

Our Parish Catechists

TERM 4, 2016

*Handing on what we have received
the hope and joy that
Jesus brings*



Photo by Giovanni Portelli



Archdiocese of Sydney
Catechist Newsletter

From the Director

Thank you

Thank you for your continued service to our children in public schools. Your all important presence and kindness makes all the difference in the world.



Doug Mawhinney

Kindness is the language
which the deaf can hear and
the blind can see.

- Mark Twain

I wish you all a good Term 4 as we head towards Advent and Christmas; may you continue to delight in this rewarding mission. The Holy Spirit is with you and goes before you. The CCD is here to help and looks forward to supporting you and your Parish throughout the remainder of this year and in the year ahead.

Introducing Julia Goff

We welcome Julia Goff who joins Laura Argiro as your CCD Administration Coordinator in a job-share role. Julia has served 20 years as both a Catechist in Peakhurst and as a TAFE Communications and Media teacher. Welcome "Team Laura & Julia"! Laura will work Mondays - Wednesdays and Julia, Wednesdays - Fridays. The Wednesday overlap will allow us to meet an online Catechist training initiative that is being implemented by CCRESS (Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools).

Catechist Recruitment - "What works?"

We have learnt *not* to start *recruitment* with, "We need Catechists!" What tends to work better is to highlight a great good and to issue an invitation:

Come and delight in a most spiritually fulfilling mission; instantly become part of a wider family; our Parish kids in state schools are hungry to hear the story of Jesus and the joy and hope he brings, and we love serving them.

"Three barriers" to volunteers stepping forward to be Catechists, which clergy and existing Catechists may be able to break down are:

- "I don't know enough about my faith" (show a simple lesson – you can teach this – start as a helper)
- "I want to take holidays without being hampered by a weekly commitment" (we have backup support – the fact is, it is easier to cover a 6-8 week cruise than a whole school year)
- "I doubt if I can handle a classroom full of kids" (we have training, in class support and we can assist in preparation)

Many parishioners simply need your reassurance to gain the *confidence* to work with their clergy to evangelise and catechise "on and beyond" Sunday.

From the Director

Continued

“The bottom line” is that, in terms of the all-important recruitment of Catechists, in those parishes where clergy regularly make their Catechist Coordinators and Catechists known to other parishioners, we have ample Catechists.

Wisdom from our Catechists/CCD Admin Coordinators: Laura Argiro informed me that having a Children's Activity book on hand works well when recruiting to show how easy the lessons are with the step-by-step teachers' guide. The above “three blockages” were clearly shared by Julia Goff at the Southern Area Coordinators Meeting so, together, Laura and Julia are now working with your FEOs to update our Parish SRE Handbook and the recruitment promotion pack materials.

Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Associates, Parish Staff

CCD needs the help of clergy to ensure that your Parish Catechists receive initial and ongoing training in enjoyable and creative catechesis, classroom management, safeguarding, and the use of the approved curriculum that the CCD publishes and distributes. The Archbishop gives an Annual Assurance to the NSW Education Department Director of Schools that all of our Catechists have this training in place. We need to hit these training marks and adhere to this assurance throughout the year to fulfil our obligations for the sake of providing good catechesis to our Parish children in state schools.

Revision of CCD training for Parish Catechists

Initial training: CCD Sydney is currently revising its training courses commencing by combining the Basic One and Basic Two courses starting in 2017. The “induction” part of this initial training must be completed prior to any new catechists taking a class on their own and by all helpers. The remaining initial training is to be completed within their first year.

Ongoing training: The Intermediate, Advanced and Catechist Ministry Certificate course topics will be revised in 2017 to meet new requirements and identified needs, e.g. with respect to classroom management, use of the approved curriculum and faith development, for the sake of keeping up with the times and new challenges in providing creative and enjoyable catechesis. Secondary SRE will be looked at from two perspectives: Training of secondary teachers and program/resources.

“Peace begins with a smile.”

-Mother Teresa

TERM 4, EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
SUNDAY, 9 OCTOBER	2PM	ANNUAL CATECHIST MASS	ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL
MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER	10AM TO 1.30PM	CATECHIST GATHERING	DOOLEYS, LIDCOMBE
FRIDAY, 11 NOVEMBER	10AM TO 2PM	CATECHIST RETREAT	MT SCHOENSTATT, MULGOA
FRIDAY, 25 NOVEMBER	12 NOON TO 2.30PM	LIFE MEMBERS' FUNCTION	DOOLEYS, LIDCOMBE

From the Director

Continued

School and Archdiocesan Photo policies

Before a photo is taken of any students, catechists must request permission from the school.

Karen Larkman, Director of the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Office, recently published the following excerpt in the Clergy Newsletter in regard to this matter:

Karen Larkman,

Director, Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

SAFEGUARDING BITES:

Photographing and Videoing of Children and Young People

It is important that you ensure you have all necessary consents/permissions prior to taking or publishing any images of children and young people at parish events. There may be times when there is a legitimate reason why a child should not have their photograph or image publicised to protect their safety. Therefore, please ensure you have parents/guardians sign the photography consent/permission form prior to any Parish events.

