

# Australian CATHOLICS

## for students

Many schools use *Australian Catholics* as a tool in the RE classroom and other faith formation activities. Here are some of the ways the magazine is used:

- Setting a particular article as reading, using the reflection questions and activities on our website to encourage students to look more deeply at the themes covered
- Set students to read the articles as a fun way to start classroom discussions, debates, plays and writing exercises.
- Encourage students to enter our Young Journalist Award, or join our young writers community and submit articles to the magazine or e-newsletter
- Using our archived content to research RE assignments, explore issues in more depth and deepen understanding of the Catholic faith knowing that all content is in line with Catholic teaching.



### Some examples of how *Australian Catholics* engages students' imagination:

#### 1 Using contemporary culture to teach students about faith-related topics

##### *Harry Potter and the Seven Heavenly Virtues*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/harry-potter-and-the-seven-heavenly-virtues](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/harry-potter-and-the-seven-heavenly-virtues)

In this feature, we take a look at the Seven Heavenly Virtues which are often spoken of in Catholic tradition, and how various characters in the Harry Potter stories embody these virtues.

**Activity:** Encourage your students to think of characters in other films that embody these virtues.

##### *Catholic Social Teaching with Pixar*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/catholic-social-teaching-with-pixar](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/catholic-social-teaching-with-pixar)

In this article, members of our young writers community explore the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching and what we can learn about them while watching Pixar films.

**Activity:** Encourage students to think of other films or books that highlight aspects of Catholic Social Teaching.

#### 2 Finding fun ways for students to engage with the Bible and Catholic history

##### *Gaming the Gospels: Doing God's will*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/gaming-the-gospels--doing-god-s-will](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/gaming-the-gospels--doing-god-s-will)

Aimed at primary school students, this regular series of activities in the magazine and on the website takes stories from the Gospel, and suggests games that students might play that help them better understand the message of those stories.

##### *Personality quiz: Finding your spiritual guide*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/finding-your-spiritual-guide](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/finding-your-spiritual-guide)

It's sometimes hard to know where to start when we want to deepen our understanding of God. Students can take this quiz to learn about some of the major schools of spirituality and to see if any might be a good starting point for them.

#### 3 Exploring contemporary issues and offering pathways to action

##### *The 12 Days of Christmas Challenge*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/the-12-days-of-christmas-challenge](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/the-12-days-of-christmas-challenge)

Encouraging students to commit to doing 12 things for refugees over the Advent period.

##### *Freedom of religion: What is all the fuss about?*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/freedom-of-religion---what-is-all-the-fuss-about](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/freedom-of-religion---what-is-all-the-fuss-about)

Exploring some of the current debates around religious freedom – what are the issues, and how should Catholics respond.

#### 4 Profiling inspiring peers

##### *Young but mighty: One student helps thousands of homeless*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/young-but-mighty--one-student-helps-thousands-of-homeless](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/young-but-mighty--one-student-helps-thousands-of-homeless)

Perth student Vincent Pettinicchio, who started an outreach project for the homeless when he was in Year 3.

##### *Young Journalist Award winning story: New beginning*

[www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/yja-2017-junior-section-winner--new-beginning](http://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/yja-2017-junior-section-winner--new-beginning)

The winner of our 2017 Young Journalist Award Junior Section, Grade 6 student Sarah Sona shares the story of how her family fled Iraq as refugees.