



# THE SALT APPROACH



Bringing Christ Alive for Children

# MISSION

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## The SALT Approach

is a research-based religious education program developed in Australia for early childhood and primary school students.

Its mission is to promote knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith through hands-on educational materials, opening the child to deep spiritual realities.



# RESEARCH FINDINGS

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A six-year study confirmed that:

- Children, given the opportunity, are drawn to the spiritual.
- Teachers can become co-learners alongside the child, as they implement the SALT Approach.
- SALT can work successfully within diversely populated schools and parishes.
- Systemic accountability demands can be met using SALT's holistic structure.
- The SALT Approach offers a paradigm for religious education, very much in harmony with cutting edge educational research.



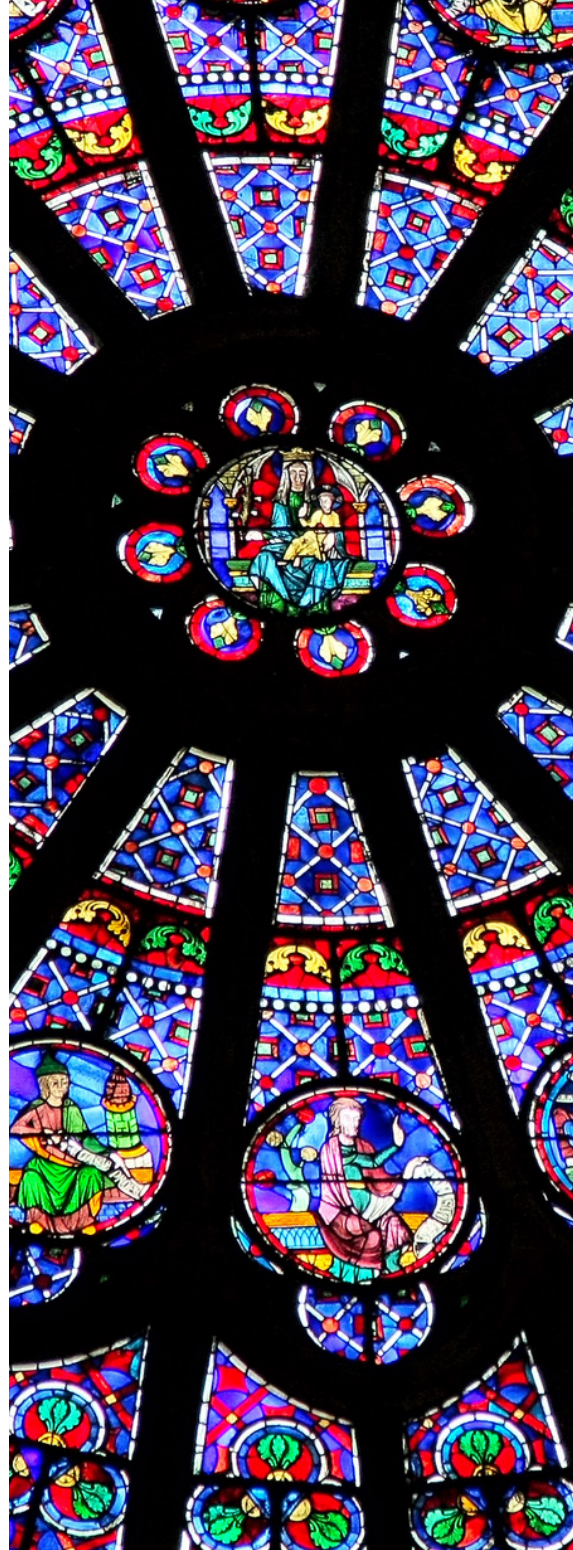
# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

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- A Trinitarian Christocentric, scripture-based approach with a focus on the Sacraments and the Liturgical Year.
- A Christian anthropological understanding of the human person, recognising each person's integrity, transcendent value and eternal destiny.
- Core pedagogies that
  - a. permit pondering,
  - b. respect the person, and
  - c. allow for authentic freedom and choice.

