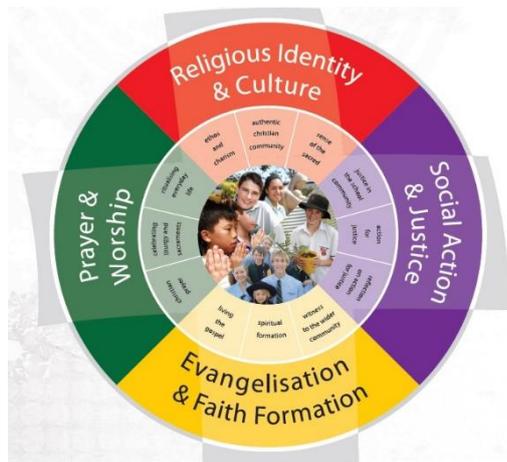




# XAVIER CATHOLIC COLLEGE HERVEY BAY



## *'Religious Life of the School'*



The Religious Life of the school, which is reflective of the second dimension of Religious Education – ‘teaching people to be religious in a particular way’ (Moran, 1991), provides a lens through which the school community at Xavier Catholic College can further develop and enrich its religious life.

The four interrelated components are:

- ❖ Religious Identity and Culture
- ❖ Evangelisation and Faith Formation
  - ❖ Prayer and Worship
  - ❖ Social Action and Justice

Each of these components, while mutually reinforcing, provides a significant focus on a distinctive aspect of the religious life of the school. Each component is further sub-divided into three elements as depicted above.



# Social Action and Justice at Xavier

Xavier Catholic College calls for its community to be, ***“A Faith that does Justice”***. Xavier is involved in acts of justice in our homes, school community and the world. Some of these actions are:

- Mission Week fundraising and awareness raising events/projects
- Fundraising for Caritas including the Project Compassion campaign, Caritas K's & Walking for water.
- St Vincent De Paul initiatives & fundraising including a school sleep out, donation of ingredients for soups that are provided at SVDP school sleep out, food hamper drive, clothes drive & Christmas appeal.
- Catholic Missions fundraising and awareness raising including World Mission Month, Sock it to Poverty & Coin Challenge for Change.
- Operation Christmas Child
- Shoes for Weipa communities
- ANZAC day march
- Community service projects such as, Hervey Bay special school visits, tree planting with the local council, cleaning the beach & waterways on Xavier Day, visiting local support agencies such as WECARE 2 and Comfort Kitchens.
- Nursing home visits as an option for sport rotations
- Classroom planning around Catholic Social Teachings and its relevance in our daily lives.
- Breaking open the vision and mission of other Catholic agencies within the curriculum, then discerning together why they are moved into action. eg. Caritas, Catholic Mission, Jesuit Refugee Services, Jesuit Social Services, Saint Vincent De Paul & Jesuit Mission.



# Religious Identity and Culture at Xavier



Xavier Catholic College is an Archdiocesan College of Brisbane Catholic Education as well as a Jesuit Companion school which strives to cultivate **“Men and Women for Others”**.

The identity and culture of our faith community is made evident by:

- The name of each building, reflecting our Ignatian Story
- Vertical Pastoral care classes within House family grouping
- House Names and Patrons reflect our Catholic/Christian Traditions
- House Patrons’ work and life celebrated through special activities
- The use of various symbols throughout the College to constantly remind our community that we live out our Religious identity in the ordinariness of our day
- New students and staff being inducted in the Ignatian Story as part of the Catholic Christian story upon enrolment in the college
- RE unit plans incorporate our Religious identity, such as ‘A sense of belonging’, ‘Saints and their lives’, ‘How did the Church begin?’ and ‘Who is Jesus Christ?’
- Staff and students are part of our local parish ministries
- Annual day to celebrate our College patron. ‘Xavier Day’ activities help students understand the life of St Francis and why he was moved into action.
- A College prayer for all to share regularly and to reflect on
- A College song retelling the story of our Patron
- NAIDOC Celebrations and activities annually
- Encouraging and supporting the participation of our students and staff in ANZAC



community marches across the Fraser Coast region.

- Holding Grandparents Day celebrations, Father’s Day and Mother’s Day gatherings
- Participating in a Clean Up Australia Day event annually
- The Care and Concern parent committee provides, meals, transport and fellowship for all in the community
- Staff biennial pilgrimage to Europe
- Pastoral Care policy that reflects the human dignity for all and our inclusive nature for the marginalised and impoverished.



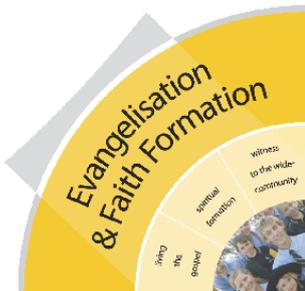
## Prayer & Worship at Xavier

At Xavier Catholic College our prayer program, living faith celebrations and the everyday rituals celebrate and promote our actions as being, **“All for the greater Glory of God”**. Our community acknowledges that we are part of the wider Church and engages all within our college in rich Christian traditions both in prayer and action that illumines the faith and works of Jesus.

This includes:

- Celebrating special days with prayer and gatherings
- Whole college opening school mass
- Whole school prayer program
- Whole school weekly Prayer Examen
- Daily prayer in pastoral care classes
- Staff prayer each week
- Promoting and supporting the parish sacramental program
- Developing strong school and parish relationships through the ‘Catholic Education Commission for Schooling Committee’ throughout the Fraser Coast.
- Promoting and supporting the College’s participation in leading various ministries in parish masses
- College RE work program educates students on the Sacraments
- Provision for staff, students and parents to participate in regular liturgical celebrations
- Students and staff attend the biennial Australian Catholic Youth Festival
  - Students are invited to attend local faith gatherings between Colleges and parishes
  - Lenten prayer focuses
  - Ash Wednesday liturgical celebrations throughout the College led by students
  - All staff, student and parent meetings begin with prayer.





## Evangelisation & Faith Formation at Xavier

At Xavier Catholic College we invite all members to come in and live the Gospel of Jesus so that they may, **“Go and set the world on Fire”**. Our community challenges all to be a living witness of the good news of Jesus in our world and this is evident by:

- Induction and Faith formation for student leaders
- Weekly newsletter articles provided by the Faith and Mission Team
- Induction and Faith formation for new members to the community
- Staff retreats
- Student retreats are delivered annually to all students from Year 5 students through to Year 12.
- Reflection Days
- Students Leaders Retreat to assist in their understanding of our faith, their role and to develop their knowledge and understanding of prayer and works of faith.
- Providing and supporting staff and students in creating prayerful moments on year level camps
- Inviting parishioners to come and share their faith story with the students
- Supporting two students to undertake an immersion to Timor Leste every year
- Supporting and encouraging our students to understand the good works of agencies in our world by participating in a local immersion working with local support agencies with the community.
- Students are involved as altar servers at College and parish masses
  - Students are part of the Parish Youth Ministry Team and all its works
  - Staff and students are encouraged to participate in all school masses, liturgies and celebrations
  - Awareness raising and fundraising during Mission weeks
  - Enlist visiting presenters to inspire and action our college community to be more in the world, striving for the Magis. Eg. Gary Pinto, Fr Rob Galea, Fr Sacha Berma Goldring , Marty Scroope, Fr Gerry Healy & Fr Richard Leonard.