Catechists can access the photography permission form from their parish office or by contacting the CCD office

Tel: 02 9307 8330

Catechist Safeguarding and Child Protection training

The Archdiocese's new Safeguarding office is currently providing clergy and parish secretaries with safeguarding and child protection training.

CCD is also standardising its safeguarding and child protection with the Archdiocesan training so that clergy and catechists receive the same information.

In collaborating with the Safeguarding Office, the CCD training will take into account the specific needs of Special Religious Education (SRE) Teachers (i.e. Catechists) so that we can all comply with the NSW Department of Education's school policies and procedures for the sake of providing good learning experiences for our children in state schools.

CCD is currently piloting this updated safeguarding training and we will be contacting your parish to arrange training times for Catechists.

Thank you and may our loving God continue to bless you and your students, today and everyday.

Doug Mawhinney Director - CCD Sydney

From the Business Manager

Dear Catechist Coordinators,

We notice a recent trend has developed by some parishes when ordering their annual COLAL and sacramental books simultaneously at the start of each year. Bundling orders in this way will not only save in postage costs but also in administration and reduce delays due to miscalculation of students numbers.



If, for example, you intend ordering 15 books it may be fruitful to order 20 books to give you some margin in case of increased student participation.

We are currently in the process of topping up our curriculum stocks and are pleased to advise there will be no price increase for next year. Orders can be placed as early as mid-November if you wish to receive stock before Christmas.

Bulk order forms will be mailed out to all participating parishes in October 2016. Alternatively order forms can be accessed via our website.

Thank you to all parish coordinators/catechists for your cooperation and dedication to this important apostolate.

Eddie Kropkowski, Business Manager - CCD Sydney

Vale

Having shared the Good News with so many children, may these Catechists now delight in meeting Jesus face to face.

~ 2016 ~

<i>June Margaret Smith</i>	<i>Maree Jackson</i>	<i>Frances Cooté</i>
<i>Sr Jean Marie Brennan</i>	<i>Sr Barbara Bochat</i>	<i>Violeta Nagy</i>
<i>Fr Frank Furfaro</i>	<i>Anna Rose Furfaro</i>	<i>Mavis O'Donoghue</i>
<i>Patricia Ann Russo</i>	<i>Clare Day</i>	<i>Maryanne Prosser</i>
<i>Kevin Sheedy</i>	<i>Nancy Buchanan</i>	<i>Paula Keyes</i>
<i>Cristina Evelyn Kew-Waye</i>	<i>Vicci Mabbit</i>	<i>Reg Benson</i>
<i>Maureen Hilton</i>	<i>Dorothy Kernahan</i>	<i>Gerard Rowan</i>
<i>Catherine Hardman</i>		

MUSIC MATTERS

Music in the SRE Classroom

Music plays an important role in our Catholic faith and can be incorporated into religious education for children of all ages. Music has a unique power to touch a person's whole being – physically, mentally and spiritually. Music has the ability to move people and bring out the full message by expressing inner feelings and attitudes.

Music is a powerful learning tool. If you don't use much music in your classroom, give it a try, it will make an immediate impact. If you do use music, think of ALL the ways you can be using it to make your classroom a warmer, more effective learning environment.

Mood music will create an environment. Just as you take care to make your learning environment visually appealing and stimulating, you should also note the effect that music has on the atmosphere in the classroom.

Message music sums up the lesson, making memorisation painless. One of the great things about using music is that people don't forget songs. How many of you when asked to name the Beatitudes start singing in your mind? Story songs are available with biblical stories, helping children identify with these characters and prayer music or hymns are often used to begin or end a lesson.

GUIDELINES FOR INTRODUCING A NEW SONG

- Play the song softly, so children really listen.
- Give the children direction to listen for one or more specific things.
- Take time to share what is heard.
- Print the words on a poster or have individual copies.
- Young children will listen to and repeat each phrase.
- Add rhythm by clapping or swaying.
- Experiment with movement, either spontaneous or planned, expressing outwardly what is inwardly experienced.
- Try drawing a picture of the song.
- Use again and again – children love familiar songs.



Remember, children learn by all their senses being involved. When you use songs that can be taught through gestures, very little pre-teaching is necessary.

Most children will sing along right away, but even the children who aren't ready to sing will be able to participate with gestures.

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICER

Southern Area

DENISE HUMPHREYS

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The Area Mass was once again well attended. This is always a great celebration which gives catechists time to meet, talk and share food for the body and soul. Thank you to Fr Danai, Fr Mate and the Caringbah catechists for overall organisation, and to the wonderful catechists and priests who attended from both sides of the water. Hopefully I will see many of you at the Annual Catechist Mass on 9th October in St Mary's Cathedral.

Please check to see when your SRE classes will finish for the year – often it is sooner than you would expect. Allow time to tell the Christmas story – your SRE class may be the only place some students will hear it.

