



OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS

# ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

## YOUTH MINISTRY PLAN

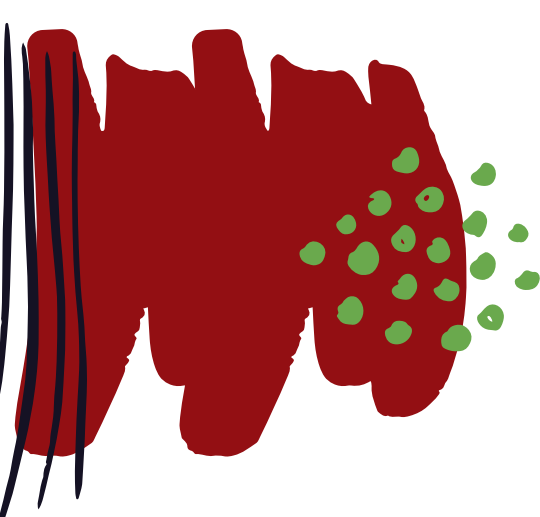
ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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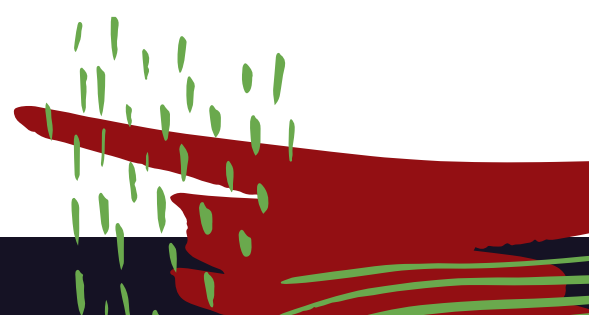
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# AUSTRALIAN CONTEXT

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

### SUMMARY

OUR HEARTS AND MINDS ARE YEARNING FOR A VISION OF LIFE WHERE LOVE  
ENDURES, WHERE GIFTS ARE SHARED,  
WHERE UNITY IS BUILT,  
WHERE FREEDOM FINDS MEANING IN TRUTH,  
AND WHERE IDENTITY IS FOUND IN RESPECTFUL COMMUNION.  
THIS IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!  
THIS IS THE HOPE HELD BY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

POPE BENEDICT XVI  
ARRIVAL, WYD SYDNEY, 2008

Youth Ministry in a Catholic setting seeks to involve youth and young adults in the life of the faith community of the Church.

The vision for Catholic Youth Ministry within the Australian Church, as expressed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in the document 'Anointed and Sent', outlines **three distinct yet complementary goals** for Youth Ministry in Australia.

1. To foster the personal and spiritual growth of each young person.
2. To draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community.
3. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

These goals are advanced in eight focus areas:

- Prayer and Worship
- Evangelisation
- Catechesis
- Pastoral Care
- Community Life
- Justice and Service
- Leadership Development
- Advocacy



# DIOCESAN CONTEXT

## CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY WOLLONGONG

### SUMMARY

TO CREATE VIBRANT CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERY STUDENT FINDS MEANING AND PURPOSE IN THEIR LIFE THROUGH EXPERIENCING CONTINUAL GROWTH IN FAITH AND IMPROVEMENT IN LEARNING

MISSION OF CEDOW AS EXPRESSED IN LIGHTING THE WAY

Youth Ministry within the Diocese of Wollongong is administered through the Office of the Bishop (OOB) and delivered in partnership with Catholic Education, Diocese of Wollongong (CEDoW) and the National Evangelisation Team (NET). The delivery of Youth Ministry initiatives occurs through a number of paid, sponsored and volunteer personnel with specific Youth Ministry and outreach and advocacy related roles. Together these personnel comprise the Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) team.

The CYMW team is responsible for leading and implementing the goals, objectives and strategies for Youth Ministry within the Diocese.

In the engagement and faith development of youth and young adults, CYMW supports the goals, objectives and strategies contained within the Australian Catholic Bishop's Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry: Anointed and Sent (2009), CEDoW Pastoral and Youth Ministry plans and the Vision and Strategic Direction for Catholic Education in the Systemic Schools of the Diocese of Wollongong: Lighting the Way.

CYMW provides a number of school specific Youth Ministry initiatives including; ACTIVATE Fire, NET Encounter Days, LIVE nights, LIVE Festival and Youth Ministry Leader retreats.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### OVERVIEW

A DIOCESAN COLLEGE IN THE EDMUND RICE TRADITION

St Francis Catholic College is a co-educational K-12 college established in 2017 as the result of a partnership between the Diocese of Wollongong and Edmund Rice Education Australia.

The college serves the Edmondson Park community and neighbouring regions.

St Francis Catholic College works closely with neighbouring parishes, in particular, Mary Mother of the Church Parish, Macquarie Fields, within whose boundaries the College is built.

At St Francis Catholic College, students are created by God and guided by our college and families to be successful, liberated and committed to the service of others.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### GOSPEL CALL + GRADUATE STATEMENT

Our patrons Edmund Rice and St Francis of Assisi had a deep connection and dedication to the poor. They embodied the values of the Gospels and responded emphatically to the Gospel call. Therefore, the Gospel passage found in Luke 4:18-19 is at the centre of our Mission.

As a graduate of St Francis Catholic College, students are:

- Connected to God and called by the Gospels to be people who are inclusive and respectful with open hearts and minds.
- Successful, holistic and lifelong learners who are creative and critical thinkers.
- Confident, resilient and empathetic members of our community.
- Responsible global citizens with a strong sense of belonging. We aim to be stewards of the earth and of service to others.

