Religious Education and Faith Formation

Religious Education at Samaritan College is part of the curriculum from Reception to Year 12. It is a rigorous academic subject and it also pervades all facets of the informal curriculum which impinges on every aspect of college life. The College Motto; *Faith, Wisdom and Compassion*, is at the heart of our teachings. We strive in partnership with parents, to develop the whole child to know Jesus, achieve their best academically and become socially just individuals.

The curriculum frameworks used to support Religious Education in the college are mandated by the Bishops of the Arch Diocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie. These frameworks include; *Crossways: Religious Education Framework for SA Catholic Schools*, *Made in the Image of God: Human Sexuality Program for SA Catholic Schools* and *Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum*.

Through our Religious Education Program we seek to build a faith community based on the Good Samaritan and Edmund Rice charisms. We seek to engage our students in a rich prayer life where they can participate in liturgical celebrations and Christian outreach opportunities.

The curriculum is designed to engage and challenge students to explore aspects of their own personal faith journeys and offer students opportunities to come to know and love Jesus.

**A Prayerful Celebrating Community**

As a prayerful community, students are involved in meaningful Liturgical and Eucharistic celebrations which unites each college member in our Christ centered mission.

Morning, mealtime and afternoon prayers are observed in classrooms and classes and year levels regularly attend Mass at either Saint Teresa’s Church or Our Lady Help of Christians Church. Families are most welcome to join us for parish Masses and Liturgical celebrations.

Feast Days celebrating our Patrons are held throughout the year honouring our Patron’s who inspire us and show us ways to be ‘Christ Like’.

**Sacramental Program**
In conjunction with the Catholic Parish of Whyalla, Samaritan College assists students to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Year 3), Eucharist (Year 4) and Confirmation (Year 7). Families wishing to participate in these Sacraments need to enrol through the Catholic Parish of Whyalla.

**Retreats**

The College retreat program is linked closely with the Religious Education Program and is integral to the Faith Formation of Samaritan Students. The retreat Program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore relationships with peers, family and God.

Primary students preparing for sacraments experience day retreats. All Secondary students in Year 8, 9 and 10 will experience a one day retreat. Students in Years 11 and 12 will experience an overnight retreat.

**Good Samaritan Spirituality**

**Love of Christ and neighbor** – treat everyone as if they are Christ; our actions must show that loving God means loving the people we meet.

**Prayer** – Prayer is part of how we live – it is the starting point; it is an awareness of God in all things.

**Humility** – At the heart of humility is that I am not on my own; we must tolerate and rejoice in the gifts of others.

**Stewardship** – Stewardship is the respectful use of all we have and having the responsibility to use things wisely and prudently.

**Hospitality** – Whoever comes to our door is to be welcomed as if they are Christ; Hospitality is about acceptance and forgiveness.

**Community** – We all need a place to belong; we need to be ready to serve others and be served by others.

**Justice and Peace** – There can be no peace without justice; you must actively seek peace and create the environment where peace is the outcome.