Tracy McEwan, previously Gynea Catechist coordinator and current PhD student, is now also working in the Southern Area (pictured below, centre left of photo). Tracy has been presenting the Basic One and Basic Two Accreditation Courses at Miranda since the birth of my son and daughter-in-law's very premature twins. Thank you to all the people who have been praying for these two precious little girls.

Please call or email if you require any assistance.

Thank you again for all the support you have given us this year.

Denise Humphreys

Tracy McEwan

Faith Education Officers, Southern Area

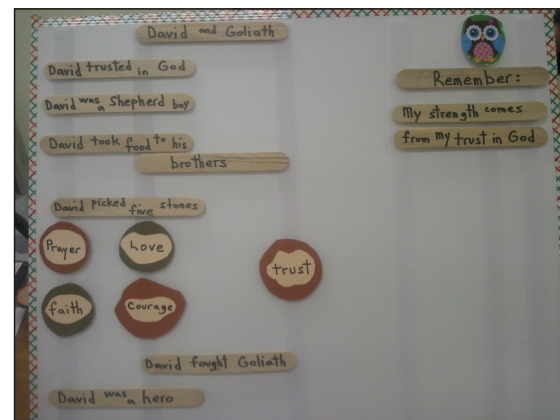
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southern@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Tel: 02 9524 6400



A Christmas craft workshop held at Miranda with Southern Area Catechists.



Resources on the lesson of David and Goliath by Gynea Catechist, Christine.

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICER

Central Area

SARAH CHRISTIE

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Greetings to all in the Central Area,

A big thank you to all those coordinators who attended our meeting in late July and came armed with plenty of feedback on CCD operations and suggestions as to how we can improve. We exist to help serve you, our volunteers, and I hope that we can continue to evaluate our methods so that you and all SRE students and their families benefit.

It seems like ages now since we celebrated our Area Mass. For the first time in our history, our High School Catechists from La Salle Bankstown joined us, and it was lovely to see Catechists of all ages gather to give thanks to God for our work and ask Him to bless it.

It has come to my attention that some schools are asking for 100 points of ID from our catechists. Please note that this is not necessary. Some schools are unaware of DET guidelines - you're only obliged to give your Parish your WWCC and the Parish handles the rest with a letter from the Parish Priest listing serving catechists.

A reminder yet again that ALL teachers and helpers who are in the classroom MUST do their Basic One before commencing their teaching. This is a legal requirement. It was during the census that I realised this protocol is not always being followed, and while I understand the urgency in placing new volunteers, I am happy to fill in until you have found someone suitable.

We're hearing great stories of young people who have returned from World Youth Day with renewed vigour and zeal for their faith. If there are any attending your parish, why not ask the Parish Priest to discuss having them as relief catechists? A great back-up is essential - the perfect insurance for a catechist who is away on holidays or suddenly fallen ill.

This year we're celebrating two additional Catholic High Schools: Holy Spirit Lakemba and De La Salle Ashfield. Seeing teenagers want to pass on their faith is wonderful in and of itself, but when it pays off in their returning to the ministry in their adult years, it's amazing! If there's a Catholic School in your area that is in close proximity to a state school, let me know and I'll chat with them about having some High School Assistants in with you.

Right now, we are in the midst of preparing for our Annual Catechist Mass, which is the area Mass on a grander scale. I'd like to thank those who have volunteered so far for roles in the Mass. I'm still in need of ushers to help people to their seats, as well as anyone who might be able to set up the food and drinks in the hall. Please call or email me if you'd like to assist.

A big congratulations in advance to everyone receiving an award at the Annual Mass this year, especially to 50 year awardee Dianne McGrath of Padstow, who will carry the Book of Remembrance up to the altar in the entrance procession. Dianne says it will have special meaning for her - and for us also. Our catechists are not only immortalised in that book, but in the souls of those children to whom they brought the best news they could ever receive.

Thanks for all your hard work this year, and best wishes for the festive season.
In Christ,

Sarah Christie - 02 9787 3579

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICER

Northern Area

CHRIS COX

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Hello to all Catechists in the Northern Area,

Congratulations to the Northern area awardees who will be receiving their service awards at the Annual Catechist Mass. This year the Mass has been changed to Sunday 9th October 2016 at 2pm.

I have recently become aware that catechists are eager to use the smart board lessons in their classroom but have been having issues downloading the software. There are a number of reasons why this is the case but one main reason could be software. Smart board Notebook 11.4 software is not compatible with Windows 10 or Mac OSX versions, thus will not work on your home computer.

Previously we have stated that in order to use the Electronic COLAL [Christ Our Light and Life] lessons, you must have the Smart Board Notebook software downloaded on your home computer or laptop. We have recently discovered that there is another alternative by using an online solution. Catechists can view the electronic lessons on the USB by using the online tool Smart tech express, located at <http://express.smarttech.com> this is a very basic and an expressed version of Smart board that allows you to open up the lessons and view them without downloading any software on your home computer and is compatible with Windows 10 or Mac OSX.

Recently Homebush Boys High School held the first Catholic Scripture class in over 30 years. I am delighted to announce that considering it was the first class, we had 147 Catholic boys from year 7 to year 12 attend the seminar. Next year in 2017, Homebush Boys High School plan to have weekly classes. If any catechist feels called to teach in the High School, please let me know.

