Dear Parents,

RE: NEXT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UNIT TO BE STUDIED IN YEAR THREE

The unit begins with wondering at the human experience of belonging to a community. From experience, people may come to learn about four examples of communities:

• the family
• the parish (or Church)
• the school
• other communities, such as clubs, etc.

This leads people to wonder at God, who gave us our communities. As people wonder at communities, they begin to understand the community in God – the three Persons in One God (Trinity).

The unit then explores ways in which Jesus belonged to a religious community. Jesus started the family of God called the Church. The unit then introduces to the children the range of people Jesus has called into his Church; people of different ages, needs and races. Members of the Church have different roles such as priest, special ministers, altar servers, readers, etc.

Finally, the unit explores ways in which members of God’s family are called by Jesus to participate and show love in communities to which they belong.

You could help your child during this unit by, for example:

• sharing your experiences of belonging to various communities (eg. family, parish, school, etc.)
• wondering with them about the community in God, who is Trinity (three Persons in One God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
• recalling with them that when Catholics make the Sign of the Cross they are remembering God, who is Trinity
• sharing with them memories of parish life from your childhood
• discussing ways your parish gathers together (eg. weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc.)
• talking about the variety of people who participate in parish life
• pointing out the various roles of parish members (eg. special ministers, readers, altar servers, collectors, cleaners, singers, etc.)
• sharing with them your experiences of showing love in the communities to which you belong

Yours sincerely

Year Three Teachers 😊