**“THE SPIRIT OF THE  
LORD IS UPON ME,  
BECAUSE HE HAS  
ANOINTED ME TO BRING  
GOOD NEWS TO THE  
POOR.  
HE HAS SENT ME TO  
PROCLAIM RELEASE TO  
THE CAPTIVES  
AND RECOVERY OF  
SIGHT TO THE BLIND,  
TO LET THE OPPRESSED  
GO FREE,  
TO PROCLAIM THE  
YEAR OF THE LORD’S  
FAVOR.”**

**LUKE 4:18-19 NRSV**



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

MISSION & VISION STATEMENT



St Francis Catholic College is a P-12 Diocesan school in the Edmund Rice Tradition. We are a welcoming and **inclusive community** that provides a **liberating education** built on Gospel values deeply committed to **justice and peace**. We are devoted to **ecological sustainability** and our motto is "Open Hearts, Open Minds".



St Francis is a **Christ-Centred** P-12 Catholic College that draws on strong tradition and **community partnerships** to develop excellence in quality education and pastoral support. Our graduates are **holistic, liberated, lifelong** learners who reach their potential by living the Gospel values to become **active, responsible global citizens**.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### MOTTO

The St Francis Catholic College motto 'Open Minds, Open Hearts' encourages all members of the community to grow and develop 'open minds and open hearts'.

**Students** - There is an expectation that students will open their minds to new learning experiences and persevere with challenging concepts. Open themselves to learning with others and being open to learning how to best work for the benefit of others not just themselves. They should demonstrate open hearts by being faith-filled people of integrity, courage, compassion, inclusion and justice. Demonstrating a commitment to God through love and service of others and all creation.

**Staff** - Need to be open to the fact that ALL students can learn, regardless of disability or background. They need to recognise that they make a difference and can be a liberating force in the lives of children. They need to be open to being life long learners and role models. They need to be open to doing things differently in a K-12 College. Staff demonstrate that their hearts are open by being generous, faith-filled role models of integrity, courage, compassion, inclusion and justice. Demonstrating a commitment to God through love and service of others and all creation.

**Parents & Caregivers** - Need to be open to opportunities to be actively involved in their child's education and working in partnership with the College. Parents need to be open to good communication and open to being an active member of the broader College and Parish community. Parents need to be open to doing things differently. They are encouraged to be people with open hearts. Open to being generous, inclusive role models who act in faith and love.

**Parishes, CEO, EREA & the Broader Community** - Are recognised as important members of our College community. The College is open to establishing and maintaining quality relationships to ensure that students experience faith formation and a liberating education. The College is open to being of service and also open to receiving support from our all members of our community.

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### CREST

The crest informs the community of the rich heritage that has been gifted to St Francis Catholic College. The crest is made up of the following elements:

**The Tau** - The Cross of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis had a strong commitment to the poor, he had a deep love and respect for his fellow man but also recognised God in all creation. Themes of inclusion, commitment to the poor, service, ecology and sustainability are important themes for the College.



**The Celtic Cross** - The Cross of Blessed Edmund Rice. This recognises Edmund's Irish heritage. Edmund Rice was transformed by injustice and was called to be a person of hope by providing a liberating education to the poor. His commitment to inclusion, service, love, justice and compassion are key themes for the College.



**The Heart** - Christ dwells in our hearts. The College Motto calls on all members of the College community to be of 'Open Minds and Open Hearts'. The Heart as a symbol on our crest serves as a reminder that we need to be people of inclusion, compassion and community.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### CREST

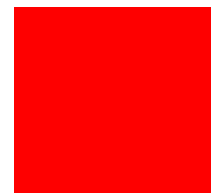
**The Star** - A symbol of Christ's light at the centre of our lives. A symbol of hope. A symbol that recognises our links to the Diocese of Wollongong which uses the star in 'Lighting the Way'.



**The Circle** - Reflective of the Eucharist as central to our faith. A symbol of gathering as community for Aboriginal people. Gathering and sharing stories.



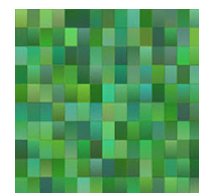
**Red** - The colour of Christ's blood, a symbol of His passion for us. Red is the colour of Mother Earth for Aboriginal people. Mother Earth sustains us. We are called to care for the earth and all living creatures.



**Blue** - The colour associated with pure water, running rivers and streams. Life giving water. Water that cleanses us in baptism.



**Green** - Our crest transitions from an 'emerald green' reflecting that of Edmund's Irish heritage through to a 'eucalyptus green' as the 'bush' is so often associated with life in Australia and the Australian story. Green is also important to the Franciscan story. Green is often associated with the environment, ecology and sustainability.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### EDMUND RICE TOUCHSTONES

As a Catholic College in the Edmund Rice tradition, we aspire to be faithful to these four touchstones:

### Liberating Education

We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.

**Expression**  
A Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition:



- 1 encourages all members of the school community to work to the best of their ability, to realise their potential and to strive for equity and excellence;
- 2 serves the needs of each person, providing teaching and learning experiences that are authentic, relevant, dynamic and creative;
- 3 provides a learning culture that enables students to experience success within a safe and healthy environment;
- 4 provides a holistic education integrating faith with culture and learning while giving an appreciation of the need to strive for the greater good of all society;
- 5 challenges all to prophetic leadership within the school community and beyond;
- 6 gives priority in the allocation of resources to provide services for students with particular needs;
- 7 enables students to experience and value a critical awareness of justice and peace issues through the curriculum, service and solidarity learning, environmental practices and the culture of the school;
- 8 promotes ongoing renewal by providing opportunities for reflective practice, formation and professional development.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### EDMUND RICE TOUCHSTONES

#### Gospel Spirituality

We invite people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.