It was lovely to see everyone at the Northern Area Mass at St Joan of Arc Haberfield. A big thank you must go to the Coordinator Greg Hill for all the work and preparation that was done to make it so successful.

Thank you for all the wonderful presents and well wishes I have received on the birth of my son. My wife Danielle and I have been really enriched by the kindness and support so many Catechists have shown to my family and especially to baby Alexander.

God bless you!

Chris Cox

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICER

Eastern Area

ROBERT MILAN

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A final term for preparation for 2017! Welcome to Term Four, and whilst this term is the shortest of the terms, it certainly is the busiest as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus at Christmas, prepare our Christmas pageants, look towards 2017 in regard to recruitment and book orders and wind down towards the celebration of Christmas with family and friends.

In Term 2 we had a celebration of the Eastern Area Mass, and I wish to thank Mr. John Spora, Coordinator, Daceyville Parish and the team of catechists for hosting the Eastern Area Mass. It was an uplifting time of prayer, thanksgiving and celebration. Thank you to Father Moses Kim and to the con-celebrating priests of the Eastern Area and to all who attended and made the day a special one.

Please remember that any new catechists or helpers or assistants or standby catechists must hold a current WWCC, be verified by their parish(s) and complete a BAC Level One course.

Classroom Management Tips

The final tips for 2016, I wish to focus on lesson planning, resources, maximising classroom time, discipline and challenging behaviours. These tips will certainly help us in our term meetings in 2017 and with our catechists and providing support to any new catechists.

Planning my lesson

As I sit with a cup of coffee next to me and prepare my lesson, I go through the first page of the lesson which contains the lesson number, title, teaching focus, learning outcomes, catechism and scripture reference and most importantly, the recommended resources. If you haven't already noticed, our lessons are both liturgically arranged and consecutive, in other words they follow the Church's liturgical season, so when we are celebrating Easter, we should be focused on lessons 8 or 9. Consecutive simply means that the lessons follow each other, a previous lesson on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit follows a lesson on the Mission of St Paul living these gifts, as an example.

Without fail my preparation always involves a highlighter and red pen. I highlight what I will be asking, reading or explaining to the students and on the left side margin, I write prompts such as 'ask', or 'read', or 'explain', or 'invite students to read', or go to 'student activity books' etc. I also keep in mind the suggested time frames as this helps me to keep within the time allotted and to ensure good classroom time management practices.

Always visualise how you wish each class to be and affirm in your thoughts some positive affirmation e.g. 'I am always positive, I deliver my lessons with enthusiasm and love'. Try not to be too harsh on yourself should the lesson not turn out as you envisioned it. Make a note on what went wrong and re-address or debrief with your Coordinator, other catechists or your FEO. You can only improve with each lesson.

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICER

Use of Resources

With any resources I use whether they are Br Julian Quinlan's resources, Smart Board, Big Books, items off the internet or flash cards used via MSWord, I ensure these are placed in the order of the lesson plan. This ensures the flow of the lesson is smooth and the scheduled time frame is adhered.

Maximising my classroom time

Importantly, I aim to arrive at the classroom at least 5 or 10 minutes prior to commencement, as I have the luxury of accessing the classroom prior to the students entering [if you do not have this luxury, your preparation at home is vital]. For the Years 3 to 6 classes I ensure all the books are sorted on a desk for the students to collect as they enter. The remaining books tells me who hasn't turned up to class and are used to mark the roll which is taken either while the students are working or after they have left.

Discipline and Challenging Behaviours

Discipline strategies are also crucial. My discipline is often 'on the run'. I do not allow unnecessary chatter or comments or questions to creep into the lesson. Remember you and I are in control of the lesson, not the other way around. If you find yourself with a challenging student, always seek assistance from the classroom teacher or the person responsible for SRE at your school or simply the Principal. Never suffer in silence, people are there to help, all you need to do is ASK!

I hope these tips are of some help. Remember that our Basic One and Basic Two courses are FREE and available to assist you. You can choose to do them as many times as you feel necessary.

I would like to thank you all for your continued work in this Apostolate and may God reward you for your time and efforts in sharing the wonderful gift of faith. I wish you, your families and friends a most blessed and holy Christmas. May 2017 bring a renewed love for Jesus and His Church.

The Peace of Jesus be with you all!

Robert Milan - 02 9307 8338



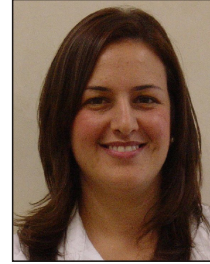
Prayer table photos courtesy of Maria Hill, Catechist, Bexley Parish.

FAITH EDUCATION OFFICER

Western Area

TERESA CULJAK

Email: teresa.culjak@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au



Greetings to all in the Western Area!

I recently attended a talk by John Pridmore, an ex gangster from London who had a remarkable conversion.

John shared a story on the extraordinary love of God the Father.

