OUR CATHOLIC CULTURE

St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands is a young, energetic catholic community where learning and relationships are based on the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ and inspired by the life of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis followed all that Jesus said and did, joyfully and unconditionally. From his caring of the poor to his adoration of nature and his fervent times of prayer, all of Francis’ actions were an act of worship. His life, both contemplative and active, inspires our school community to live a life of service and gratitude.

Our day at St Francis begins with the ‘Peace Prayer of St Francis’ as we strive to be a community where relationships are built on peace and compassion. There are many quiet spaces in our school that invite us to take time in our busy days to contemplate and place ourselves in God’s presence: Mt La Verna, The Mary Grotto and the Hermitage. The banks of the Boyne River also become a space of reflection for our classes. With our school nestled on the banks of the Boyne River, minutes from Canoe Point, we are conscious of God’s presence in the environment. We are committed to our stewardship of the land on which we learn as we foster in our children a sense of wonder and a personal responsibility to care for our world.

In our learning and our relationships we are committed to providing an excellent academic program in an atmosphere of faith, peace and love. The Religion Curriculum at St Francis Catholic Primary School is taught in discrete units using sample units on the Religion Curriculum website as a guide. The Religion Curriculum is organised under the interrelated Content Strands of Beliefs, Sacraments, Morality and Prayer. The Religion Curriculum Scope and Sequence on the website outlines the knowledge, understandings and skills across year levels and strands.

Our Catholic faith offers a unique approach to the development of a relationship with Jesus Christ through its rich heritage of theology, sacramentality, spirituality and morality. Our Franciscan charism adds another faith dimension through which our students are encouraged to develop a relationship with God.
Through our celebrations of Mass and other faith-filled experiences students are invited into a closer relationship with Christ. We gather with our Parish priests, Fr Kevin and Fr Aliki, at St Peter Chanel Church which is located on our school grounds. Hosting classes take special pride as they reverently lead our school and community in worship. We look forward to our celebrations of the feast days of St Francis and St Clare which are held outdoors at Canoe Point and on our school grounds.

Our daily lives bear witness to the faith we share and nurture. ‘Making Jesus Real’ is a program that is entwined in our learning at St Francis where our children are encouraged to see ‘the face of Christ’ in those they meet and in turn to ‘Make Jesus Real’ to others.

‘Friends of Francis’ is an invitation for students in Years 3 – 6 to meet fortnightly and share lunch together. We gather at different spaces in our school grounds. Our time together focuses on different facets of Franciscan Spirituality: the story of Francis and Clare; sharing connections in our lives; leading school projects that outreach to the marginalised; enjoying time with each other in God’s world.

Through our school motto, ‘Journey as Family in Peace Through Love’, we acknowledge that our relationships with families, parish and community are vital in creating a supportive context where our students are challenged to fulfil their unique potential, appreciating their gifts and those of others. A strong partnership exists between our school and parish through joint celebrations of Eucharist. At Sunday worship, members of the Parish are invited to School Masses, Prayer Assemblies and other significant school events. Copies of our school newsletter are available at the church. St Francis supports the development of Altar Servers through the parish program and assists in rosters.

Our school works closely to support the Sacramental Programme offered by the Star of the Sea Parish for students who wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. We recognise these Sacraments as vital milestones in the faith journeys of our young people. The APRE is a member of the Parish Sacramental Team and supports the Adult Faith Co-Ordinator and Parish priests in delivering this program to the community.

Pax et bonum – Peace and all goodness