#### Expression

A Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition:

- 1 lives and grows as a faith-sharing community by fostering a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ;
- 2 celebrates as a Eucharistic community, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ;
- 3 nurtures and encourages the spiritual growth of each person through reflection, prayer, symbols, sacred stories, rituals and sacraments;
- 4 models the Gospel values of forgiveness and reconciliation by the manner in which conflict is resolved;
- 5 provides religious education in line with Diocesan guidelines and faith formation experiences as fundamental components of a Catholic School curriculum;
- 6 continues the legacy of the Christian Brothers by calling its community to discipleship and playing an integral part in the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church;
- 7 provides formation opportunities for its members in the mystery of God in all creation, the spirit of Jesus, the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, the inspiration of the Christian Brothers, their own sacred story and their call to mission;
- 8 recognises and acts upon the central place of the Gospel commitment to the marginalised, through a preferential option for the poor;
- 9 is engaged in inter-faith dialogue and respects the spirituality authentically lived by those who come from other religious traditions;



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### EDMUND RICE TOUCHSTONES

#### Inclusive Community

Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.

#### Expression

A Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition:

- 1 provides pastoral care that nurtures the dignity of each person as a child formed in the image of God;
- 2 demonstrates a preferential option for the poor by standing in solidarity with those who are powerless and marginalised, and strives to provide access to those who otherwise would not seek enrolment;
- 3 is sensitive to the economic situation of each of its families, designing school programs to empower all to participate with dignity and confidence;
- 4 promotes social inclusion and views diversity as beneficial to a liberating education;
- 5 works in collaboration and partnership with the local Church;
- 6 acknowledges the service and contribution of the Christian Brothers and welcomes them into the life of the school;
- 7 acknowledges the primary role of parents and guardians in the growth and development of the child and provides opportunities for their participation in the life of the school;
- 8 recognises the traditional ownership and cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples of Australia, and welcomes them into its community;
- 9 looks beyond itself to contribute, according to its means, to the overall growth and development of Catholic schools in the Edmund Rice tradition and to Edmund Rice ministries in Australia and overseas.



*Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition*



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### EDMUND RICE TOUCHSTONES

#### Justice and Solidarity

We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.

#### Expression

A Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition:

- 1 develops a curriculum that integrates the themes of justice and peace, underpinned by Catholic Social Teaching;
- 2 adopts prophetic stances in the light of Gospel values and is involved in advocacy for just causes;
- 3 promotes participation in service and solidarity learning programs in partnership with those on the margins;
- 4 seeks to provide opportunities for involvement in immersion programs in which students and staff form relationships, work with and learn from those on the margins;
- 5 is committed to working with and walking alongside the Indigenous peoples of Australia, advocating justice and promoting reconciliation;
- 6 demonstrates a deep respect for and partnership with the environment, promotes eco-justice and works towards a sustainable and regenerative future for all creation;
- 7 recognises that its members are part of a global community and actively supports the development of all humanity;
- 8 nurtures a culture of critical reflection and prayerful discernment in justice and peace issues.

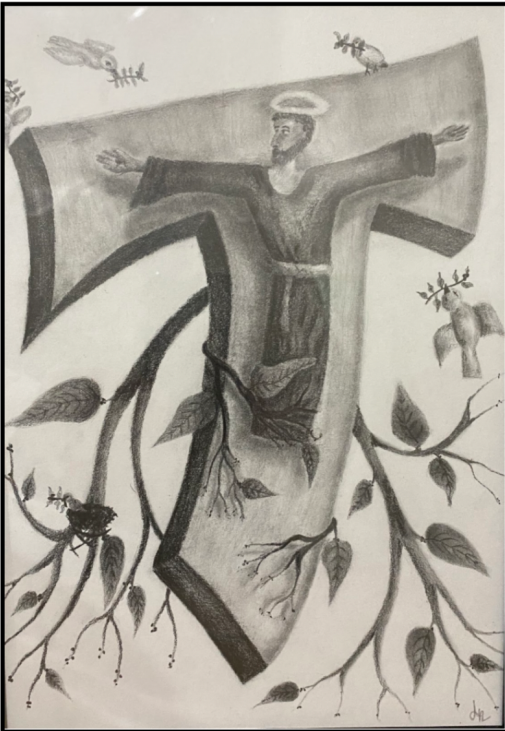


*Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition*

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### PRAYERS



#### **Prayer of St Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life,

**Amen**

#### **Prayer of thanks for Blessed Edmund Rice**

O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice.  
He opened his heart to Christ present in those  
Oppressed by poverty and injustice.  
May we follow his example of faith and generosity.  
Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund  
As we seek to live lives of love and service.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord,

**Amen**

#### **Morning Offering**

Loving God, thank you for a night of rest and for the gift  
of this new day.

We thank you for being with us to give meaning to what  
we do.

Thank you for loving us and for giving us the courage to  
share your love with those we meet today.

**Amen**

#### **Prayer Before Meals**

For this and all we are about to receive, make us truly  
grateful, Lord.

Through Christ we pray.

**Amen**



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### PRAYERS



#### Chisholm House Prayer

Dear Caroline Chisholm,

Please help us to be more like you and follow your inspirational ways. We thank you for spreading your compassion to all. May you help us to be good role models and show compassion to people who are in need of your guidance.

Caroline Chisholm: **Inspire us.**

Blessed Edmund Rice: **Pray for us.**

Live Jesus in our hearts: **Forever.**

**Amen**



#### Clare House Prayer

Loving Father,

We thank you for the spirit of Saint Clare that lives within our hearts. May she always be a role model in our lives as she inspires us to care, love and support one another.