There was a father devoted to his son who had started school. And he said to his son, "I will always be there for you." And every single day, his father waited by the gate to pick up his child. Then one day there was a terrible earthquake and the school was reduced to rubble. The father rushed to the school but the children were given up for dead. The building was just a pile of rubble, with the children buried underneath it.

The father started removing the rubble, the people thought he was crazy. But he continued, even as night fell. People joined to help him but after dark they said he should get home and get some rest, that a rescue cannot be undertaken in the dark. The father did not listen. He continued desperately to remove the rubble. He worked right through the night, constantly screaming out his child's name.

Then finally, just before dawn, a feeble voice was heard from underneath the rubble. And minutes later, the father was holding his son, who was still alive. And other children were pulled out alive too.

"See?" said the child. "I told you my father would be here!"

If this is what an earthly father would do for his son, how much more does God the Father call our name, search and yearn for us? We stand in the midst of the Year of Mercy, a time of grace and mercy. The Father is constantly calling out our name amidst the rubble in our lives.

Will you answer?

Our Father too is calling out the names of each and every one of our students. In the remaining months of the school year, be encouraged and not afraid to share your own testimonies of faith and mercy. In this way, our students will see the Word, living and active, becoming flesh in their daily lives.

A special thank you to Fr Jarek Zan, Mimi Romeo and the catechists from St Gertrude's Parish, Smithfield for hosting this year's Western Area Mass. It was a beautiful day. The weather, the liturgy, the catered lunch, the decorations and of course all those who attended, made for a very special day. Thank you again Smithfield Parish!

The Intermediate Accreditation Course will be presented in Term 4 at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Mt Pritchard. Please see course dates on page 18 for details.

Thank you for your commitment in building the civilisation of love.

Teresa Culjak

All catechists are invited to attend the Annual Catechist Mass on Sunday 9 October 2016.

The Mass celebrated by Bishop Anthony (Tony) Randazzo, will commence at 2.00pm in St Marys Cathedral, followed by afternoon tea in the College Hall. For catering purposes, kindly advise Laura or Julia on 9307 8330 of your attendance.

Pope Saint John Paul II Award for 50 Year Awardees

Dianne Mary McGrath	Padstow
Merryl Foster	Ryde

Cardinal Gilroy Award for 40 Year Awardees

Mary Ann Weir	Bass Hill
Margaret Parsons	Engadine
Monica Fitch	Georges Hall
Veronica Ann Altham	Hurstville South
Barbara Burns	North Ryde
Elwin Kooyman	North Ryde
Georgina Kermodé	Panania

Life Member Award for 30 Year Awardees

Shirley Bond	Bondi
Maryanne Barbara	Cabramatta
Bertha Silva	Fairfield
Helen Abbey	Rosebery
Halina Vanolini	Smithfield

Cardinal Freeman Medal for 25 Year Awardees

Nina Vella	Blakehurst
Margaret Culhane	Bondi
Angela Galdas	Bonnyrigg
Nancy Vartuli	Bonnyrigg
Mary Pankiw	Cabramatta
Patricia Byron	Caringbah
Chris Lim	Clovelly
Victoria Micalizzi	Croydon
Louise Brady	Denistone
Karen Varga	Gymea
Tony Sakr	Hurstville
Frank Hall	Meadowbank
Robert John Mayor	Mortlake
Margaret Joan Edwards	North Ryde

Apostolic Blessing for 20 Year Awardees

Hasna Chakty	Bass Hill
Marion Binns	Blakehurst
Nadia Pospischil	Bonnyrigg
Trudi Simpson	Bonnyrigg
Yvonne Vitagliani	Bossley Park
Mary Fitzgerald	Cabramatta
Jan Bannon	Caringbah
Elizabeth Burke	Clovelly
Barbara Martin	Earlwood
Joan Tumminello	Eastwood
Lorraine Impala	Georges Hall
Nahla Lawler	Georges Hall
Elizabeth Casamento	Maroubra Bay
Margaret Barrett	Marrickville
Rita Machaalani	Marrickville
Teresa Levi	Mascot
Janelle Shad	Oatley
Julia Goff	Peakhurst
Norina Fincato	Riverwood
Josefina Gonzaga	Rockdale City

Apostolic Blessing for 20 Year Awardees

Carol Wood	Sefton
Mary Ethel O'Meally	Surry Hills
Sr Agnes Joseph MC	Surry Hills
Yvonne McDonell	Sutherland

Certificate of Accreditation Awardees

Leanne Zyner	Beauty Point
Elisapeta Sikimeti	Belmore
Peter Dias	Belmore
Helen Torres	Belmore
Julie Chung	Belmore
Violette Wakin	Belmore
Adrian Watts	Bonnyrigg
Maria Calabrese	Bonnyrigg
Maria Nina Raquel Casareo	Campsie
Wendy Ann Macken	Caringbah
Mary Catherine Reidy	Carlton
Leeanne Favotto	Concord
Maureen Fernandes	Concord
Matasiale Tahaafe	Five Dock
Margaret McGarrity	Greenacre
Louise Hartin	Holsworthy
Rosemary Cassar	Liverpool
Bibian Querubin	Lurnea
Julius Soares	Mt Pritchard
Lina Soares	Mt Pritchard
Milane Cawaling -Lungu	Mt Pritchard
Yoliana Elias	Mt Pritchard
Peggy Lin	North Sydney
Vesna Poch	Smithfield
Bertha Fsadni	Sutherland

