

Year 1: Mary

As a Church, one of the ways we honour Mary, the greatest of the Saints, is as the Mother of Jesus. We reflect on how Mary's holiness was magnified by her encounter with the holiness and power, the Tapu and Mana of God.

Year 2: Saints and Inspiring People

Those officially declared by the Church to be Saints because of their virtues, the holiness - tapu and mana of their lives, are now with God. They act as models for the members of the Church on earth, and are linked to them through prayer. The saintliness of ordinary people can also inspire others and lead them to God.

Year 3: Life, Death and Christian Hope

Suffering and death are a part of life. Catholic beliefs about the resurrection of the body and life after death provide meaning and a reason for hope. The rituals of Catholic funerals and tangi provide consolation for the bereaved. The Church encourages people to remember those who have died and to pray for them.

Year 8: Life, Death and Christian Hope

The human person is both physical and spiritual. The Church has death and burial rituals for Catholic people in various cultures. With grief and loss there is Christian Hope when we believe we will share in the fullness of the Kingdom.

Communion of Saints

Year 4: Choice

Our life journey - Te Wa, is a journey towards God. The choices we make on that journey have significance in terms of our final destination, our life after death. Traditionally the Church has spoken of life after death in terms of heaven, hell and purgatory.

Year 7: Choices

With God's gift of free will comes the responsibility to develop an informed conscience so that we may make life-giving choices for ourselves and others. This is particularly important in areas covered by the Church's teaching on the sanctity of life.

Year 6: Mary

From the New Testament we learn that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is a model of faith and discipleship. Catholics honour Mary as the Mother of God, Mother of the Church and patroness of Aotearoa New Zealand. This honour is expressed in various forms of devotion to Mary.

Year 5: Saints and Inspiring People

Catholics believe in the Communion of Saints the unity of the community of all members of the Church, those now living, those who are with God in heaven and those undergoing purification before entering the fullness of life with God. The living may pray to the saints for their intercession, and for those in purgatory. The living and the dead are all joined in praise of God.