Teaching and learning sessions are structured to facilitate these core pedagogies.

- Addressing elements that impact negatively on free choice and self-regulated learning, which are fundamental to SALT.
- Facilitating the faith-formation of Catholic educators.





# HISTORY

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The SALT Approach developed through doctoral research applying the work of Maria Montessori, Sofia Cavalletti and Gerard O'Shea in the Catholic classroom.

It emanated from a need to bridge the gap between theory and practice, offering a viable approach for teaching and learning of religious education in contemporary Catholic schools.

Applying the pedagogy developed by Montessori, the Church's liturgical year provides the SALT Approach with a comprehensive framework incorporating Scripture, Sacraments, Catholic teaching and prayer. The pedagogy can be applied to the entire religious education curriculum used in any diocese.

Children ponder deeply as they engage with the Catholic faith in all its dimensions, applying it to their own lives. It offers physical materials, supporting booklets and tailored programs.

The SALT Approach aims to free teachers to invest time into pondering, both for themselves and for students. It is designed to support a personal encounter with God through Jesus Christ.

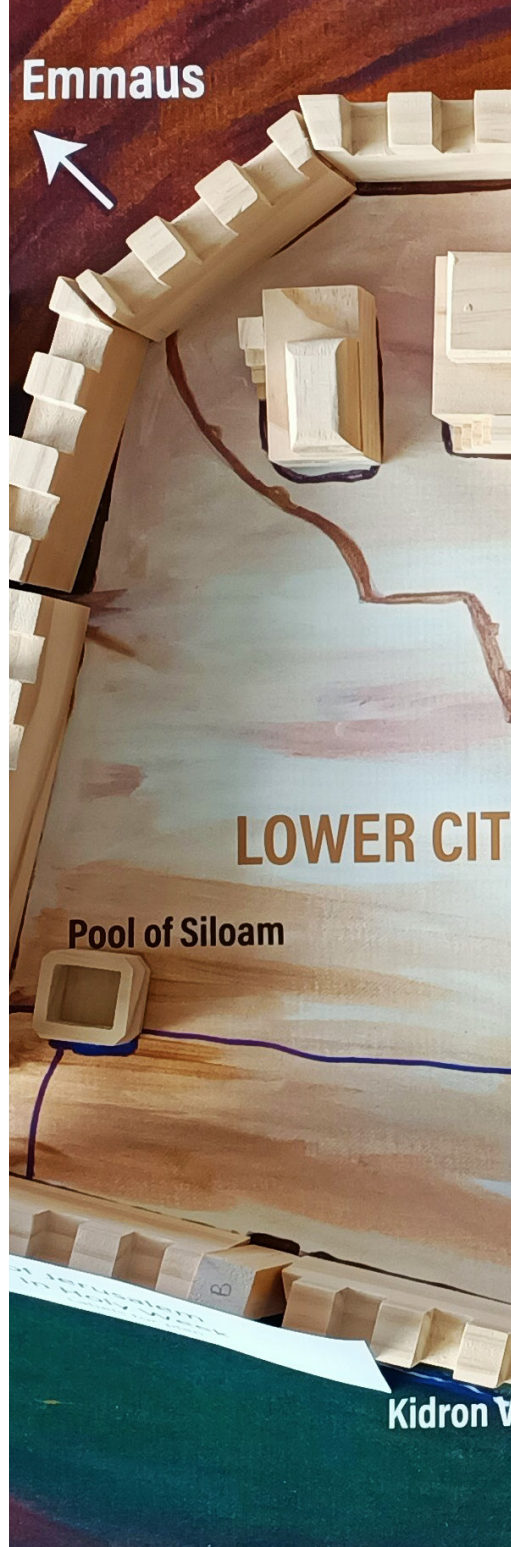
Opportunities are presented to enable a deep consideration of Scripture and Church Liturgy, within a climate conducive to prayerful reflection. There is significant evidence that, should conditions be right, children are capable of rapidly switching into the spiritual zone, quickly engaging in opportunities to pray and reflect, and finding quiet spaces within the room to do so.