We pray that we continue to grow in faith and develop the discipline to strive for excellence in everything that we do.

Please grant us the strength and courage to follow St Clare's lead and be compassionate to everyone.

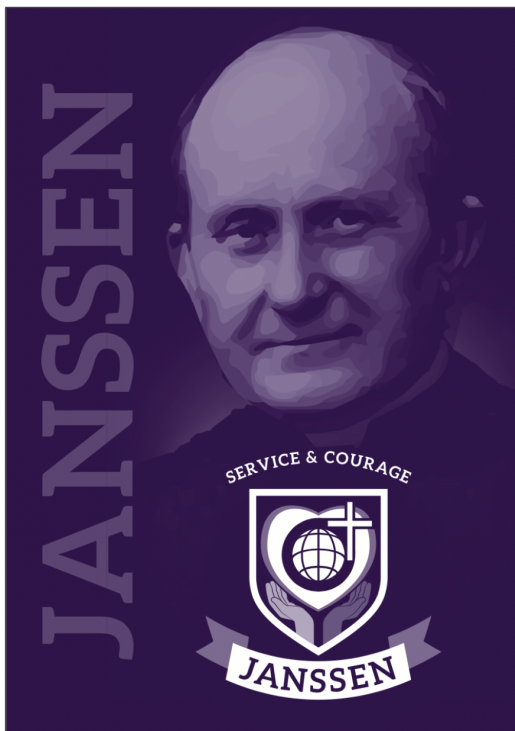
We ask this through Christ our Lord,

**Amen**

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### PRAYERS



#### Janssen House Prayer

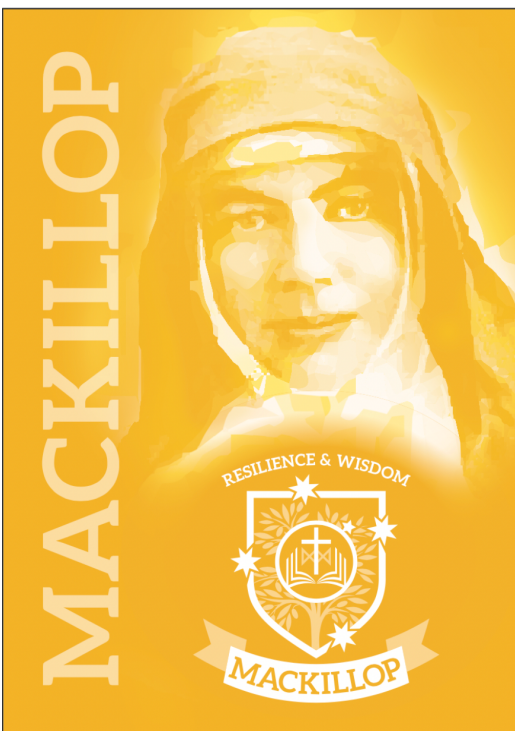
Dear loving God, help us be like Saint Arnold Janssen, give us his service to help others and give us his courage to stand up for what we believe in.

Saint Arnold Janssen, you were a man of courage, dignity, positive spirit and ever optimistic with your guidance we will aspire to help others not only in times of need but throughout our daily lives.

Show us, teach us, guide us, lead us, help us to be positive role models and to give hope to those all around us.

God in heaven hear my prayer, keep me in your loving care, be my God in all I do, bless all those who love me too. Give us service and courage just like Saint Arnold Janssen

**Amen**



#### Mackillop House Prayer

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, our house patron, we pray and ask you to;

Guide us on the right path towards salvation.

Guide those who are weak in their faith.

Give us the courage to face the world, and do our duty each day.

Give us the wisdom to choose between right and wrong.

Give us the resilience and strength to bravely stand up for the truth.

Give us the burning ambition to study and excel.

Guide us to respect our teachers.

Give us the grace to love our family, friends and neighbours.

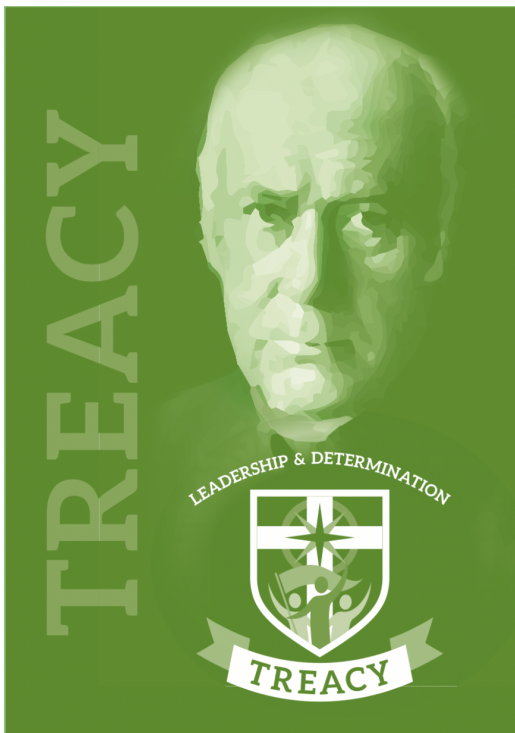
And give us your unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

**Amen**

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### PRAYERS



#### Treacy House Prayer

Brother Ambrose Treacy,

You were persistent in all that you did. Help us to never give up, especially when we are in challenging situations.

You showed us how important it is to be responsible for one's words and actions, guide us to display the same responsibility in our daily lives.

You were charitable to the poor, support us in being helpful, especially to those that experience hardship.

You were a motivator for those that needed to be uplifted. Guide us to be encouraging to those around us.

