Halloween, All Saints and All Souls Days

The RE Team often receives enquiries from schools questioning the appropriateness of celebrating Halloween in Catholic schools. The main liturgical focus in the month of November is the theme of Remembrance. The two central feast days worthy of recognition by schools are All Saints Day (Nov 1) and All Souls Day (Nov 2). In Australia and elsewhere we also gather to remember and commemorate the end of the hostilities for World War I, the signing of the armistice, which occurred on 11 November 1918. Elizabeth Harrington from the Brisbane Liturgical Commission explains that although Halloween celebrations may be appropriate in Catholic schools, she argues they should not overshadow All Saints and All Souls. Visit the website to read Elizabeth’s view on celebrating Halloween. Visit the Shared Document Library in the Religious Education Leaders section of the portal to download a PowerPoint Presentation developed by Pat Lavercombe which explores some of the issues surrounding Saints, Halloween, All Saints and All Souls Days.

ResourceLink

Staff in Brisbane Catholic Education schools can now access the newly launched ResourceLink website. ResourceLink is the Resourcing and Information Service Delivery Centre for BCE. It supports resource development for learning and teaching, religious education and evangelisation and spiritual formation. It is anticipated that in early 2010 Religious Institute Schools will access online and multimedia resources for RE through this site. In the meantime, Religious Institute Schools can access these resources through the Multimedia Blog. Opening hours of ResourceLink: Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm Ph: 3033 7481 Email: resourcelink@bne.catholic.edu.au

The Birth of Jesus

Erin Wedge (Education Officer – Religious Education) has made use of the new Production Room located in ResourceLink to produce a short vodcast on using picture books to teach the Infancy Narrative. Erin uses a range of evaluative and critical analysis tools to discover what is ‘story’, what may be ‘historical’ and what the story could mean for teachers and students today.

Year of St Luke eConference

After the successful St Paul eConference held in June 2009, members of the RE Team and ResourceLink will host another eConference, this time focused on St Luke. The conference will be held at O’Shea In-service Centre, Wilston, on Wednesday 4 November 9:30 – 3:40pm. Register here. RI schools can register here.

Erin demonstrates how using picture books can both engage students and bring them to a greater understanding of the version of the story found in St Luke’s Gospel. View Part 1 here and Part 2 here. RI Schools can access the vodcasts via the Multimedia Blog.