# THE APPROACH FACILITATES

- Presenting the mystery of the Trinity in a clear and cohesive way to children.
- Fostering an intimate communion with Jesus Christ.
- Incorporating reflective time into the lives of students.
- Providing materials to engage the senses, using visible aids, to foster faith.
- The development and deepening of the educator's own understanding and faith.

# SALT AT HOME

- The SALT Approach offers a comprehensive range of materials to support parents and grandparents to educate their children in the Catholic faith.
- Our resources come complete with presentation guides, giving step-by-step instructions with clear doctrinal points when appropriate.
- For homeschoolers, a Kindergarten to Year 6 curriculum is available.
- Membership to the Learning Hub also provides access to presentation videos and downloadable materials to teach the SALT Approach successfully.





# UPPER CITY

The Theatre

Hasmonean Palace

Judgement

Y

Hippodrome

Antonia  
Fortress

Valley

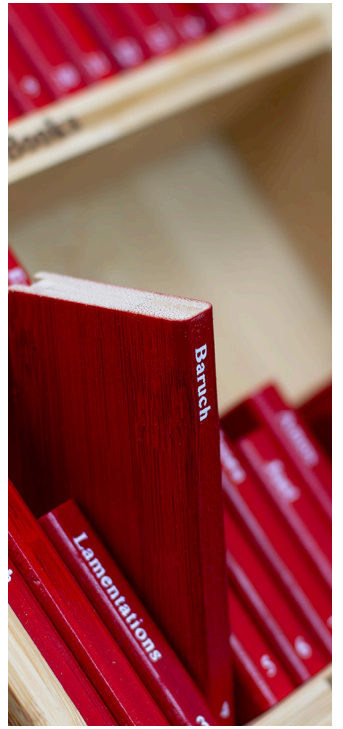
Golden Gate



## **THE SALT APPROACH OFFERS SCHOOLS AND PARISHES:**

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- Curriculum outlines and programs, compatible with a spiral liturgical curriculum, and tailored according to diocesan requirements.
- Demonstration sessions.
- Implementation of the SALT Approach within schools and parishes, under the guidance of a SALT consultant.
- Equipping teachers and catechists in schools and parishes with materials for their programs.
- Professional development for teachers, sacramental coordinators and catechists.
- Free on-line member access to video demonstrations, professional development, curriculum and student activities.



"I feel that this particular pedagogy allows students to be more engaged in the learning through the amazing resources."

- School Principal

"I like it because we get to see and use little figurines like the Last Supper and the Empty Tomb."

- Student

"I genuinely believe that your method will have an everlasting impact on the student's faith formation."

- Teacher

"I love when we get to build things, like the City of Jerusalem."

- Student

"I like this way because it's better and fun. We learn more things."

- Student

"I had so much fun in here. I would stay here for the holidays."

- Student

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

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"All my life I thought that I had to force Jesus to love me, but now I know that Jesus already loves me."

- Student

"I have learned that Jesus is real. Jesus will always be with us no matter what."

- Student

"I see in the research program what I would want to see across all learning, moving from set teacher directed learning tasks to student centred tasks... more guidance from the teacher based on really sound knowledge of the content, and of what we are trying to achieve. That's what I have observed.

The students are free to interact in different ways."

- School Principal

"The teacher introduces the (religious) topic through the use of concrete materials, dioramas, scripture and tradition. A time of pondering together flows naturally from the presentation. Thought provoking questions will often be framed in terms of 'I wonder'. This facilitates an exchange of thoughts and responses leading to deeper learning."

- School RE Coordinator

"It's more fun. I like it a lot more than religion last year."

- Student

TE AND LITURGY TEACHING APPL



Be part of a child's  
greatest discovery.



## THE SALT APPROACH

[www.saltapproach.org](http://www.saltapproach.org)

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focused on the knowledge  
and understanding of the  
Catholic Faith.