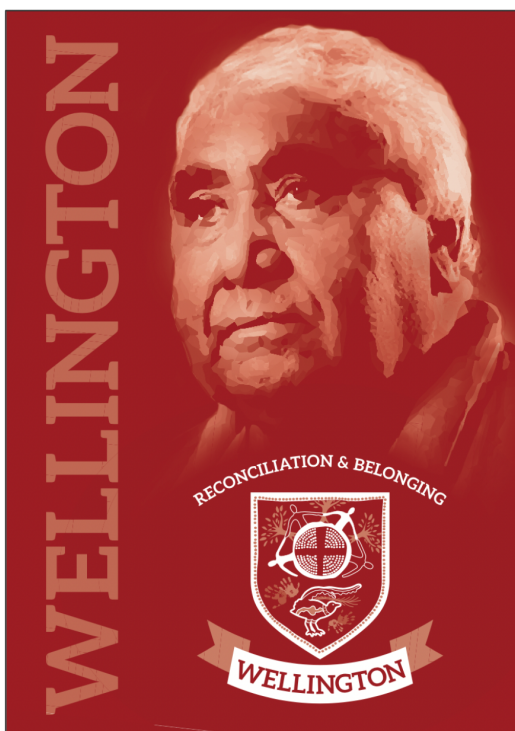
You were humble in your dealings with all people, help us to be respectful regardless of race, religion, gender or social status.

You consistently showed concern for others, support us in being kind and caring in our words and actions.

Inspire us to follow in your footsteps and display leadership and determination in all that we do!

Jesus live in our hearts! Forever.

**Amen**



#### Wellington House Prayer

Ever, faithful God, You guided Uncle Ivan and the Aboriginal people to be connected to the land and live their life respecting the land and their culture.

We ask that you guide us as the Wellington house to include and make others feel a part of the St Francis community.

We pray that we too, like Uncle Ivan and the Aboriginal people, may live a life of forgiveness and acceptance.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

**Amen**

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY GOALS

#### GOAL ONE

TO FOSTER THE PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF EACH YOUNG PERSON

St Francis Catholic College strives to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person by recognising that the development of young people is all integrated.

Personal growth is fostered by nurturing each young person so they can grow to become confident, resilient and empathetic members of the community who understand their self-worth. Furthermore, each young person is guided to become a responsible global citizen who is able to address current world issues and obstacles that stand in the way of their faith.

Through embracing a Catholic perspective across all areas of College life, the spiritual growth of each young person is fostered and they are guided to become people who are inclusive and respectful. A holistic approach, where families, staff, parish and the broader College community are all responsible for growing the faith of each young person recognises that growing in faith is a lifelong journey. The Gospel call in Luke 4:18-19 and the Gospel Spirituality touchstone support each young person in the development of a Catholic identity where each young person knows what it means to “have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10).



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY GOALS

#### GOAL TWO

TO DRAW YOUNG PEOPLE INTO RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE, MISSION AND WORK OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

St Francis Catholic College strives to draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community, drawing inspiration from the life and mission of Jesus Christ.

Each young person is called to be an apprentice, ministering side by side with staff and other adults where they are supported in discovering their individual gifts and using these gifts to be stewards of the earth and people who serve God and others. Young people are invited into relationship with all generations of the Church, sharing stories and experiences.

The Justice and Solidarity touchstone assists each young person to recognise that mission has a Church and we are all unique 'agents' who have a responsibility to live and work to the full. Each young person is called, not to like everyone, but to love everyone, a responsibility that comes with being human.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY GOALS

#### GOAL THREE

TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR WORLD TODAY

St Francis Catholic College strives to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today, recognising that Christianity is a way of life and all are called to a life with Christ.

Discipleship is at the heart of mission and each young person is empowered to live as Christ in the world, sharing His love and drawing others into a relationship with Him. This comes through reaching out to each young person and helping them to belong to and find their place in the Church. Furthermore, it comes through young people understanding that to be a disciple or follower of Jesus they need to know him.

Offering young people concrete experiences recognises the adventure and demands of discipleship and the evangelisation component that comes with it. Living as a disciple of Christ calls young people to make a gift of service to others through acts of genuine love, where they expect nothing in return.

The Inclusive Community touchstone assists young people in recognising the responsibility of inviting others into a personal and communal relationship with God. Understanding the Good News (God's love) that Jesus offers, and recognising the call of St Francis of Assisi to "preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words", inspires young people to embrace the adventure of discipleship towards Eternal Life.

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

#### FOCUS AREA ONE

#### PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Prayer and worship deepen people's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. They include the celebration of liturgy, communal and personal prayer

At St Francis Catholic College prayer and worship can be expressed in many ways, the greatest of which being through the celebration of Mass where we get to share in the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life (CCC 1324).

Prayer and worship opportunities also exist via many other avenues - class liturgies, retreats, youth ministry events and in participating in the Sacramental life of the Church. Expressions of prayer can also be shared in music, art, dance, drama and the day to day running of the College.



**PRAYER IS BEING OPEN  
TO RECEIVING GOD'S  
GRACE, LOVE IN ACTION  
AND COMMUNION WITH  
THE SPIRIT WHO  
DWELLS WITHIN US,  
LEADING US.**

**POPE BENEDICT,**

**WORLD YOUTH DAY  
SYDNEY 2008**

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

#### FOCUS AREA TWO

#### EVANGELISATION

Evangelisation is the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life (CCC 905). It is the bridge between the tabernacle and the street and invites us to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

At St Francis Catholic College evangelisation is achieved through collaboration with the local community, providing young people with opportunities to reach out, witness and deepen their relationship with God. Evangelisation is serving by bending down and washing the feet of our brothers and sisters, just as Jesus did.

