

What it means to be Catholic

Luke Parnis, July 2014

There are many joys and wonders about being Catholic. Faith is such a wonderful thing, and it is something that we should all think about as we all go about our days. Just recently, we celebrated Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them the ability to speak foreign languages, to spread the good news of the Lord. Just like Pentecost, when we are babies, we are given gifts and talents to help proclaim god's message, and to be more kind, loving human beings. When we have these gifts and talents, we must use them for other people's needs, and not to always put ourselves first. An example of this is shown by my father Stephen, who is a doctor. He **always** puts the needs and concerns of his patients first, before anything else. He always treats people with so much respect, not just his patients but with his family and his friends, no matter who they were, or where they came from. Respect is one of the most important things in life, and something that Jesus always showed, no matter the situation he was in. Jesus is such a role model for me as he shows that being nice and doing the right thing is always the right choice. No, I can't perform miracles, but the little things I can do to help people certainly make a difference.

Recently, I was elected Social Justice Leader at Holy Rosary Primary School. My goal is to help bring 'Social Justice' to our school and to the wider community by raising funds and awareness to help out people in need. With any leadership role comes responsibility; responsibility to work hard, responsibility to listen to my committee member's inputs and ideas, and responsibility to make sure that I am making the fairest decisions for our group. Jesus' inspirational messages help me make those decisions, and I make the decisions based on what is right, what is kind and one more very important aspect: What would Jesus do in this situation? This is why going to mass on Sundays is so important to me, as I get to learn Jesus' ways of living and the things he did to become such an influential figure in his time.

As I go about my daily life, whether I am at school or at home or any other place I may be, I make it my duty to act as God wants me to, *"To love one another as I have loved you"*.