

## RE DAY INSPIRES

*On Monday July 11, Kate Lawry and Jo-anne Van der Voort coordinated a Religious Education (RE) Day for the teachers in Small Schools, following on from a similar one held earlier in the year. The focus was on understanding scripture more fully and its link to the Liturgy of the Word.*

Jason Whatnall, a passionate young teacher, wrote about this day and his experience can be read below:

My name is Jason and I am a first year graduate teacher currently teaching Years 4, 5 & 6 at St Patrick's Primary School, St Arnaud. At the beginning of Term Three, I attended a two day workshop at St Mary's Primary School in Donald, which focused on Religious Education in Catholic Primary Schools and was facilitated by Kate Lawry and Jo-anne Van der Voort.

Although I come from a Pentecostal background and have a great deal of knowledge in terms of Christianity, I've found it a challenge to learn about the Catholic way of teaching and to implement this confidently into my teaching. I found this RE day to be extremely helpful in terms of extending my knowledge around Catholic theology.

Participants were welcomed and felt at ease which was evident by the rich conversations among colleagues - all expanding my point of view. Learning about scripture was very interesting and allowed me to open my mind in terms of how to understand more deeply the world behind the text as well as the context and background of many biblical passages. The more I understand, the more confident I feel to deliver this information to my students in the classroom in an engaging and meaningful way.



Stories such as Creation in Genesis might be viewed by some as ridiculous if taught literally. However, reading biblical commentaries and understanding the historical contexts helped me to interpret the stories more fully. I've also learnt that the Bible needs to be explored with an open mind and can be open to new interpretations each time you re-read scripture - because of this PD day, I'm now much more confident in delivering my Religious Education lessons with my students.

I am excited to put what I've learnt into practise in the classroom. I am also keen to continue having discussions around Religious Education pedagogy with colleagues from all over the diocese. Another avenue of support is to make use of the fantastic resources available in the Religious Education Resource Centre in Ballarat.

Thank-you for this fantastic opportunity for professional development and I strongly recommend that anyone who needs support or inspiration with their Religious Education classes, should contact the Religious Education team.