**EVANGELISATION  
MEANS BEARING  
WITNESS IN ACTION TO  
THE PERSONAL LOVE OF  
GOD.... IT IS SERVING  
BY BENDING DOWN TO  
WASH THE FEET OF OUR  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS  
AS JESUS DID.**

**POPE FRANCIS**

**WORLD YOUTH DAY  
RIO DE JANEIRO, 2013**





# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

#### FOCUS AREA THREE

#### CATECHESIS

"Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life" (CCC 5).

At St Francis Catholic College, catechesis provides young people with an apprenticeship in the Catholic faith and includes praying the scriptures, celebrating sacraments, developing an appreciation for the Gospel, reflecting on daily life in light of the Gospel and deepening life in Christ. Catechesis relates the Gospel to the questions and yearnings in the minds and hearts of young people and initiates young people into the believing, celebrating, living and praying Catholic community.



**"JESUS CHRIST  
LOVES YOU; HE  
GAVE HIS LIFE TO  
SAVE YOU: AND  
NOW HE IS LIVING  
AT YOUR SIDE  
EVERY DAY... "**

**POPE FRANCIS**

**EVANGELI  
GAUDIUM #164**

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

#### FOCUS AREA FOUR

#### PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is about a relationship, a compassionate presence modelled on Jesus' care for people and helping all to grow towards wholeness. It relates to a shepherd, leaving the whole flock to find the missing (Luke 15: 3-7).

At St Francis Catholic College pastoral care is about accompanying young people and guiding them in their personal and spiritual growth. It deals practically and prayerfully with life situations, building moral character, discerning vocation and links spirituality with decision making. Furthermore, pastoral care provides support for young people in times of crisis, loving the individual despite their situation.

**"NOW THAT I, YOUR  
LORD AND TEACHER,  
HAVE WASHED YOUR  
FEET, YOU ALSO  
SHOULD WASH ONE  
ANOTHER'S FEET"**

**JOHN 13:14**



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

#### FOCUS AREA FIVE

#### COMMUNITY LIFE

The Christian community is the Church. Everyone is welcome in the community and the community is for all. Through community and relationship we can be fully alive.

Building community is integral to the life of St Francis Catholic College. Community life flows out of who we are and how we interact, continually building and inviting others into it. Youth Ministry flourishes when the wider faith community is welcoming to all and young people know that they are valued and their gifts are appreciated. It is through loving relationships that are lived out authentically and truthfully that young people discover themselves and God.



**HUMAN BEINGS ARE  
SOCIAL BEINGS,  
EVOLVED TO BE  
PART OF  
COMMUNITIES -  
JESUS RECOGNISED  
THIS AND WAS  
CONSTANTLY  
WITHIN HIS  
COMMUNITY.**

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

#### FOCUS AREA SIX

#### JUSTICE AND SERVICE

Justice is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbour. Justice towards God is called the “virtue of religion” (CCC 1807). It is based in the social doctrine of the Church.

At St Francis Catholic College, justice and service are our response to the inalienable value and dignity of every human being. Through breaking open Scripture and the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching, young people are empowered to recognise and confront injustices, to question, to expose and to live as Jesus did. Justice and service provide an outlet for young people who have an acute sense of justice, personal integrity and respect for human dignity. They provide opportunities for young people to make connections back to Christ.

**OUR CALL TO JUSTICE AND SERVICE IS CHRIST-CENTRED. WE ARE FORMED THROUGH CHRISTIAN LIVING TO BEAR WITNESS TO CHRIST IN EVERYDAY LIFE.**



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

#### FOCUS AREA SEVEN

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A good leader empowers others to be leaders. Leadership development recognises different leadership styles and strengths.

At St Francis Catholic College, leadership development is about having a shared vision - where am I going and where am I leading people to? It is about young people being drawn to the overwhelmingly attractive figure of Jesus and then channeling His qualities. Leadership development empowers and supports young people through mentoring and equips them with theological understandings and relational skills. Furthermore, leadership development provides time for reflection and calls forth the gifts of young people, empowering them to use these in their ministry with their peers.



**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
ENCOURAGES  
COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY  
AND SEEKS AT ALL TIMES TO  
COOPERATE WITH GOD'S  
GRACE.**

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS AREAS

#### FOCUS AREA EIGHT

#### ADVOCACY

We all have a responsibility to be advocates for God, creation, others and ourselves.

St Francis Catholic College provides opportunities for young people to hear the stories of others and advocate for them. These opportunities take on many forms including advocating for young people who are marginalised within society, advocating for the place and importance of young people within the Church, being a voice for the voiceless and helping young people be advocates for Christ in addressing issues such as education, housing, employment, health and safety.

**YOUNG PEOPLE  
DEMAND CHANGE.  
THEY WONDER  
HOW ANYONE CAN  
CLAIM TO BE  
BUILDING A  
BETTER FUTURE  
WITHOUT  
THINKING OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CRISIS AND THE  
SUFFERINGS OF  
THE EXCLUDED.**

**POPE FRANCIS**

**LAUDATO SI #13**



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

Each year at St Francis Catholic College, students are invited to participate in a wide range of initiatives related to the College's Youth Ministry Goals.