Catholic Schools with Student Catechists

Bethlehem College	Ashfield
De La Salle College	Ashfield
LaSalle Catholic College	Bankstown
Southern Cross Vocational College	Burwood
Freeman Catholic College	Bonnyrigg
All Saints Catholic Senior College	Casula
De La Salle College	Cronulla
Marist College	Eastwood
Patrician Brothers College	Fairfield
Domremy College	Five Dock
Rosebank College	Five Dock
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Kensington
Holy Spirit College	Lakemba
St Aloysius College	Milson's Point
St Charbel's College	Punchbowl
St Patrick's College	Sutherland
St Mary's Cathedral College	Sydney
Mary MacKillop College	Wakeley
St Clare's College	Waverley

2016 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

CATECHIST GATHERING

Book Now!..Don't Miss Out!

Christmas workshop

Catechists share their Christmas classroom ideas.

More information on the schedule for the day to be advised.

When: Monday 17 October 2016

Time: 10am to 1.30pm (Lunch will be provided)

Where: Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
24 John Street, Lidcombe 2141

***Strictly limited to 100 places.**

RSVP: Laura Argiro or Julia Goff

EMAIL: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
or on 9307 8330 by Friday, 7th October 2016



CATECHIST RETREAT

**An opportunity for catechists and friends to come away
with the Lord**

*The day will feature spiritual talks, Adoration, Mass and
an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

When: Friday, 11 November 2016

Time: 10am to 2pm

Where: Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre
230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa NSW 2745 (one hour west of Sydney)

Directions:

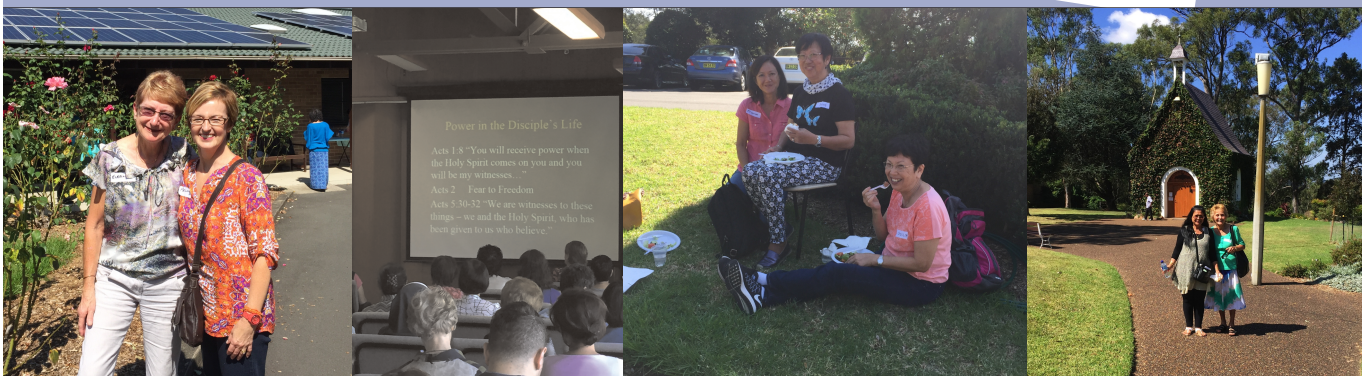
By Car: Exit M4 Mulgoa Rd, turn right into Fairlight Rd

By Bus: CCD will charter a bus (*if sufficient numbers*) at
\$10.00 return per person, to depart from
St Mary's Cathedral, College Street at 8.00am

Bookings Essential

RSVP: Laura Argiro or Julia Goff

EMAIL: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
or on 9307 8330 by Friday 4th November 2016



Photos from previous Catechist Retreat April 2016, Mulgoa

World Youth Day 2016

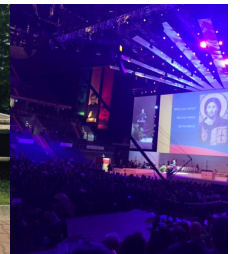


WYD2016 Reflection by Victoria Costello,

They say it's not the destination that matters but the journey. Those who have been on World Youth Day know better; it is both. For those of us who were sent with the CCD to Prague and then Krakow, it was the journey that prepared us for our destination. In turn, it was the destination that made the journey worthwhile. The trying flights, frustrating accommodations, and fatigue in a way sanctified us for the experience of meeting our big extended family in Poland, the youth of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The destination itself was of monumental significance as it was the birthplace of one of the youth's most beloved saints, Pope Saint John Paul II. The youth of the Church will always come together with familiarity and goodwill wherever they meet, but there was a special something – a spark - of the late Polish Pope humming through us as we walked through the streets that he once walked.

