That's what happens when people do not come to me!" "Exactly!" exclaimed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to God and ask God for help. That's why there is so much suffering and pain in the world."

Ok, well I admit that it is a fairly simplistic response to one of the big philosophical questions of our time but it makes a fair point nonetheless and provides an adequate rebuttal to those who are fond to throw that *"If there is a God, how could he allow so much suffering in the world?"* line around.

Therein lies the challenge for us as parents and teachers in a Catholic school, in the face of an often negative world of bad news stories. Quite simply we need to proclaim the message of hope and positivity and always look for opportunities to tap into and awaken each child's spiritual nature. In my experience in schools for over 40 years I have found that children are most receptive to this and love those deep conversations and the types of challenging questions that defy all rational understanding.

Wishing everyone a great week!

God Bless

Vince

Friday Lunch Deal



Pizza Singles

\$2.50



Religious Education News



Crazy Socks Day

Thursday 28th October

Gold Coin Donation

Supporting Catholic

Mission



SOCKTOBER[®]

for Mission Month

TERM 4

28/10/21	Crazy Sock Day (Gold coin Donation)
2/11/21	Reach for the Stars Program
22-26/11	Swimming Program 1.45pm to 2.45pm
26/11/21	Proposed Xmas Tree Fete (TBC)
29/11/21	First Week of Advent
3/12/21	Presentation Evening 6pm
6-12/12/21	Swimming Program 11—12
9/12/21	School Mass to Farewell Yr 6 (2pm) Yr 6 Dinner
15/12/21	Last day for students
16/12/21	Last day for Staff



Weekly Compliance Articles

School Attendance

Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnerships with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences. Schools, in providing a caring teaching and learning environment, which addresses the learning and support needs of students, including those with additional learning and support needs or complex health conditions, foster students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community.

Parents are responsible for:

- enrolling their children of compulsory school age in a government or registered non-government school or registering them with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for home schooling;
 - ensuring that their children attend school every day the school is open for their instruction;
 - explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within 7 days to the school;
- working in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school, including communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child's attendance or engagement with school.

★ Reach for the Stars ★



This week our Reach for the Stars explored The Very Hungry Caterpillar, did lots of fun play based learning and even had some special visitors . They also enjoyed time in our very productive garden.