Whilst not an exhaustive list, the tables on the following pages provide an overview of key initiatives and the focus areas they relate to. Further information is then provided about each initiative.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

	<b>PW</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>PC</b>	<b>CL</b>	<b>JS</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>MASS</b>	●	●	●		●			
<b>LITURGY</b>	●	●	●	●	●			
<b>PRAYER</b>	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
<b>SEALS</b>	●				●	●	●	●
<b>EDDIE'S &amp; JEDDIE'S</b>				●	●	●	●	●
<b>LIVE</b>	●	●	●	●	●		●	
<b>NET ENCOUNTER DAYS</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>YEAR 8 REFLECTION DAY</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b>			●	●	●	●	●	
<b>PROJECT COMPASSION</b>					●	●	●	●

Prayer and Worship (PW)  
 Evangelisation (E)  
 Catechesis (C)  
 Pastoral Care (PC)  
 Community Life (CL)  
 Justice and Service (JS)  
 Leadership Development (LD)  
 Advocacy (A)



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

	<b>PW</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>PC</b>	<b>CL</b>	<b>JS</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>ACTIVATE FIRE</b>	●	●	●		●		●	
<b>EDMUND RICE FEAST DAY</b>	●		●		●	●		●
<b>ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL</b>					●	●	●	●
<b>LIVE FESTIVAL</b>	●	●	●	●	●		●	
<b>ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI FEAST DAY</b>	●		●		●			
<b>YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERS RETREAT</b>	●	●	●	●	●		●	
<b>CATHOLIC MISSION SOCKTOBER</b>					●	●		●
<b>YEAR 12 OVERNIGHT RETREAT</b>	●	●	●	●	●		●	
<b>CATHOLIC CARE HAMPERS</b>					●	●	●	●

Prayer and Worship (PW)  
 Evangelisation (E)  
 Catechesis (C)  
 Pastoral Care (PC)  
 Community Life (CL)  
 Justice and Service (JS)  
 Leadership Development (LD)  
 Advocacy (A)

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

#### ONGOING INITIATIVES

**Mass** - Mass is offered at the College on various occasions throughout the year by the priests at Mary Mother of the Church, Macquarie Fields. Staff and students are offered opportunities to minister within the Mass as musicians, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, etc. Whole College Masses are usually celebrated on key occasions including the opening and closing of the school year, Edmund Rice and St Francis of Assisi Feast Days and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Staff and students are also provided with opportunities to attend and participate in grade Masses, with each grade ideally attending a Mass at least once per semester. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for putting together Masses and liaising with the priests from Mary Mother of the Church, Macquarie Fields, who will be celebrating the Mass.

**Liturgy** - Whole College, year group or pastoral class liturgies are held throughout the year for a range of important days within society and the church's year including Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Anzac Day, St Mary Mackillop Feast Day, All Saints Day, All Souls Day and Remembrance Day. Liturgies also occur as part of other College initiatives such as camps, retreats, the buddy program, etc. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for the organisation of liturgies.

**Prayer** - Opportunities for prayer are built into the school day both formally through Pastoral and RE classes and also informally. The Prayer of St Francis of Assisi, Edmund Rice prayer, College House Prayers and other formal Catholic prayers are all an important part of College life. Students are also provided with opportunities to create and share their own prayers. All staff are responsible for ensuring opportunities for prayer occur.

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

#### ONGOING INITIATIVES CONTINUED

***St Francis Environmental Awareness Learning Society (SEALS)*** - The SEALS Committee involves students and teachers working in collaboration with the Wollongong Environmental Network (WEN) to lead the way in raising awareness and educating the College community about efficient environmental practices. They organise events that align with the College goals and encourage all students and their families to be conscious about the decisions they make that have an immediate effect on the environment. Staff volunteer to run the SEALS each year.

***Eddie's and Jeddie's*** - The Positive Behaviours for Learning (PB4L) team endeavours to promote the voice of students and the amount of student lead initiatives. The 'Eddie's' is a playground leadership group that has been named after Blessed Edmund Rice. The 'Eddie's' are students in Year Seven to Nine who volunteer their time during breaks to promote positive interactions between the Kindergarten to Year Six students. The focus of the 'Eddie's' is to encourage the Touchstones of Edmund Rice in order to foster positive interactions between students during break time. A junior version also exists known as the 'Jeddie's' and involves the Junior Years Learning leaders. Staff volunteer to be part of the PB4L team each year and they oversee the Eddie's and Jeddie's.

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

#### REPEATED INITIATIVES

**LIVE** - Beginning with a lunchtime concert and followed by an optional after school retreat, LIVE aims to draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community and to forge a sense of community and spirituality amongst them. LIVE is facilitated by Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) and the Wollongong National Evangelisation Team (NET). At the optional after school retreat, students have the opportunity to experience and engage in live music, games, input related to the theme, small group activities, team building activities, faith formation and spiritual development. LIVE is normally held at the College three times per year in terms 1, 2 and 4 with the Youth Ministry Coordinator being responsible for the school based organisation of the event.

**NET Encounter Days** - Encounter Days are run by the Wollongong National Evangelisation Team (NET) and provide an opportunity for students to deepen their relationship with God through an encounter style ministry. The program for the Encounter Day has a particular theme which is chosen to link in with students' pastoral needs. The Encounter Day program is designed to engage students through a combination of creative media relevant to contemporary youth culture including music, drama, sport, games and the sharing of real-life stories, movie clips and newsworthy events to present the Gospel as a message that is relevant to students' daily lives. The College is offered three NET Encounter Days per year with these normally run at the College with Years 5, 7 and 8. The date of each Encounter Day is determined by the College in consultation with NET. The Youth Ministry Coordinator is responsible for the school based organisation of this event.

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

#### TERM ONE INITIATIVES

**Year 8 Reflection Day** - As part of the Pastoral Care program, Year 8 students participate in a reflection day run by Chris Doyle from Karis Ministries. He is a talented and engaging presenter who uses music to encourage students to reflect upon their lives and their relationships, build a sense of community amongst the students and assist them to understand their purpose in the presence of God. The Year 8 Pastoral Coordinator is responsible for the organisation of this event.