The CCD group – three girls, three boys, Laura Argiro and myself – started our pilgrimage in Prague. It was here that we were first acquainted with the reality of daily Mass. It was not long after we had flung our bags into our room that it was time for Mass. It soon became our daily joy and source of strength. I know I don't only speak for myself when I say that it is one of the aspects of the pilgrimage that we miss most. We visited the Infant Jesus of Prague and had the opportunity to bring all our hopes and anxieties to the Holy Infant that so many before us had fled to throughout history. We were honoured with the opportunity of having our very own Mass in the church of the Holy Infant. The rest of our time in Prague was spent exploring the gorgeous streets, buildings and churches. We visited the Castle district and we were given a tour of the beautiful St Vitus Cathedral (this one is worth a google search). The open-air markets of Prague proved to be the place to find weird and wonderful souvenirs.

It was soon time to make the journey to Poland and Czestochowa was the first place on our itinerary. It was at the Monastery of Jasna Gora that the spirit of World Youth Day caught alight within the hearts of the youth. This was the place where we first prayed together as a group after we had seen the Black Madonna. The monastery was brimming with pilgrims from all over the globe and the CCD youth could sense that the big family reunion was close at hand; the atmosphere was one of excitement and anticipation. It was also in Jasna Gora that we attended an Aussie pilgrims Mass and it was this Mass that has stood out as one of the most meaningful and powerful experiences of the CCD group. This was due to a compelling combination of the sheer grandeur of the chapel, the majestic music, and the hundreds of people kneeling in adoration on the stone floor of the pew-less space. This was quite unlike most Masses they had attended in Sydney and the youth were hungry for more. The week that followed was one of quick pace, elated spirits and sore feet.



World Youth Day 2016



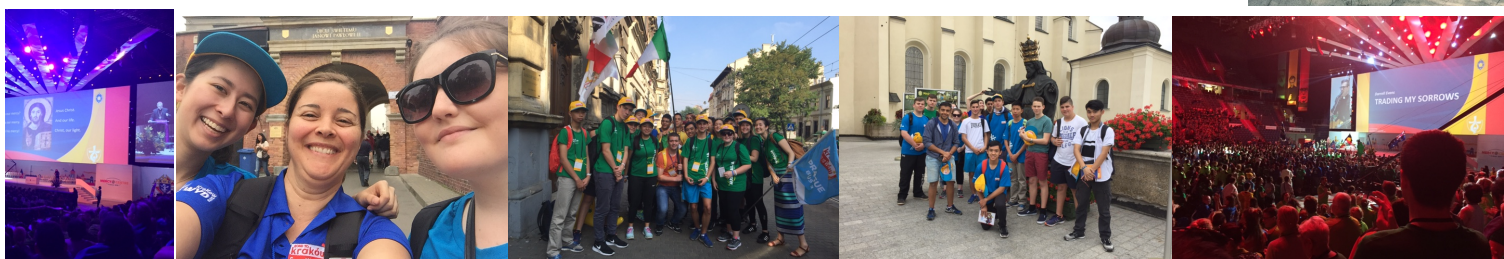
The World Youth Day week in Krakow brought with it millions of youth from all over the world. Any street you turned down would have scores of pilgrims from almost every country singing, cheering, greeting and swapping items such as flags with other pilgrims. The group enjoyed conversing with all the different nationalities as well as all the different religious orders that we encountered on our daily outings in to the city of John Paul II. Each morning we had Catechesis for the English speaking pilgrims in a large tent in a park near our accommodation, that was then followed by some central event such as the opening Mass or the Stations of the Cross. In the evening we would go to praise and worship concerts or else recover from the long day and wind down in preparation for the next. My highlight of Krakow was kneeling in the soggy grasses of Bolonia Park during the opening Mass and watching as a glorious and blinding sun broke through the previously rainy, grey clouds just in time for the consecration of the Eucharist. You could have heard a pin drop, everyone was so quiet and reverent and awestruck. Though we all spoke different languages, we all shared the heart's quiet language of love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Unlike any World Youth Day that had gone before, there was scheduled time after the World Youth Day week for a retreat in the mountains of Zakopane. This was the favourite retreat place of John Paul II and it was here that we reflected on our life-altering pilgrimage experience. We walked through the valleys, visited local churches and said final goodbyes to the other Aussie pilgrims in this place of beauty, simplicity and rest. Before we knew it, it was time to head home and we packed with tired arms and a full heart. The final hours of our pilgrimage were marked by expressions of gratitude and fraternity, a desire to follow God in our lives back at home, and a longing to see the loved ones we left in Sydney over two weeks before.

To say that World Youth Day was an incredible experience would be to sell it short. God galvanised each member of our CCD group with a renewed desire to follow Him in all that we do. It was due to the generosity of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine that we were able to go on this pilgrimage and it is with an appreciative heart that I want to thank the CCD office for sending our group. I would not be surprised if a few catechists come out of our group in the years to come. I ask you to pray for us that we may remain steadfast in this endeavour and that by our daily witness we may draw others to seek a relationship with the God that loves us even to death on a cross.