**Shrove Tuesday** - This event is run as a fundraiser for Project Compassion. Pikelets are bought premade and are sold before school and at break one. They are available to all students and staff. Junior, Middle and Senior Year Student Leaders and Youth Engagement Leaders assist staff in running the event. During pastoral classes students also go through a presentation which provides information on the origin of Shrove Tuesday and why as Catholics this is a day that we observe. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for putting the presentation together and organising the fundraising component of the event.

**Project Compassion** - Throughout Lent students are encouraged to bring in money to donate to Project Compassion. The money is sent to the office and tallied by the Finance SSO for each year group. Students are updated on their progress throughout Lent. The winning year group receives a mufti day in Term 2 as a reward for their contribution. Each week one of the Project Compassion stories is shared with pastoral classes as a reminder to students why they are donating. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for the organisation of this event.

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

#### TERM TWO INITIATIVES

**ACTIVATE Fire** - Year 6 students are involved in an Immersive Spiritual Experience based on the Year 6 Religious Education unit Confirmation: Celebrating the Gift of the Holy Spirit. This event is run by Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) and organised into clusters, with students from Mary Immaculate, Eagle Vale and Holy Family, Ingleburn also in attendance. During the event, students have the opportunity to experience and engage in live music, games, input related to the theme, small group activities, faith formation and spiritual development. The event is hosted by one of the cluster schools. The relevant staff member on the REIM team is responsible for the school based organisation of the event.

**Edmund Rice Feast Day** - Each year the College celebrates Edmund Rice Feast Day which falls on 5th May. The day begins with a whole College Mass or year group/pastoral class liturgy. This is followed by students participating in a series of justice and service activities run by staff or guest presenters from various organisations including Catholic Mission, Catholic Care, St Vincent de Paul, Caritas Australia, etc. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for putting together the Mass/liturgy and organising the justice and service activities for the event.

**St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** - Each year St Francis participates in the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. Participation varies each year as the school develops but has included contributions to Knit 4 Need and donations to the Nagle Centre Campbelltown. It is anticipated that staff and Senior Years Learning students will have the opportunity to participate in a Winter Sleepout on College grounds with guest speakers and other activities run as part of the event to raise awareness of the plight of those who sleep rough each night. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for the organisation of this event.

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

#### TERM THREE INITIATIVES

**LIVE Festival** - LIVE festival is an annual Diocesan Youth festival run by Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) which celebrates the life of faith of the youth and young adults of the Diocese of Wollongong. It features workshops, engaging activities, music, inspirational local, national and international speakers and evening plenary. The festival provides an opportunity for young people to gain further insight into their faith and helps to build and explore this faith through a multitude of contemporary and exciting ways. The Youth Ministry Coordinator is responsible for the school based organisation of this event.

**St Francis of Assisi Feast Day** - Each year the College celebrates the St Francis of Assisi Feast Day which falls on 4th October. As this date usually falls in the holiday break, the College celebrates at the end of term 3. The day begins with a whole College Mass or year group/pastoral class liturgy. This is followed by students participating in a carnival and other activities designed to build community spirit. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for organising the Mass/liturgy component of this event.

# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

#### TERM FOUR INITIATIVES

***Youth Ministry Leaders Retreat*** - To support the Youth Ministry / Youth Engagement Leaders in the fulfilment of their role, Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong (CYMW) in collaboration with Catholic Education, Diocese of Wollongong (CEDoW) hosts an annual Youth Ministry Leaders Overnight Formation Retreat. This retreat brings together Youth Ministry / Youth Engagement Leaders from across the eight Diocesan Catholic secondary schools and the one K-12 school to be formed and upskilled as student leaders of Youth Ministry. The retreat includes leadership skill development, formation in the precepts of authentic Youth Ministry, and time for personal spiritual development. It is hoped that the Retreat will help form a Diocesan network, through which each Youth Ministry / Youth Engagement Leader is better enabled and supported as they undertake this important leadership role. The Youth Ministry Coordinator attends and is responsible for the school based organisation of this event.

***Catholic Mission Socktober*** - As part of World Mission Month in October, the College organises 'Crazy Sock Day' where staff and students wear crazy socks to school to raise funds for Catholic Mission. Socktober for Mission Month also encourages us to engage with mission for children by using our heads to enquire about the reality of the world around us, using our hearts to feel empathy for those in situations of great need, and using our hands to take action for them in whatever way we are able. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for the organisation of this event.



# COLLEGE CONTEXT

## ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

### YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES

#### TERM FOUR INITIATIVES CONTINUED

***Year 12 Overnight Retreat*** - The theme for retreat is determined by the needs of the cohort. It is a time for community, respect, honesty, personal and quiet time, relaxation, introspection time and emotional development. The retreat requires trust, courage and the willingness to meet the challenge. It is a good opportunity for students to enter more deeply into themselves as well as getting to know others more deeply. Retreat is a chance to rest, re-energise, re-focus, relax and review. This experience will mean different things for different students, but, when approached with an open, willing attitude, it is hoped students will get something out of it. Relevant staff on the REIM team and the Year 12 Pastoral Coordinator are responsible for the organisation of this event.

***Catholic Care Hampers*** - Leading into and during the season of Advent, each pastoral class is responsible for collecting non-perishable items which are then packaged into hampers. These hampers are donated to Catholic Care for distribution to those who they work with in the community who are experiencing difficult circumstances including families in need, people living with a disability and socially isolated seniors. Helping those in need reflects the true meaning of Christmas. Relevant staff on the REIM team are responsible for the organisation of this event.