Victoria Costello - Former Peakhurst Parish Catechist and Youth Coordinator Kingsgrove Parish. Now teaching High School.

The CCD group was part of the WYD pilgrimage with Sydney Catholic Schools



Term 4, Courses

BASIC ONE ACCREDITATION			
FEO	DATE	TIME	PLACE
ROBERT MILAN	WED, 19 OCT	10AM TO 2PM	POLDING CENTRE 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
DENISE HUMPHREYS	FRI, 28 OCT	10AM TO 1PM	CCD MIRANDA 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
ROBERT MILAN	FRI, 18 NOV	10AM TO 2PM	POLDING CENTRE 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
TRACY McEWAN	MON, 5 DEC	10AM TO 1PM	CCD MIRANDA 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
DENISE HUMPHREYS	TUES, 6 DEC	10AM TO 1PM	CCD MIRANDA 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
DENISE HUMPHREYS	THUR, 8 DEC	10AM TO 1PM	CCD MIRANDA 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
ROBERT MILAN	FRI, 9 DEC	10AM TO 2PM	POLDING CENTRE 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
BASIC TWO ACCREDITATION			
SARAH CHRISTIE	THUR, 13 & 20 OCT	10AM TO 2PM	ST THERESE, PADSTOW 15 Harvey Ave, Padstow
TRACY McEWAN	FRI, 4, 11, 18 NOV	10AM TO 1PM	CCD MIRANDA 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
SARAH CHRISTIE	WED, 9, 16, 23 NOV	10AM TO 2PM	CCD CAMPSIE 16 Duke St, Campsie
TRACY McEWAN	WED, 9, 16, 23 NOV	10AM TO 1PM	CCD MIRANDA 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
ROBERT MILAN	WED, 16, 23, 30 NOV	10AM TO 2PM	POLDING CENTRE 133 Liverpool St, Sydney
INTERMEDIATE ACCREDITATION			
TERESA CULJAK	MON, 24, 31 OCT 7, 14, 21, NOV	10AM TO 2PM	OUR LADY MT CARMEL 230 Humphries Rd, Bonnyrigg
ADVANCED ACCREDITATION			
DENISE HUMPHREYS	MON, 24, 31 OCT, 7, 14, 21, 28 NOV	10AM TO 2PM	CCD MIRANDA 50 Kiora Rd, Miranda
SMART BOARD BEGINNER'S CLASS			
TERESA CULJAK	TUES, 22 NOV	10AM TO 2PM	POLDING CENTRE 133 Liverpool St, Sydney

Bookings are essential for all courses
Please contact Laura or Julia on:
email: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Tel: 02 9307 8330

Photo Gallery



Eastern Area Mass as held on Wednesday 29 June 2016,
St Michael's Daceyville



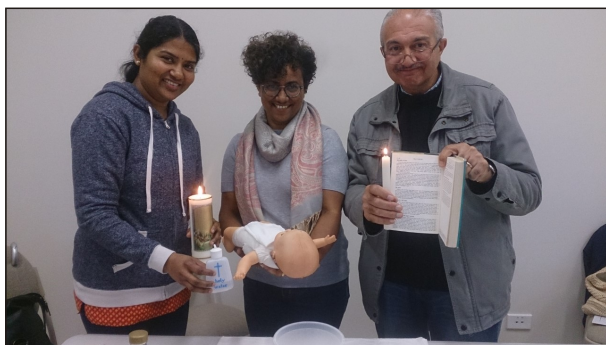
Eastern Area Mass: Left to Right: Fr. Andrew Benton, Bondi;
Fr. Laurie Caucci, Malabar; Fr. Moses Kim, Daceyville; Fr. Peter O'Hearn, Randwick;
Douglas Mawhinney, CCD Director and Robert Milan, FEO Eastern Area.



Rosary Relay at All Saints, Liverpool.



Rosary Relay at St Mary's, Concord.



Western Area Catechists presenting demonstration lessons on the
Sacraments in the Basic Two Accreditation Course.



Northern Area Mass at St Joan of Arc, Haberfield.

Christmas Resources

Books



Christmas Cards



Stockings



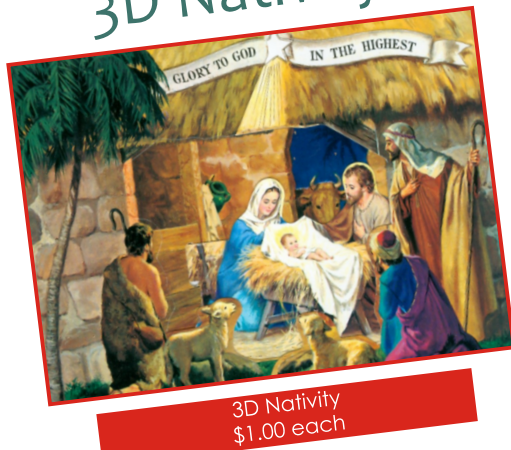
Holy Cards



Advent Calendars



3D Nativity



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